

**Sunday Communion Service**  
**Pentecost 9, Sunday 7 August 2022, 9:30AM**  
**Boronia Park Uniting Church**

**Lead: Rev. Seung Jae Yeon**

**Acknowledgement of the First Peoples**

We acknowledge the Walloomattagal people,  
the first inhabitants of this place.

**We honour them for their custodianship of the land,  
on which we gather today.**

**Opening Prayer – Gathering of the People**

God, the LORD God, has spoken  
**God's *calls and wills* cover all the earth  
like the sun from its rising to its setting.**

“Gather to me, my faithful ones”;  
We gather to worship you, O God.

Jeff Shrowder

*Let us pray:*

Now faith is  
the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.  
We come convinced of many things  
but trusting very few.

Holy God of limitless surprises,  
meet us here in this place  
as we touch that which we cannot see  
that which we have not dared to hope.

Katherine Hawker

Living and loving God,  
this moment please be within us and give us faith  
that we may find you and give you  
all our praises and thanks.

Calling God,  
help us to grow faith that we may see  
the coming of your Son Jesus Christ,  
whose mighty acts may bring your presence  
in our journey to the promised end.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Song      All Are Welcome**

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.  
*All are welcome, all are welcome ...*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.  
*All are welcome, all are welcome ...*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger.  
*All are welcome, all are welcome ...*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.  
*All are welcome, all are welcome ...*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Tune: TWO OAKS

## Scripture Reading

Heather Yeon

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (Contemporary English Version)

### The Great Faith of God's People

11 Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see. <sup>2</sup> It was their faith that made our ancestors pleasing to God.

<sup>3</sup> Because of our faith, we know that the world was made at God's command. We also know that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen.

<sup>8</sup> Abraham had faith and obeyed God. He was told to go to the land that God had said would be his, and he left for a country he had never seen. <sup>9</sup> Because Abraham had faith, he lived as a stranger in the promised land. He lived there in a tent, and so did Isaac and Jacob, who were later given the same promise. <sup>10</sup> Abraham did this, because he was waiting for the eternal city God had planned and built.

<sup>11</sup> Even when Sarah was too old to have children, she had faith that God would do what he had promised, and she had a son. <sup>12</sup> Her husband Abraham was almost dead, but he became the ancestor of many people. In fact, there are as many of them as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand along the seashore.

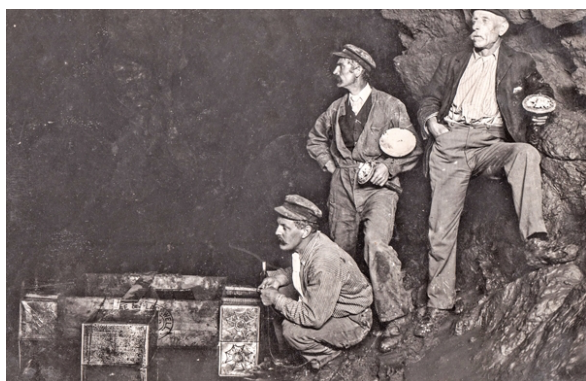
<sup>13</sup> Every one of those people died. But they still had faith, even though they had not received what they had been promised. They were glad just to see these things from far away, and they agreed that they were only strangers and foreigners on this earth. <sup>14</sup> When people talk this way, it is clear they are looking for a place to call their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been talking about the land where they had once lived, they could have gone back at any time. <sup>16</sup> But they were looking forward to a better home in heaven. This is why God wasn't ashamed for them to call him their God. He even built a city for them.

Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Minister's Sharing of a Reflection on Hebrews' Reading**

I was searching the weather forecast for the Blue Mountains and I clicked on the weather in the Oberon area. At that time, I had an intension that I need to know when is the best season to see snow on the Mountains. What came next was just amazing! The Jenolan Caves. A long time ago, when my mother-in-law came to visit Grace, we went there for a daytrip. It was such a wonderful place to see, and I felt that I would come back again to explore more. To be honest, my hope to explore the caves went too far. I went to Oberon a few years ago to officiate a wedding. But the itinerary was too tight to go there. One day I must go and explore as a spelunker of the Jenolan Caves.



