

## Sunday Communion Service

6 March 2022 (Lent 1)



Blessings to you all – a people of God in Wallumetta Country Boronia Park Uniting Church and wherever you are this moment! Lent has begun. We are now on a Lenten Journey toward Easter day which is Sunday 17 April. During the 40 days of Lent, I believe that we would have all sorts of commitment to check in our

relationship with God and to renew our faith especially in the coming months being in new Covid-19 normal. I may ask each and every one to hold tight in Christ who has engraved our names in life everlasting.

This liturgy of Holy Communion is prepared and led by Carmen Lam (Bible Reading), Jenny Keast (Kids Talk), Rosemary Brook (Prayers of the People), music team and the minister. We thank them for their huge commitment in all God's works that may direct us to the promised end where he waits for us, especially in this Lenten journey.

### **Acknowledgement for the First Peoples:**

We acknowledge the Wallumettagal people of the Eora Nation, and their elders past, present and emerging, on which we celebrate Jesus Christ our Lord. We recognize their special custodianship and relationship with the land and all creation. And thank them.

### **Call to Worship inspired by Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen up, everyone!  
God has given us work to do.  
**God has called each of us  
before we were even born.**

It was God who named us.  
**It is God who claims us.**

The light of God's love shines in us.  
**Let's shine God's love into all the world!**

*Retrieved from Worship Elements, Ministry Matters*

**Song: Father Welcomes All His Children (TIS 491)**

*Father welcomes all his children  
to his family through his Son;  
Father giving his salvation,  
life for ever has been won.*

Little children, come to me,  
for my kingdom is of these;  
life and love I have to give,  
mercy for your sin.

*Father welcomes all his children ...*

In the water, in the word  
in his promise, be assured:  
those who are baptized and believe  
shall be born again.

*Father welcomes all his children ...*

Let us daily die to sin,  
let us daily rise with him,  
walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
live in the peace of God.

*Father welcomes all his children ...*

© 1992 by R. Mann

**Pastoral Prayer for Lent**

Lord God, today is the first Sunday of Lent,  
a season of repentance,  
of self-examination,  
of silence and waiting  
for the leading of your Holy Spirit.  
Through your Spirit  
you lead us into the temptations of Jesus,  
forty days in the wilderness,  
where our lives are laid bare,

and we come face to face with our desires for power—  
power over our lives and the lives of our friends  
and enemies and maybe  
even power over you.

Open us to your grace and mercy,  
your love and provision,  
as we confront the devil's temptations,  
the demons that try to run our world and our lives.  
Give us the power of your Son  
that we may also throw off the dangerous powers of sin—  
the forces of selfishness and pride,  
the forces that keep us from confronting the truth  
about our lives and the world.

During this season of Lent,  
shatter our illusions,  
save us from ourselves,  
and open us to the new life of your Holy Spirit—  
a life of faith, hope, and love.  
As we let your Spirit lead us into repentance,  
may we discover the goodness and fullness of life  
in your kingdom of peace.  
In the words of psalm 91,  
may we find in your presence  
a refuge, a dwelling place, a place of rest.

May we also resist the temptation  
to find our rest in places that silence the cries of injustice—  
the desperation of the needy,  
the anger of the wronged,  
and the despair of the hopeless.  
May those voices echo in our Lenten silence,  
for the call of your Spirit also speaks through those voices.  
As the apostle Paul says in Romans 10,  
your word is near us, on our lips and in our hearts.  
May we use this season of Lent  
to empty ourselves of all that makes us deaf to that word,  
the Word of God, Jesus Christ,

who is already on our lips and in our hearts.

**Amen.** Retrieved from [www.rustyparts.com](http://www.rustyparts.com)

## Scripture Reading      Luke 4:1-13 (NRSV)

### The Temptation of Jesus

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “**It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’**”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “**It is written,**

**‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’**”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “**It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’**” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **What is LENT?**

In the Christian church we talk about LENT in the period before EASTER. What does this mean?

