



TRARALGON POINT

Our Mission : Sharing God's presence and reconciling love.
Our Vision: More wholehearted, more compassionate,
more abundant life shared in our neighbourhoods

Worship Service Times:

Traralgon:	9:30 am
Glengarry:	11:00 am
Rosedale:	10:00 am
	(2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
	9:30 am
	(3rd Sunday)

17 May 2026

Volume 32 Issue 15

The Joy of Unity in Christ

When I first arrived in Traralgon, I immediately set out to find the minister's association for the area. I thought this would be a good way to find out what was happening in the churches in the area.

To my surprise, I heard stories of what had been done in the past, but nothing was active at the moment. So we started the Friday morning prayer at 9am to pray for church and civic leaders and hope that we might be part of God's renewal of the church in the Traralgon District.

Since then we have:

- Worked with the Anglican Church on the Gippsland Camino;
- Been part of the renewal of the Minister's gathering, hosted by the Baptist Church, by attending a monthly breakfast, where we share stories and inspiration;
- Worked with the churches to create a flyer including all our churches to be printed and distributed across motels and hotels in the district;
- Supported conversations with the LRHS to create a hospital pastoral care program;
- Been part of the collation and documentation of all the services provided by the churches into our Aged Care services;
- Participated in a joint Jesus in the Passover meal celebration at Reality Church (pictured);
- Agreed across the churches that as we promote ourselves, we will adopt the Apostle's Creed as our joint statement of Christian faith;
- Supported a coalition of ministers who now meet with Latrobe City Councillors for prayer before every Council meeting.



Something is happening in Traralgon which is lifting people's spirits, is encouraging collegiality and is absolutely connected with God's plan for the renewal of the church in the district. If you would like to experience what it is to be part of a growing and enthusiastic movement within the global church I would encourage to: **PRAY FERVENTLY that we would find our way together: REACH OUT to your friends across denominations to share the good news; ATTEND the next ecumenical service to give support and hope to all in the Christian community.**

Our next combined churches service, will be at St James Anglican Church at 5pm on Sunday 31st May. It is Trinity Sunday and the theme of course, will be how we live in community with each other in the faith.

May God continually bless us to be a blessing to others— *Heather den Houting*



Traralgon District Uniting Church
Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



AT HOME WORSHIP - ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to worship, lighting candle and acknowledgement Psalm 68 (selected verses NRSV)

But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.

**Sing to God; sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the
clouds—his name is the Lord—be exultant
before him.**

Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

**God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord,

**O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty
voice.**

Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel
and whose power is in the skies.

**Awesome is God in his sanctuary,
the God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people.**

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land and her peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the (*please name the people on whose land you gather*) People, the Traditional Custodians, have blessed this place through their law and customs, their care and life. We pay respects to their Elders and leaders past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land.

Prayer

O God of all life, in all its diversity. We have seen over millenia your will being worked out in so many places and spaces. Stories abound of people unknown to us who have been caught by your spirit to transform themselves and their communities into places of hope and liberation – all inspired by you.

You provide us with what we need to be part of your Kingdom on earth. We know that we can only do things when inspired by you. Let us listen for the voice of reconciliation and renewal in the world today and rejoice that we are blessed to be part of the Body of Christ.

We confess that we do not always seek to be your faithful people, O God. Caught instead in the confusion of competing denominations, competing theology, preferences for those who pander to our own sense of security. We confess that when we do this, we marginalise those who have different voices and different expectations.

Lord let us work with a spirit of truth that transcends all our differences. That reveals to us again the basics of our faith, the love that infuses and motivates the Church at its best. Let us celebrate the importance of each person's journey of faith, knowing that your recreative power will carry us through our difference. May we be blessed with your unifying Spirit. Amen

Hear then again, the story of liberation for all of us. In Christ and through Christ, our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Read: Acts 1:6-14 &
John 17:1-11

For these words of faith
and for Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

In today's readings we are preparing for Pentecost. While we hear about the ascension of Jesus in the Acts reading, the true purpose of the story is found in the instructions to the disciples. "What are you doing looking up? Jesus will return and, in the meantime, devote yourselves to the realities of the world." So, they gathered and prayed.

They are on their way, this gathering of the early church, this body of Christ – they anticipate a new and tremendous thing, but they are grounded in their place and time. They follow the example of Christ which is bear witness to each other in gathering and prayer. They do not move immediately to claim power or ruling authority for their lesson has been that they are part of God's redemptive plan. That the journey to this place is to participate in the life, death and resurrection of Christ as the body of Christ. The body of Christ is messy and big and has disagreements, but is called together to act in peace and fellowship. The church is to be witness to reconciliation. And Jesus taught that God's reconciling grace is not just for the individual, but for the community.