The Jenolan Caves are the largest, most spectacular and most famous caves in Australia. And did you know the caves are the world's oldest discovered open caves – one of the most outstanding cave systems in the world. Since the mid 1880's the caves had been discovered by the Wilson brothers, Jeremiah and

Frederick and later by James Corvosso Wiburd. Because of their blood and sweat and what they achieved, today at Jenolan Caves, visitors can choose guided tours from a variety of spectacular caves. For this 2-hour tour, many forerunners (photo in the previous page) have given the safest guided routines on the map, remaining their huge steps and milestones in the caves.

Sunday 31 July 2022, a group of cave explorers (photo on the right) uncovered Australia's deepest known cave in southern Tasmania, breaking previous record by 4 metres. The newly discovered cave, named "Delta Variant", is connected to the Niggly/Growling Swallet cave system north-west of Hobart. It took 14 hours till the cavers emerged victorious. Ciara Smart, a team member said,



"It's been a lot of work to get to the point where we are now. Yesterday (which was Saturday 30 July 2022), we made the breakthrough – and there was always the possibility that we weren't going to make the connection, but we did. And excitingly, we've added to a bit of Australia's caving history."

Again, because of what they achieved, in the coming years, more cavers and spelunkers will be able to follow their route where they climbed and crawled with their blood and sweat.

The news of discovering the new cave reminds me the story of Abraham and Sarah attached in today's passage, Hebrews 11. The chapter is well-known to me as the "Hall of Faith". It's all about faith, and the confidence found in faith. The chapter tells us about Abraham and Sarah's willingness to set out for a land which they had no idea what it was (11:8).

Abraham [and Sarah] had faith and obeyed God. He was told to go to the land that God had said would be his, and he left for a country he had never seen.

They went on their journey toward a land which God promised them. No matter they walked during the day or night-time, they always needed to seek to find God's direction toward the promised land. And they knew the promised land was not really Canaan at all, but a heavenly city (11:10).

Abraham did this, because he was waiting for the eternal city God had planned and built.

But Abraham and Sarah got confused on their way to the promised land so that they called it differently each time as a temple, a land and a heavenly city. What they really yearned for was something that they could not articulate for themselves. It was the God given yearning. God called them, guided and led them, and kept motivating them to continue and finish the journey. For this, God was always with them in and through the world of God's heavenly presence. They went on with God's heavenly presence that might be found in a heavenly city. I wonder they walked toward a heavenly city in progress or already dwelled in a heavenly city. I wonder they had deep down faith in God and obeyed God fully during their discovering of God's oldest and deepest love since the Creation. I assumed that in the preparation and the beginning, they had no clue of how long the journey would take or how far a land that God promised would be located. But they began and eventually reached. That is the ultimate hope promised to us from God for today and the days to come. Because of Abraham and Sarah's blood and sweat in following God's direction toward the promised land, today we can follow God even though sometimes we need to climb and crawl in challenging time.

Struggles and challenges claim that we have a yearning for God deep down in our hearts. And sometimes we express it in all kinds of different ways including offering prayers, meditating on scripture readings and lyrics of our favourite hymns, watching inspiring TED talks, conversing with one who you trust and feel safe and comfortable, seeking to find a sacred and quiet place to be as who you really are. This is kind of existential response. You may own them, participating in joining the presence of God here and now. No matter how little it is you willingly find God in doing so. We know Sarah joins the list of biblical heroes of faith including Jesus our Saviour for her response in scoffing at the idea of having a child at a legendary age. The result is that Abraham had a son and descendants. They fulfilled the promise of God that they would be as numerous as the stars and as sand on the seashore. One little thing can trigger major events.