LENT is the 40 days before EASTER and it starts with ASH WEDNESDAY – we had a special service here last Wednesday to celebrate the day.

In our Bible reading, we heard about Jesus being in the desert for 40 days preparing for his ministry for God. This 40 day time is what we now call LENT.

It has become a tradition in Christian churches to try and follow Jesus' example and do without something that is important to us, for 40 days. Jesus went without food; that is known as FASTING.

These days, Christians make many choices about what they can sacrifice. On "Songs of Praise", a bishop in England who had over 200 churches to visit, decided he would not use his car but instead ride a bike! He partly did this to help our environment but he agreed it was quite a challenge!

The reason Jesus fasted for 40 days was to use the time to get ready to start teaching people. He was focussing on God so that when those 40 days were over, He would be ready to start doing what God wanted Him to do.

It is not essential to follow a "tradition" during LENT but many people choose to do so. Some people now choose to do something "good" each day as they focus on EASTER.

Serving Jesus should not just happen during LENT but should always be important in our Christian life. Maybe you would choose to "give up" or "give on" during LENT but we thank Jesus for His serious preparation for ministry.

*Let us pray:*

Father God, we thank you for Jesus' example of how he spent 40 days focussing on you and getting ready to do the mission you gave Him. We pray that you will help us to especially focus on you during these 40 days of LENT so that we'll be ready to service you better and do whatever work you have for us.

In Jesus Name we pray,  
**Amen.**

**Sermon:           Seung Jae Yeon**

“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.” *Isaiah 49:16*

*Let us pray:*

Dear God,

We thank you again for your grace.  
We thank you for the life everlasting on earth and beyond.  
We thank you for your Son Jesus Christ  
who is always with us and before us  
reminding we are all God's people.

In this Lenten journey,  
help us to deepen our relationship with you more.  
Help us to root our faith deeply in your Son Jesus Christ.

We pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

I have several fountain pens that I use during my daily office. When I use them, I like the feeling that I write or draw with an ink on a blank paper. It makes me feel like I am a novel writer who dreams of making fortune by my own bestselling books.

One of those fountain pens is used when it is a very special occasion like wedding where I need to sign on a formal document. The pen has also my title and names 'Rev. Seungjae Yeon' engraved on its body. This was a present gifted on my ordination day by one of my best friends years ago. Every time I use it or simply hold it, it makes me feel precious because of my names on it and the texture that the engraved letters touch my fingers or the palm of my writing hand. Sometimes I touch the letters or smooth them intentionally when I feel that I am out of ideas or brilliant sentences that might have riches of my writing. Rarely, there was a magic moment or eureka moment that I was able to continue paragraphs that I had struggled and then finish it well. I wonder whether my names on the fountain pen are powerful enough to sustain my writing. I imagine what if the fountain pen had Jesus' name engraved and his wonderful name strengthened me and recharged me whenever I smoothed down with my hands. To be honest, I want him most of my days.



Today's scripture reading from Luke 4:1-13 tells us about Jesus who is led by the Holy Spirit in the wilderness. In this story, the key is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit holds Jesus tight, leading his every footstep toward God's call upon him and God's people who are desperate for him. The Holy Spirit, since his baptism in the Jordan, then led Jesus to move forward God's mission and ministry – the purpose of God.

Jesus was in the state of fullness of the Holy Spirit. He returned from the Jordan river after his baptism by the water and the Spirit. Then he was led by the Holy Spirit in the wilderness, where the Spirit's purposeful intervention only worked for him. In the wilderness, Jesus stood alone with full of the Holy Spirit though he was tested. "In the wilderness" recalls Israel people's wondering time in Exodus or other books in the Old Testament. In the wilderness, they experienced signs of God's absence, in other words, it's called 'temptation'. But, once again, the scripture reading reminds us that there was the Holy Spirit who touched and smoothed down Jesus with the purpose of God. Now let's have look at what happened to Jesus in the wilderness.

