



**ASHBURTON - BURWOOD UNITING CHURCH**

**Sunday 20 September 2026**

**YOU TUBE LINK:** <https://youtube.com/live/wdFlbKhDPN8?feature=share>



***“Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come.  
God’s grace has brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us  
home.” - John Newton***

**Minister: Rev Ojitha Goonetilleke**

**Minister’s Steward: Fran Willmott**

**WELCOME**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**INVOCATION PRAYER – Minister**

**HYMN TIS 133 – O worship the King (vs 1-4 and 6)**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All:** In desert and bushland, mountain and water we see signs that God is with us. In the faces of people whom God so loves we see the signs that God is with us. In our brokenness there is the hope of wholeness, in our emptiness there is the hope of fullness. In our deaths, lies the hope of new life. This is the word in Christ to us. The creator Spirit lives with us and travels with us into the future. Amen

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION

**Minister:** God of our beginning, God of our end, we worship you, praise you and adore you.

**All:** We worship you, aware that life is brief and our days are measured. As fragile as the grass, one gust of wind and their glory is gone.

**Minister:** We come to you aware of how you encounter us in the ordinary events of life.

**All:** O God from everlasting to everlasting, from whom we come and to whom we go, we worship you, praise you and adore you. We confess that sometimes we refuse to acknowledge your dream and your hope for our lives. We stay in the shadows of our own doubts and fears, help us to accept ourselves the way you have accepted us. Help us to believe that the best is yet to be and that all things are possible, if only we believe that we are worthy of receiving your love. Amen

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE – Minister

**HYMN TIS 609** – May the mind of Christ my Saviour

## SCRIPTURE READING - *Matthew 20: 1-16*

## REFLECTION – Minister

**HYMN TIS 342** – When I survey the wondrous cross

## OFFERING & PRAYER

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN TIS 778** – Shalom to you

## BENEDICTION – Minister

*After the service we invite everyone to come to morning tea and ongoing conversation in the LightHouse! All are welcome.*

## ROSTER – SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

|                           |                         |                        |                                      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Minister                  | Rev Ojitha Goonetilleke | Computer/Sound:        | Howard Hamlyn                        |
| Worship Leader:           | Fran Willmott           | Power Point:           | Max Procter                          |
| Prayers:                  | Fran Willmott           | YouTube Link:          | Richard Hedding                      |
| Narthex & Count Lead:     | Ian Willmott            | Flowers:               | Maree Silver & Lindley Webb          |
| Door, Greeting, Offering: | Pam Degenhardt          | Morning Tea/Clean Up:  | Max & Floss Procter, & Alison Wright |
| Organist/Pianist:         | Anne Forrest            | Online Communications: | Christine Chappell/ Dawn Sullivan    |
| Singers/Musicians:        | Patsy Donnelly          |                        |                                      |
|                           | Megan McLaughlin        |                        |                                      |
|                           | Lynette Hurley          |                        |                                      |
|                           | Alan Bailey             |                        |                                      |
| Readers:                  | Kevin Hurley            |                        |                                      |
|                           | Lynette Hurley          |                        |                                      |



## **SCRIPTURE READING - Year A** **20 September 2026 – Season of Creation**

Your word is a lamp to our feet.  
**A light to our path.**

**Matthew 20: 1-16** *New International Version* - p. 976 in pew bibles

### **The Labourers in the Vineyard**

<sup>1</sup> 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" <sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Lord may your word live in us  
**and bear much fruit to your glory**