When Grace and I left the mother country, South Korea, we never knew we would be part of this loving and welcoming Uniting congregation, Wallumettagal land, Boronia Park. No one told us that the life ahead of us would be not easy, have lows and highs, and give us different seasons. When we landed on the Sydney Airport on Wednesday 28 March 2001, we got only two large luggage bags and backpacks. And we had our first night in a small room that belongs to Belmore Uniting Church. We had no idea what would come tomorrow. But what we really yearned for was God's guidance in each

day that we decided to give to God as our daily offering. Grace was 25 years old, and I was 26 years old. We were all young.

We decided to be brave and give our young life for the glory of God. Do you know what came for us next? It was another of our 21 years of journey in finding God's will in Australia. To be honest, today, for me, it is easier than before to continue my faith journey, to find God's will every day and to trust in God who walks beside me promising that he would be going with me forever. So that I can have a yearning for God from deep down in my heart and express it in all kinds of different ways in life. What made this possible is people that I have met and encountered with every corner and hump of life. Those people that I have met are like a book of maps that tells me which direction I should go. I acknowledge this because I believe that those people have taken all different ways in their lives, going through long and deep caves and mapping their challenging period of life with pains and agonies. Then they willingly share the map with me, without any cost. Sometimes they saved and rescued me by saying, "Seungjae, it's okay. This is life." Isn't it great that there is someone telling me what a life really looks like? There I gain new strength and stand up. Then continue my day. Every time I gain from your life-giving map or your life chapters of faith, I recall this bible passage, which is from Hebrews 11:1-3. It says,

Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see. It was their faith that made our ancestors pleasing to God. Because of our faith, we know that the world was made at God's command. We also know that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen.

It is all about believing that there is something greater and permanent towards which we are heading and that gives us the confidence to go on. Because of your sharing of the life-giving maps, faith that I own becomes much wider. Because of your giving and sharing life with each other, with confidence, I know I can take this journey together with ancient heroes of faith in solidarity. And because of our mutual sharing of faith in this journey, we can keep on it in the same spirit. In the world of God and faith, we can now enter a heavenly city together. Sometimes life is intimidating because we cannot see the end of suffering and challenges. But please remember we are going this journey together breaking through the darkness that we might face today. We are not escaping from it but emerging victorious in and with Christ Jesus. This is faith that we can find from deep human yearning. Faith is the confidence that is okay to yearn each other's company. And when we

find faith deeply from each other I believe that there is always our God who shapes our hopes and dreams. And I believe that God is real. In God we find together, we may build a spiritual home for us and for many where all have space, voice and vision. I encourage all of us to build this house together.

Amen.

## **Offering and Dedication**

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church

BSB: 634-634

Account: 100023784

Reference: Offering

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

*Let us pray:*

Faithful Father,  
thank you that you give the gift of abundant, eternal life.  
You have said that you are a Good Father who gives us good gifts.  
Your generosity overflows to us.  
Everything we have is a gift from you.

As we bring our offerings to you,  
we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us.

May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God.  
Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honour,  
and power and strength, be unto you  
our God forever and ever.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Communion Song    Table of Plenty**



*Come to the feast of heaven and earth!  
Come to the table of plenty!  
God will provide for all that we need,  
here at the table of plenty.*

O come and sit at my table  
where saints and sinners are friends.  
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely  
to share the cup of my love.  
*Come to the feast of heaven and earth! ...*

O come and eat without money;  
come to drink without price.  
My feast of gladness will feed your spirit  
with faith and fullness of life.  
*Come to the feast of heaven and earth! ...*

My bread will ever sustain you  
through days of sorrow and woe.  
My wine will flow like a sea of gladness  
to flood the depths of your soul.  
*Come to the feast of heaven and earth! ...*

Your fields will flower in fullness;  
your homes will flourish in peace.  
For I, the giver of home and harvest,  
will send my rain on the soil.  
*Come to the feast of heaven and earth! ...*

Dan Schutte

## **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift us 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.**

We are called to proclaim the mystery of our faith,  
The Lord, our God, the Lord is One,  
Trinity of Love,  
Full of majesty,  
Undivided in splendour,  
Worshipped and adored forever.

