



*Kardlayirdi Karnungga  
The light on the hill*

*Brougham Place Uniting Church*

*Season of Creation – Arid Lands Sunday  
September 17th, 2023  
Liturgical colour: Aqua*

*Preacher: Rev Linda Driver*

*We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional carers of the land on which  
our church is built.*

Prelude

Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country

Welcome! Niina marni!  
**Marni'ai!**

Lighting of the Candles and Introit

*Where Wide Sky Rolls Down  
Elizabeth J Smith  
Together in Song 188*

## Call to Worship

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,  
the name of Christ, the pulse of life,  
and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

**Holy! Holy! Holy!**

**Earth is filled with God's presence.**

We invite the Arid Lands of this nation we call Australia to worship  
with us:

**Uluru and the red centre,  
deep gorges and mountain ranges.**

We invite the flora to sing in the sun:

**ghost gums and spinifex,  
mallee trees and Sturt's desert pea.**

We join with the fauna of the outback in praising God:

**roaming dingos and wallabies, goannas and hovering hawks.**

We invite the Dreaming to join us in praise:

**songs of ancient custodians deep in the rock,  
spirits of life deep in the sand and the hills.**

We celebrate the song of the Arid Lands!

**Sing, Arid Lands, sing!**

We Sing: *Come One, Come All*

Let all the earth come join the song  
and join the dance for all belong  
creation beats with willing hearts  
so come on saints, let's play our part

*Come one, come all  
to life that's whole  
come one, come all  
to love that's full*

The hills and rivers sound their praise  
and we join in for our God reigns  
come to the table eat your fill  
come rest by living waters still

*Come one, come all  
to life that's whole  
come one, come all  
to love that's full*

So take your place and know you're loved  
and spread the word, for there's enough  
to know our God and truly live  
creation was made for this

*Come one, come all  
to life that's whole  
Come one, come all  
to love that's full (x2)*

So take your place and know you're loved  
and spread the word for there's enough  
to know our God and truly live  
creation was made for this

*Music and lyrics by Malcolm Gordon, arr by Fiona Chus.  
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## Remembering

We remember the arid lands that God created,  
the outback, the wilderness,  
the wild places on earth,  
the worlds of wonder and mystery,  
the distant dreamings of the Outback.

We remember the wild worlds  
and hiding places of our childhood,  
where we found the footprints  
of mysterious animals  
and creeping critters hiding under rocks.

We remember and rejoice.

**Thank you, God, for the arid lands,  
for the outback and wild places  
that stir us with wonder.**

## Prayer of Confession

Humans take up more and more space every year.  
We claim what we think is our own and tame what is wild.  
We do not hear the groaning of Creation but only our own  
hopes and dreams.

We remember and confess  
that we have become alienated from Earth  
and have desecrated sites in the Outback regions  
of our garden planet.

**We are sorry.**

.. for polluted deserts with radioactive waste.

.. for holes in the ozone layer.

.. for desecrated sacred sites in the Outback.

.. for destroyed homes of wild creatures.

We are sorry.

**We are sorry.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness / Affirmation

Christ hears our confession out in the Arid Lands  
and forgives our sins against the Outback.

**Christ, teach us to love Earth  
and reconcile with Earth as our home.**

## Passing of the Peace

The peace of our God be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Community News and Notices

[Current or previous BP E-news and to sign up to receive BP E-news](#)

## Song: *Getting to Know You*

*Choir Only - Sing once through.*

As we learn, about you today  
As you learn, about us today  
As we learn, together on the way  
God is here with us to-day.

Getting to know...House Groups and Linda

*We Sing – Congregation sings twice.*

As we learn, about you today  
As you learn, about us today  
As we learn, together on the way  
God is here with us to-day.

*Tune from Love and Anger song 70. African American traditional. © .  
Wild Goose Resource Group. Words M Harris*

## Children's Time

Children may go downstairs for Sunday School. Parents, you are welcome to join your child in Sunday School if you feel your child may need your assistance. Alternatively, you may wish for your child to remain with you for the duration of worship. Activity packs are available at the entrances.

