

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Sunday 22C | 31 August 2025



Micah 4:4 - The African Methodist Episcopal Church (USA) adopted this verse to represent the hope of the Black slave church of its origins. Illustration by Craig Russell (*Jubilee Grapevine*, 1993)

We come to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!  
Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those  
who can't join us physically today

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Prelude** J Pachelbel, *Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir*

### *The Gathering of the People of God*

#### **Processional**

*If you are able, please stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.*

#### **Call to Worship**

The Lord be with you!

***And also with you!***

Christ alone is our wisdom,  
our justice, our holiness,  
our liberation.

**All the promises of God  
have their 'Yes' in Christ.**

[1 Cor 1: 30, 2 Cor 1:20]

#### **Prayer of invocation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn** 768 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

## *The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching*

### **The Testimony of Scripture**

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet  
***and a light to our path.***

#### **From the Hebrew Scriptures:**

Jeremiah 2: 4-13 An Indictment of Israel

#### **Psalms 81:1, 10-16**

Sing merrily to God our strength,

***shout for joy to the God of Jacob.***

'I am the Lord your God,

who brought you up from the land of Egypt;

***open your mouth wide and I shall fill it.'***

But my people would not hear my voice

***and Israel would not obey me.***

So I sent them away in the stubbornness of their hearts,

***and let them walk after their own counsels.***

O that my people would listen to me,

***that Israel would walk in my ways!***

Then I should soon put down their enemies

***and turn my hand against their adversaries.***

But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat

***and with honey from the rock would I satisfy them.***

**Hymn 679 vv 1-3,5** God of Jeremiah, grieving with an aching heart

#### **Epistle:**

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16 Advice for Christian living

#### **Gospel:**

Luke 14: 7-14 Humility and Hospitality

This is the gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **The Preaching of the Word**

*A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching*

### **Prayer of Confession**

For our foolish or careless use  
of the gifts of your creation:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our indifference to the needs of others,  
our brothers and sisters in Christ:

**Christ, have mercy.**

For our neglect of the means of grace,

for superficial worship, for selfish prayer: **Lord, have mercy.**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

The Lord says:

'I relieved your shoulder of the burden;

your hands were freed from the basket.

In distress you called, and I rescued you.

I am the LORD your God.

[Psalm 81:6-

7a, 10]

Hear of God's relief of our burdens in the word of Jesus

'Your sins are forgiven.'

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Doxology**

*The Doxology in Latin*

Glo - ry to God... in the high - est and  
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God... heav'n-ly king... al-migh-ty God, and...  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you, for... your glo-ry.  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

### Affirmation of Faith: God is with us.

***We are not alone,  
 we live in God's world.***

***We believe in God:  
 who has created and is creating,  
 who has come in Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh,  
 to reconcile and make new,  
 who works in us and others  
 by the Spirit.***

***We trust in God.***

***We are called to be the Church:  
 to celebrate God's presence,  
 to live with respect in Creation,  
 to love and serve others,  
 to seek justice and resist evil,  
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
 our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
 God is with us.  
 We are not alone.  
 Thanks be to God.***

*The United Church of Canada,  
 General Council 1968, alt. 1998*

### Prayers of the People

*(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)*

### Offering

*(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)*

*Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.  
 We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.*

### ***The Visible Word: Eucharist***

### Hymn 507 Come, Spirit blest, your influence shed

*(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)*

### The Invitation

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*(The prayer continues...)*

...And so we praise you  
 with the faithful of every time and place,  
 joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation  
 in the eternal hymn:



***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!***

*(The prayer continues...)*



***Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.***

*(The prayer continues...)*



**Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r  
are yours forever and ever,  
are yours forever and ever.**

## The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.***

*(The people sit)*

## The Breaking of the Bread

The Lord says:

'I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide and I will feed you.  
I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,  
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.'

[Psalm 81:10,  
16]

Come and feast at the Lord's table.