**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.**

Now, Lord Jesus, joined with you we pray:  
**Pour out your Holy Spirit on us.  
You have made us one with you,  
make us one with each other  
and one in ministry in the world,  
pour out your holy Spirit on us  
for the sake of the kingdom  
you have established amongst us.**

**May we continue to bring honour and glory  
to your holy name.  
As it was in the beginning is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

God of our winter days,  
winter days that hang like fog around us -  
the winter days of the soul that hang heavily upon us.  
We turn to this sacrament  
of holy communion,  
which both joins us and feeds us -  
Joins us to you and to each other,

warms and nourishes us  
in the winters of our lives.



We remember that it was in the deep winter  
Of his life that Jesus gathered  
in an upper room with his friends -  
conscious of the end that awaited him.

On that night,  
Jesus took bread from the table,  
The ordinary bread of everyday,  
and blessed God for it, saying:  
Blessed are you, Lord,  
God of All creation,  
You are the giver of this bread.

In the same way he took the cup,  
The cup of *all prophets*, the cup of hope,  
The cup of expectation, and said:  
Blessed are you, Lord  
God of all creation,  
You are the giver of this cup.

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
On these gifts of bread and wine  
That they may be the body  
And the life-giving blood of Christ.

With Jesus, we bless you, eternal God,  
And as he took bread, so do we:

**We take it as disciples:  
This is Christ's body given for us.**

As he took the cup of hope,  
The cup that trusts in you for the future,  
So we take this cup,  
symbol of Jesus giving us his life:

**We take it as disciples.  
This is Christ's gift that joins us to the  
Everlasting life of God.**

**So we take this bread and this cup  
And give thanks for all that has come to us  
from the winter of Jesus' life  
during this harsh winter 2022 in Australia.**

*A seasonal order of service for holy communion - Winter*  
**By Gereldine Leonard (UCA Presbytery of North East Victoria)**

## **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.

## **Song      A House Where You Belong**

A house where you belong  
founded on spirit, built with song  
where mind and body, sand and stone  
come to their own – this is a solid space,  
a place in which we feel God's firm embrace.

A house to which you come,  
a shelter better than your home,

for here the love of God is known  
practiced and shown and all discouragement  
is dented by God's promise and intent.

A house from which you run  
and yet to which you can return,  
a place in which each one can share  
deep joy and care although the open door  
is one we often may have passed before.

A house in which you find  
things that were seldom on your mind,  
things which you thought you'd never need: on these you feed.  
Here those who fondly greet  
will hope to recognise you in the street.

A house in which each day  
there is no limit to your stay.  
Should you pour out your heart to God  
his love is broad; and where despair takes seed  
God plants in that same soil  
the hope you need.

The church must be the home  
to which all people freely come  
should life be good, should it be bad  
happy or sad, this still must be the place  
which welcomes all and offers  
God's embrace.

Music and text by Janne Mark (from 'Salmer fra broen 2013')  
English text by John L. Bell (WGRG 2016)

## **Benediction**

Holy God, we thank you that we stand  
in a long line of believers  
who have been faithful through the ages.

You have been leading your people through trial and difficulty  
and have always set before them hope for today  
and hope for a better tomorrow.  
So we live this day.

We pray that you would bless us in our time  
as we seek to be as faithful as our ancestors.  
May we too know the faith which is filled  
with hope in things not seen.  
God, give us faith to walk with you  
through the good season and challenging time  
and the fruitful moments and nothing on our plate of life  
and to achieve this journey and mystery of life in You.

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

### **Sung Blessing**

### **Go in Peace, Go in Love**

Go in Peace, Go in Love  
Let's find joy with each other.  
Go in Peace, Go in Love,  
We are sister and brother.  
Fed by Spirit with strength each day  
to find our way together  
Go in Peace, Go in Love,  
God be with us forever.

Music: Tune of Edelwiss  
Words: Mary Louise Bringle

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