

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Sunday 32C | 9 November 2025

Against the idea of God

Welcome 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 P du Mage, *Plein Jeu & Fugue*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 127 v. 1)

If you are able, please stand when the cantor sings the first line, and sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space:

*Holy God, we praise your name,
Lord of all, we bow before you;
all on earth your power proclaim,
all in heaven above adore you;
boundless is your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.*

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Come, stand in the house of God.

Come sing to God.

Come, praise the LORD.

*The LORD has done great things;
we come to be made new,
and to worship.*

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 101 Come, you people

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

ForeWord

Word: The Testimony of Scripture

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

John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16-18 *He has made God known*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Word: In Preaching

*The sermon text will normally be available
after worship and online*

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

AfterWord: Confession

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology via Psalm 135 (selected verses, NRSV)

*REFRAIN: Organ, then cantor, then all together (sung also at the end).
The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE*

REFRAIN

Hal H. Hopson

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord.

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Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; give praise, O servants | of the LORD, you that stand in the house | of the LORD, in the courts of the house | of our God. Praise the LORD, for the | LORD is good; sing to his name, for | he is gracious. For the LORD has chosen Jacob | for himself, Israel as his | own possession. For I know that the | LORD is great; our LORD is a- | -bove all gods. Whatever the LORD plea- | -ses he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas | and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end | of the earth; he makes lightnings for the rain and brings out the wind | from his storehouses.

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the name | of the LORD;

give praise, O servants | of the LORD,

² you that stand in the house | of the LORD,

in the courts of the house | of our God.

³ Praise the LORD, for the | LORD is good;

sing to his name, for | he is gracious.

⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob | for himself,

Israel as his | own possession.

⁵ For I know that the | LORD is great;

our LORD is a- | -bove all gods.

⁶ Whatever the LORD plea- | -ses he does,

in heaven and on earth,

in the seas | and all deeps.

⁷ He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end | of the earth;

he makes lightnings for the rain

and brings out the wind | from his storehouses.

...¹³ Your name, O LORD, endures for ever,
your renown, O LORD, through- | -out all ages.

¹⁴ For the LORD will vindicate his people,
and have compassion | on his servants.

...¹⁹ O house of Israel, | bless the LORD!

O house of Aaron, | bless the LORD!

²⁰ O house of Levi, | bless the LORD!

You that fear the LORD, | bless the LORD!

REFRAIN

The Peace

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

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God.

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,***

***was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen. Amen.***

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 34 O Lord, you are my God, for you I long

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

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...)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - sa - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na - in the high - est!

(The prayer continues...)

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

(The prayer continues...)

Blessing and hon - our, glo - ry and pow'r are yours for - e - ver and ev - er, are yours for - e - ver and ev - er.

(The prayer continues...)

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 gifts of God for the people of God....

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

...Let us receive what we are,
let us become what we receive
The body of Christ

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.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 150 Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude J Pachelbel, *Christ unser Herr*

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:

<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>

NOTICES

MISSIONAL THINGS – MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER

An invitation to conversations about missional things, an invitation to community.

This gathering is for you if you're interested in exploring missional things – how might we offer the Spirit-given gifts we all have in expressions of God's love and in participation in God's mission in the world, even if it looks a little different to how we usually "do" church.

At our first **missional things** gathering in July we were encouraged by the opportunity to connect with people from right across the Presbytery (and beyond!) and to hear the stories of all kinds of missional activities taking place in many of our churches and communities.

For our next missional things gathering the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra would like to invite you to an evening of conversation with Natalie Dixon-Monu.

Boroondara Community Outreach (BCO) is a mental health ministry established in 1993 by the Presbytery, located at Kew Uniting

Church. BCO provides meals, emergency relief, friendship and advocacy to hundreds of vulnerable community members each year. They are an inclusive and welcoming community for those looking for a place to belong and to contribute. They are all about creating a community of hospitality with people, a safe place where each person is valued as a member and contributes to creating the community that is BCO. They value compassion and respect, nurture hope and encourage creativity. Their hope is that when people feel they belong and are supported, their health and well-being will improve on all levels - physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social.

Rev Natalie Dixon-Monu is the Coordinator and Minister of BCO. Her life and faith journey shapes her belief that people are "mysteries to enjoy, not problems to fix." Her work is driven by the conviction that every person is made in the image of God and deserves to be seen, valued and welcomed. With more than 35+ years' experience in prison chaplaincy, counselling, pastoral care and community leadership, Natalie brings deep compassion and practical wisdom to her ministry.

Come and hear some more of Natalie's story, and the story of BCO. We'll get into the deep end of some of the learning and thinking about mission that has taken shape for Natalie along the way and that undergirds her leadership and ministry. There will be an opportunity for some Q&A.

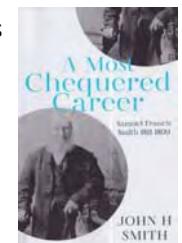
The details: **7.30pm Monday 10 November, Boroondara Community Outreach.** 23 Highbury Grove, Kew. |**RSVP** by 7 November:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYPM7PB>

Nadine Rozario, Presbytery Minister Congregations and Presbytery eLM Minister

BOOK LAUNCH - THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 4.30PM – 6.00PM

Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO will launch John Smith's book at the AMPLE CAFÉ AND BAR, 31 Arden St North Melbourne.

RSVP to John by 17 November to 0458 146 630 or
revdrjohnsmith@ozemail.com.au



"CHRIST THE KING" LUNCHEON - SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER

On Sunday November 23 we will hold our re-located All Saints luncheon (now a "Christ the King" luncheon), after worship. Please speak to Rod and Rosemary about whether you're able to come, and what you can bring to share for the meal.

FAITH AFTER FAITH

Craig publishes weekly on *Faith after Faith*, a Substack site, including Sunday sermons with a bit more commentary, and other material. You can subscribe to receive email updates of recent posts (avoid the paid subscription invitations!). See faithafterfaith.substack.com for more info, or use the QR image here to check in.

Recent posts include

- Recent Sermons
- New Theological Fragments: "The Sermon as Aphorism"



**PASTORAL CARE
INTERACTIVE SEMINAR**

LIFE TRANSITIONS AND LEARNINGS

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERACTIVE PASTORAL CARE EDUCATION WITH TWO LEADING AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATORS: GRAEME GIBBONS & CAROLYN DAGGERS

Saturday 27 November
9am-12pm (8:30am for coffee)

Heidelberg Scots Uniting Church
187 Burgundy St, Heidelberg

Presented by the Banyule Network of Uniting Churches Pastoral Care Committee and CPE Centre

Register on Try Booking

trybooking.com/BXWZ





UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

Hotham Mission Board	Fri Nov 21, 3pm @ CTM
Monday Morning Movies at the Nova Church Council	Mon Dec 1, time TBC
	Tue Dec 2, 7.30pm online

People to commemorate this week

Margaret of Scotland, faithful servant

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Lectionary Readings | 16 November 2025

Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

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

Contact: Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

minister@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

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