Jesus was tested by the devil who had either no name or many names. Then in three challenging and dangerous tests, Jesus fully presented who God is and what God's promises are as the Son of God. And he was also a man who faithfully fulfilled what is written in the Scripture and what the Word speaks to him. Here, we are able to see who Jesus was. He was situated in the wilderness as a lonely man but by his faithfulness to God the Father he went through all tests of earthly temptations that are bread, fame and all desires. What the story tells looks like Jesus defeated the devil's temptations. But look at closely, actually he didn't. Before the mighty God, Jesus humbly obeyed all God's word either written or spoken. Though Jesus is the Son of God, he answers "with the duties of a common man" that are engraved in his heart, soul and mind. Again, in the wilderness, there was the Holy Spirit attending Jesus who kept holding him in the protection and guidance of God. This is Jesus who was called by God not "to stand above all human beings but to live among them." This encourages us when we go through tough times and challenging spaces where we cannot find hope and mercy. However, I truly believe that Jesus lives among us in that time and space. I pray that Jesus is now with you if you are burdened by all worries and frustrations in daily life. Please remember that Jesus, like us, was tested but won by the Word of God. His victory is for all of us. I believe that Jesus, the Son of God leads us always in the way of the Holy Spirit where we would find out a safe place to dwell for our whole being.

During the devil's tests, Jesus responded by saying, "it is written." In verse 4 and 8, Jesus began answering by saying, "It is written." The quotes that he recited are all written in Deuteronomy.

He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. (8:3)

The Lord your God you shall fear; him you shall serve, and by his name alone you shall swear. (6:13)

Jesus didn't rebuke but humbly recited using his memory verses. He didn't forget that the Word is written in the Old Testament that is His Father's



words and promises engraved in his heart and soul. To Jesus, saying “It is written” was his technical and also faithful expression implying the full authority of God. Jesus invited God’s will and purpose in him. Because God engraved his Son in his hands. Given that, God has engraved us, in a sense, not just on his hands, but on his heart, for all eternity forever, never ever to be removed.

The devil changed his tactics. He uses the same expression, “It is written.” The devil was copying Jesus. Then the devil showed Jesus the particular illusion of Jerusalem and the pinnacle of the temple, and then said this: “For it is written.” The devil quoted the word from Psalm 91:11, 12. I guessed here that the devil’s quote from the psalm would have disillusioned Jesus. Jesus would have changed the tone and accent of his language like this. (v 12)

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Jesus revealed truly himself as the Son of God and his Sonship to the world. “It is said” here, in Greek word, *eiretai/ereo* was used in Genesis 1, the Creation story. God created the whole universe not by the written language but by the living Word.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.  
And God said, “Let there be the sky...”  
And God said, “Let there be the land and the sea, and the vegetation...”  
And God said, “Let there be days, years, weathers and seasons...”  
And God said, “Let there be all water creatures and all birds...”  
And God said, “Let there be animals of the earth ...”  
Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image...”

From the Word of God, all things were made, and by the Word humankind were created. “Jesus was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” (John 1:2-4) Jesus is the One who can only say like what God says all the time. And the Word of God stands forever when it is said.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

I became an Australian citizen in 2013. I celebrated the citizenship with family and friends just after the citizenship ceremony. Then I had a phone call from my father. He said, “Congratulations on becoming a citizen of Australia that is a country of more opportunity for my son and family there. But I am feeling weird Seungjae. I found that I don’t have all names of you – Seungjae, Grace, Joshua, Daniel and Heather anymore on the Resident Registration. I am feeling very weird.” In South Korea, that doesn’t allow its citizens’ dual citizenship, five of us were registered under the name of my father but then removed because we became Australian citizens. I did feel for my dad and his weird emotion because our names on his registration document were like rewards of his own life that he had contributed all. Our names are not written on the document anymore but engraved in his heart and mind. Nothing changes him and separates us from his sincere love for my family in Australia and me.