## Lamb of God



***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

### **The Communion**

*The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.*

***GATHERING:*** *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

*If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

***God of heaven and earth,  
You make us one in Christ.***

***Inspire us with new vision  
and the wisdom of ancient dreams.***

***Give us the strength to walk together  
until we come to our eternal home:  
In Christ's name. Amen.***

### **Notices**

#### ***The Sending Forth of the People of God***

**Hymn 530** Now let us from this table rise

### **Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude** P du Mage, *Plein Jeu*

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## **NOTICES**

### **THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

*MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre*



#### **Mending our Social Fabric: Learning from Palestinian and Israeli Women Peacebuilders**

Join us for a special evening as we hear from two extraordinary women peacebuilders about their work in Israel and

Palestine. This is a co-hosted event and RSVPs are essential through the link below. Sunday, 31st August 2025; 6.30pm - 9pm, in the southeast of Melbourne (venue TBC upon registration)

<https://events.humanitix.com/mending-our-social-fabric>

### **MONDAY MORNING MOVIES AT THE NOVA.**

This coming Monday, Sept 1. The selected movie is [Irena's Vow](#). Showing at 11.50am. Meet upstairs in the foyer to buy tickets at 11.30; is coffee available in the cafe next to the box office, and you can stay for a toastie lunch and conversation in the cafe afterwards if you can. A WhatsApp group has been set up for communication around this in future; contact Craig to join this.

### **TRIO CONTÉ | LYREBIRD MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT - SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER , AT 2PM**

Dear Lyrebird supporters,

It seems difficult to believe but Spring is apparently just around the corner. Our concert on September 7th features an ensemble new to the Lyrebird Music Society -Trio Conté (violin, cello and piano.) The trio takes its name from Nicolas-Jaques Conté, who is the inventor of the modern pencil, as well as Conté crayons. This doesn't appear to have a direct bearing on the program however, which will include Haydn's "Gypsy" Trio, Songs Without Words by Anne Cawrse and Felix Mendelssohn's second Piano Trio, in C minor.

The concert is at Yuma Auditorium as usual, (29 College Crescent in Parkville) at 2pm on Sunday 7th September. We hope you will join us in welcoming Trio Conté, and we look forward to seeing you there. Link for tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1353268>

### **NORTHEY LECTURE (CTM, 6.30PM, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4):**

*Why Global Solidarities are a Matter of Life and Death: The Difference Religion Can Make*

Even though the globe is moving closer together, solidarity among people appears to become more difficult. Nationalisms, racisms, ethnocentrisms, and sexism are on the rise, dividing and conquering and thereby producing false solidarities. While religion is often part of the problem, it can also become part of potential solutions. As the apostle Paul observes, "if one member suffers, all suffer together with it" (1 Cor 12:26). This insight may hold true not only for personal relationships and communities but also for our global situation. The solidarity that emerges here goes deep, as it reconnects us with people, planet, and the divine.

The lecturer, Professor Joerg Rieger, is Distinguished Professor of Theology and the Cal Turner Chancellor's Chair in Wesleyan Studies at *Vanderbilt University*. He also directs the *Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice* at the Vanderbilt Graduate Department of Religion and is an affiliated Faculty member of the *Turner Family Center for Social Ventures, Owen Graduate School of Management, Vanderbilt University*. Rieger is the author and editor of 26 books and more than 184 academic articles, with his most recent monograph being, *Theology in the Capitalocene: Ecology, Identity, Class, and Solidarity* (2022).

*Registration required*



### **FAITH AFTER FAITH**

Craig has begun to publish various odds and ends on a new Substack page, *Faith after Faith*. This is an experiment in making such things as Sunday sermons, with further commentary, more widely accessible, as well as an attempt to construct a space for reflection on being Christian in a "post-" era: and not least after the death of God in Western culture. Substack sites and posts sit around waiting for whenever people think to go looking for them, or it's possible to subscribe for free to receive notifications of when new stuff is posted. See [faithafterfaith.substack.com](http://faithafterfaith.substack.com) for more info.



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

*See above for more details on these events*

Discussion Groups – Passions of the Soul	Ongoing
Monday Movies at the Nova	Mon Sept 1, 11.50 am
Church Council	Sept , 7.30pm (online)
Hotham Mission Board	Sept 18, 3pm @ CTM

### **People to commemorate this week**

John Bunyan , faithful servant

### **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

### **Lectionary Readings | 7 September 2025**

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21, 15-16; Luke 14:25-33

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A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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