## Choral Anthem:

*Southern Cross –  
Rosemary Nairn*

**Romans 8:18-27** New Revised Standard Version (updated edition)

*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

**Mark 1:9–13** New Revised Standard Version (updated edition)

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”*

*And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.*

The Gospel of Christ, Light of the world.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## We Sing: *God the Great Imagination*

1. God the great Imagination  
lit a spark and there was light.  
In a far-flung constellation  
this small rock was set in flight.  
Redgums soar in bellbird forests,  
creatures roam in pastures green,  
circled by the loving promise  
of God's covenantal dream.
2. Yet our world is still encumbered  
by the heedless need for power.  
Vested interests take and plunder,  
human flourishing turns sour.  
Still enslaved and still enslaving  
can we yet uphold the dream?  
Can God change our bad behaving  
and our conflicts still redeem?
3. Can we work in co-creation,  
work with hearts and hands to see  
hope and reconciliation,  
freedom in our world of need?  
Shall we yet live out Love's image,  
suffer till the task is done?  
Love will labour till it's finished  
and the transformation won.
4. God with cosmic inspiration  
sets the possible to stir.  
Christ the cosmic incarnation,  
comes to change the way we were.  
God beyond us, Christ beside us,  
Spirit's inward deep embrace.  
Covenant of richest beauty  
our Creator's gift of grace.

*Words: Sharonne Price. Tune: Nettleton (Come Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing)*  
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## Offering

To give electronically please go to [bpuc.org/give](http://bpuc.org/give)  
Alternatively, there is an offering bowl near the lectern on the left-hand side as you exit the church.

## Offering Prayer:

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings – of cash, and of gifts n goodies to go towards the East Adelaide Domestic Violence Service (EADVS), - as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

**With all creation we praise our Creator.  
Amen**

## Prayers of the People

### 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 in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**



## We Sing: *May Our Lives*

*Chorus:*

*May our lives and our prayers be one  
As our hopes shape the roads we walk on  
And when our work and our dreaming's done  
May our lives and our prayers be one.*

1. Within the rhythm of our days  
We take the time to muse and pray  
The fears we face, the tears we taste  
We view in light of holy grace.

*Chorus*

2. We name our deepest hopes and dreams  
For those we love and all in need  
We picture how the world could be  
We live the change we want to see.

*Chorus*

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## Sending Forth and Benediction

### Blessing

Go in peace,  
serving Christ and loving Earth!  
**We go in peace,  
serving Christ  
and tending Earth!**

### Choral Blessing:

*For You, Deep Stillness —  
Robin Mann and Julie Perrin*

### Postlude

*Come and share morning tea together, in the basement.  
There are stairs behind the organ and a ramp between the church  
and the car park leading to the basement.*

*Some of the liturgy in this service is adapted from Seasons of the Spirit, Wood Lake  
Publishing; and the Outback Sunday resource from the Season of Creation  
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>;*

[www.bpuc.org](http://www.bpuc.org)

## Season of Creation Discipleship Ideas

*You are invited to try one or more of the following as Spiritual Disciplines during the Season of Creation:*

- Go for a slow walk along Karrawirra Pari.  
*Engage your senses: watch, listen, smell and touch.*
- Go for a virtual garden tour:  
<https://www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/education/online-resources/virtual-garden-tours>
- If you are planning to travel near Port Augusta soon, plan a visit to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden.  
<https://www.aalbg.org/>
- Check out the Nature Festival guide and plan what activities you might participate in.  
*More information here: <https://www.naturefestival.org.au/events>*
- Try out the Pesky Plastics Quiz Tool on the Plastic Free July website: <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/>
- Participate in part of the Caring for Creation (Wellspring & Iona Listening Pilgrimage)  
*More information here: <https://wellspring-community.com/events-1/2023/9/5/care-for-creation-in-south-australia-on-tarntanya-kuarna-country-and-surrounds>*
- Check out the Green Adelaide website:  
<https://www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/>  
*working towards a vision of a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture*
- Find out what your local council is doing to care for Creation and offer your support and encouragement – and join in if you can!