We just started our Lenten journey. For forty days till Easter day, we are continually called by God to seek to find out the meaning of our relationship with him and his purposeful intervention in our lives. What if we’re tempted to think that God has forgotten us, because of the Covid-19, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, or the flood in northern NSW and the Greater Sydney? What if our faith is too little to see hope for tomorrow? Let us remember God’s promise that he has put permanent marks on his hands for us. And then boldly proclaim like Jesus who won the testing of devils.

“It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

*Let us pray:*

Dear loving God, thank you for this grace.  
Thank you for this mercy that we are led by you  
when we go through tough times.

We thank you Lord for the beautiful reality  
that we are ever before you,  
and your will be done through the work of our hands.

For forty days in this Lenten journey,  
especially when we will face all kinds of testings  
help us to realise that Jesus Christ has won for us  
showing us how we live not by bread but by your Word.  
All glory be to your name.

In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

### **Prayers of the People: Rosemary Brook**

Thank you to Seung Jae for preparing the special Ash Wednesday service with Communion on 2 March 2022 and to Jenny Keast for her heart-felt prayers. I encourage you to find the service and Jenny's prayers which are relevant to today on our website at

[https://boroniapark.uca.org.au/worship-online/2-march-2022\\_ash-wednesday-service/](https://boroniapark.uca.org.au/worship-online/2-march-2022_ash-wednesday-service/)

Heavenly Father,

Today, we thank you we can gather here again as a Church family for the first time in many weeks. How much we have missed being together here.

We thank you too as a 'Growing Young' church for all our beautiful young people and their families and the talents and gifts you have given them. Help us treasure each one of them and warmly and enthusiastically support them as they learn more about who they are; where they belong; and what directions and opportunities the future might hold for them- all within your loving safe-keeping.

As we enter this season of Lent, we acknowledge how far we have fallen short of what you have created us to be. We want so much to deepen our love for you and for your Son Jesus- your sublime gift to us and who turns upside down all our worldly beliefs and shows us your divine truths.

If ever we needed to be set straight about what is truly happening in this world and to our neighbours, this has been the week! There have been so many profoundly disturbing events, developments and reports this week.

We pray earnestly for all those who have suffered unbearable loss of loved ones or their homes and businesses in floods here in Australia and in the invasion of Ukraine.

We pray earnestly for peace - and for wisdom and resolve by leaders making incredibly difficult, finely calibrated decisions that can have untold impacts around the world.

We see what happens when your Truth and Love is forsaken. Yet we might need to listen again to our Minister SJ's recent sermon on Jesus' directive to Love our enemies- something profoundly challenging to us at all levels. So let us pray together, earnestly and unceasingly for:

- A peaceful resolution to the crisis in Europe so that further human suffering is prevented\*.
- Safety for the children, women and men who have been forced to flee their homes and country, and for those in danger in Ukraine\*.
- The Russian citizens, so many of whom are young, who have bravely declared their opposition to the war, and for all those who are -and will - bear the cost of a senseless war\*.
- Concerted rebuilding and international cooperation. (\* Diana Butler Bass)
- Hard as it is, we pray for our enemies as Jesus commanded. May we try to understand the fears of our enemies that have driven out all that love is. Bless and protect all who are working to bring about new, peaceful societies.
- In Australia, we also pray for massively increased efforts to address immediately the perils of climate change: We know from the latest UN report last month that Australia, for example, will suffer greater impacts of climate change than any other advanced economy. [UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 28 February, 2022]
- Care, compassion and thoughtful generosity in supporting all who have lost so much in the floods and profound thanks and respect for all involved in providing life-saving emergency services and volunteer support.

We also ask that you continue to bless and inspire our devoted minister Seung Jae and his family; our lay preachers and leaders; and all our beloved

church family. Be especially close to those who need extra loving care and kindness because of health or other issues.

Guide your church world-wide and churches nearby in these most challenging times. This week, we thank you for the inspiration over centuries of your churches in the United Kingdom - so many saints, theologians, leaders, hymns, prayers, sacred spaces, people of deep faith who changed society for the better; and glorious cathedrals which still inspire us to reach heavenward.

