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YrA Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost @ Ashburton-Burwood UCA



**11th October 2026
We Gather**

Welcome **Mary Casey**

Opening Hymn **Lance Schlipalius**
“God of Creation” words by Craig Mitchell
(Tune: BUNESSAN, TIS 156)

1. God of creation, gentle life-giver
 present at birth and all through our days
 Author of sunrise, song in the night sky
 Here in this place, we offer our praise
2. Jesus, Companion, teacher and healer
 Friend of the grieving, suffering, the poor
 Stand with your people, whisper among us
 Promise of mercy, goodness for all
3. Spirit of Comfort, blow through Creation
 Stir up new life, breathe peace through our world
 Healer of hearts, and hope for tomorrow
 Weave all our sorrows into new dawn
4. Here we give thanks for life in its fullness
 Blessings received, Your gifts to us all
 Make us a people filled with compassion
 Selflessly giving, serving your world

Acknowledgement of Country

Mary Casey

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We honour their deep and continuing connection to this land, to its waterways, its creatures, and all living things. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples among us today.

**As we gather for worship,
 may we learn to care more faithfully for this
 land, to honour its stories, and to walk
 together towards a future marked by justice,
 respect and reconciliation. Amen.**

Call to worship **Mary Casey**

Based on Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23

Let us praise God,
 whose goodness and faithful love never end.
**We give thanks to God,
 whose love is always with us.**

We praise God for all that God has done and
 for the ways God continues to work among us.
**We come with grateful hearts to worship our
 faithful God.**

Blessed are those who seek what is right and
 live with justice and compassion.
**Teach us to live with open hearts and to walk
 in your ways.**

Like those who came before us, we have made
 mistakes.
 We have forgotten you and sometimes trusted
 in other things.
Yet you do not give up on your people.

You heard Moses when he prayed for Israel.
**And through Jesus Christ, you hear our
 prayers too.**

So let us come with humble hearts, trusting in God's mercy.

We come to worship, to listen, and to turn our hearts towards God.

Let us worship God together.

The God whose goodness and faithful love never end.

Peace [Rev. Yoo Mi Park](#)

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Faithful and gracious God,
you are the God who creates, who calls,
who leads, and who stays with your people.
You are faithful when the way is clear
and faithful when the way is hidden.
You are present in the wilderness
as well as in the promised land.
Your love does not depend on our certainty,
and your presence does not disappear
when we cannot see the way ahead.
You are patient with us,
merciful towards us,
and steadfast in your love.
So today we turn our hearts towards you.
Open our eyes to your presence,
quiet our restless hearts,
and draw us into the wonder of your grace.
You alone are worthy of our worship.

Yet, we confess that we sometimes forget who you are.

Not because we have never known you,
but because fear can become louder than faith.

We become impatient.

We seek certainty where there is none.

We put our trust in things we can see,
things we can measure,
things we can control.

Forgive us when we make our own substitutes for you.

Forgive us when our desire for security becomes more important than our trust in you.

Turn us again towards your presence.

Teach us to wait without giving up,
to listen without demanding immediate answers,
and to trust that you are still at work.
In your mercy, receive us and renew us.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news:

God's mercy is greater than our failure.
God does not abandon God's people
when they lose their way.

In Christ, we are invited to begin again.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: [Lance Schlipalius](#)

TIS 111 "Praise to the Lord"

[Selected by Anne Forrest](#)

We Listen

[Lindley Webb, Ian Webb](#)

Your word is a lamp to our feet.

A light to our path.

Exodus 32:1-14 – p. 86. in pew bibles

The golden calf

¹ When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered round Aaron and said, 'Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'

² Aaron answered them, 'Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.'
³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf,

fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, 'Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.' ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterwards they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.

⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

⁹ 'I have seen these people,' the Lord said to Moses, 'and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.'

¹¹ But Moses sought the favour of the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?

¹² Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance for ever."

¹⁴ Then the Lord relented and did not bring

on his people the disaster he had threatened.

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 p. 598 in pew bibles

¹ Praise the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.

² Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord

or fully declare his praise?

³ Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right.

⁴ Remember me, Lord, when you show
favour to your people,

come to my aid when you save them,

⁵ that I may enjoy the prosperity of your
chosen ones,

that I may share in the joy of your nation
and join your inheritance in giving

praise.

⁶ We have sinned, even as our ancestors
did;

we have done wrong and acted
wickedly.

...

¹⁹ At Horeb they made a calf
and worshipped an idol cast from metal.

²⁰ They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.

²¹ They forgot the God who saved them,
who had done great things in Egypt,

²² miracles in the land of Ham
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

²³ So he said he would destroy them –
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.

Lord, may your word live in us.

And bear much fruit for your glory.

Sermon: "When We Forget"

We Respond

Hymn of Response: [Lance Schlipalius](#)
TIS 468 "We are your people"

Notices [Mary Casey](#)

Prayers of the People [Fran Willmott](#)

The Lord's Prayer

We are sent

Offering Invitation

Everything we have is received from God.
As we offer our gifts today,
may they become signs of our trust
and instruments of God's love in the world.

Hymn of Sending: [Lance Schlipalius](#)
TIS 699 "A New Commandment"
[Selected by Anne Forrest](#)

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God,
receive these gifts
and use them for your purposes.

May they bring hope to those who need it,
welcome to those who feel excluded,
and life to the communities we serve.
Receive also our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Commissioning and Blessing

Go into this week trusting in God's presence.
When you cannot see the way ahead,
do not assume that God has left you.
When waiting becomes difficult,
remain open to God's work.
When you are tempted to reach for something
you can control, turn again towards God.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sung Blessing: [Lance Schlipalius](#)
"Turn your eyes upon Jesus"
[\(Refrain only x 2\)](#)

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Postlude

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

Minister: Rev Yoo Mi Park
Worship leader: Mary Casey
Prayers: Fran Willmott
Narthex/Count Leader: Alan Bailey
Door, Greeting, Offering: Robin Foote
Organist: Colin Prohasky
Pianist: Anne Forrest
Song Leader: Lance Schlipalius
Readers: Lindley Webb, Ian Webb
Computer/Sound: Adrian Miller
Power Point: Adrian Miller
Youtube Link: Richard Hedding
Flowers: Maree Silver & Lindley Webb
Morning Tea/Clean Up: Lindley Webb, Dawn
Sullivan, Fran Willmott
Online Communications: Christine Chappell/
Dawn Sullivan