Peter's letter is a meditation on this call to be in communion with Christ. To share, to participate, to be connected with each other in koinonia. Koinonia is a Greek word primarily meaning fellowship, communion, joint participation, or sharing in common. In Christianity, it represents the deep spiritual bond uniting believers with each other and with Jesus Christ, often extending to active sharing, charity, and partnership in the gospel. In Peter's letter (which of course was written after Pentecost) the encouragement to the large and expanding Christian community is to hold fast to this idea of gathering and remembering the way Christ was in the world, so why would they expect any different? The promise is still there that there will be strengthening and restoration. However, the realities of life do not disappear.

The reading from John reinforces the understanding that the community which gathers and prays together will find restoration and strength in and through the life death and resurrection of Christ. The prayer of Christ made for those gathered with him in the last days. But we can expand it to be a prayer that was known and used in the early church, and a prayer that is known and can be used for the church today. For this church, for this community, for this time and place.

This is a prayer of intercession, a priestly prayer that signifies the connection between them. We are one, prays Jesus, so let those who gather in my name be one. He is praying for those who believe, who have gathered. He is praying that they may be unified in a manner that is equivalent to the significant and distinctive relationship between Christ and God. Something binds them together in ways that cannot be explained or measured.

This prayer reassures us that as we gather and pray together, something is being prepared, something is available to us, something tremendous will happen in our reconciliation with God and with each other, in all our messiness and trials and confusion.

Something is coming. The church will be born anew.

Prayer

Gracious Lord, we pray that your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

Around us we see those whose lives have been restricted by poverty, oppression, need, caught in cycles of conflict and violence where there appears to be no way out.

Lord let your vision come so that we may find our way as your church to liberate in your name.

Gracious Lord, we pray that your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

Around us we see people whose lives are full of grief and loss. Broken relationships, broken hearts, illness, bad news and despair.

Lord let your vision come so that we may find our way as your church to liberate in your name.

Gracious Lord, we pray that your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

Around us we see the people of the world being caught in wars and climate disasters, so that their future is uncertain and they will live with the trauma of loss and devastation for generations.

Lord let your vision come so that we may find our way as your church to liberate in your name.

Gracious Lord, we pray that your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

Around us we see the people in our churches and in our civil society, who are being asked to lead through times of uncertainty and dislocation. Where they are confused, Lord, let there be clarity. Where they are cruel Lord, let there be compassion. Where they are self righteous, let there be wisdom.

Lord let your vision come so that we may find our way as your church to liberate in your name.

Lord let us be the people who are not afraid to take on the name of Christ, but understand this means we must be newly and deeply committed to your will through the unity of your church.

We pray together then as Jesus taught us:

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 forever. Amen.

Blessing

We are called to be and to do. Let us take our renewed commitment to each other today, into the world so that people may know us and see us as the disciples of the one who calls us into unity.

In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer. Amen.

Reflection and Liturgy: Rev. Heather den Houting

Editor: Rev. Arnie Wierenga



Combined Churches Ecumenical Service



Trinity Sunday, May 31st, 5pm
St James Anglican Church

Bible Studies

“If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat”

How to find the courage to be a disciple of Jesus today.

Studies commence this week beginning May 18th and continue through for 6 weeks until the end of June.

Mondays from 5:30-7pm and Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm

Playgroup
Monday
@ 9:30 am



mainly music
Thursday
@ 9:30 am

Music Group
Fridays
@ 5:00 pm



Please support us in this time of growth as a church

Have you considered using Direct Debit as a way of giving your offerings? Perhaps you might donate to our children's ministry and community garden projects. It's a secure way to make your regular contributions.

Our Bank details are: BSB: 633 000 Account number: 5561386

Exciting dates for your diary!

- Sunday 24th May** Sunday of Pentecost—why not invite a friend to come along to the anniversary of the Christian Church?
- Saturday 30 May: Treaty Event—POSTPONED (stay tuned for further advice)
- Sunday 31st May: 9:30 Guest Preacher: Rev Gradwell Fredericks
Formal thanks and acknowledgment of service to Theresa Steyn
5 pm Ecumenical service, St James' Anglican Church
- Sunday 7 June: We will be hosting a Multicultural service with leaders from our CALD communities
- Saturday 20 June: Yallourn Madrigal Singers Concert 2:00pm www.trybooking.com/DKGGY

Scripture

17 May	Acts 1:6-14	Ps. 68:1-10,32-35	1 Pt. 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
24 May	Acts 2:1-21	Ps 104:24-34,35b	1 Cor 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23

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