Loving God of the universe and of the tiniest atoms, we so much need your grace, forgiveness, wisdom, promises and peace in these times.

In Jesus' name we all pray,  
**Amen.**

### **Dedication of the Offering:**

The offering will be used for the congregation's continuing mission and ministry in these changing times. Please make your offering through a Bank Deposit or a personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

**Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church**

**BSB: 634-634**

**Account: 100023784**

**Reference: Offering *OR Moderator's Flood Appeal***

**Mail to: Mrs. Robyn Harvey**

**96a Champion Rd. Gladesville NSW 2111**

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or robyn.49@bigpond.net.au for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

## **THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Note: The Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia at its November meeting has extended permission to celebrate Holy Communion as part of online worship until the reconvened 16th Assembly meeting in May 2022.**

## Communion Song:      **Feed Us Now (TIS 538)**

Feed us now, Bread of life,  
in this holy meal;  
let us know your love anew:  
we hunger for you.  
Feed us now, Bread of life,  
come and live within;  
let your peace be ours today,  
Lord Jesus, we pray.

Piece of bread, cup of wine:  
Lord, this food is good:  
love and mercy come to us  
your promise we trust.  
Piece of bread, cup of wine:  
who can understand  
how his mercy works in these?  
Yet, Lord, we believe.

God is here, O so near,  
nearer than our thoughts.  
Stay with us where'er we go;  
Lord, help us to grow.  
God is here, O so near,  
in this heaven's meal.  
May we always feed on you –  
on the bread that is true.

© R. Mann

## **The Thanksgiving**

Risen Lord and Saviour,  
present among us  
with the wealth of your love.  
Cleanse us from sin and  
give us the faith to offer our praise  
and grow in your grace.

**All    Amen.**

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days,  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace and  
learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service,  
you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word,  
you open our eyes to your presence  
in the world and  
free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour  
of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate  
the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father,  
on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread,  
and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

After the meal,  
Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**All Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Father,  
as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,

that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body  
and his blood.

**All Amen.**

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth, and  
share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.

**All Amen.**



For honour and praise belong to you,  
Father, with Jesus your Son,  
and the Holy Spirit:  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## Breaking Bread and Raising Cup

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup  
All we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.  
Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those  
who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.**

## The Communion

All is prepared so please come!

## The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
我們在天上的父，  
願人都尊祢的名為聖，  
하늘에 계신 우리 아버지，  
아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며，

your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
願祢的國降臨，  
願祢的旨意行在地上，  
如同行在天上。

아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며,  
아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이  
땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.

我們日用的飲食 今日賜給我們,  
오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고,

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

免我們的債  
如同我們免了人的債  
우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을  
용서하여 준 것같이 우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고,

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探,  
救我們脫離兇惡,  
우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고  
악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever.

因為國度，權柄，榮耀，  
全是祢的，直到永遠。  
나라와 권능과 영광이  
영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

### Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son  
to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life.

Give us grace  
that we may always most thankfully receive these  
his inestimable and invaluable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour to follow  
the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**All God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us  
with the bread of heaven.**

**Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Song: God Be with You Till We Meet Again**

God be with you till we meet again;  
holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin

## **Benediction**

Loving Lord,  
during this Lenten season,  
let us we find the simple truth  
of your love for us  
that is engraved in your creation.

Let us seek justice, and love kindness,  
and walk humbly with you and all God's people  
of our days.

Let us give up our way  
and give ourselves to you way for us.

So, please lead and guide us on this Lenten journey.  
May we walk with your Son Jesus Christ  
to wherever the Holy Spirit leads and guides us.  
May we follow the faithful way  
that you go before us.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be upon us and remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

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

All music reproduced and streamed with permission. CCLI Copyright and Streaming Licence: 260394, 33617.

All English scripture readings in this service are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.