



‘Worship at home’

June 22nd 2026

Anniversary of the UCA



As we worship, we reflect on who we are as God’s people,
whether we gather with others, or alone.

This week we celebrate the **49th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia** and give thanks for communities of faith which have nurtured and grown disciples all through the ages.

Opening

We gather as God’s community,
whether individually or together,
for we are the Body of Christ.

We come, just as we are
to worship our God.

We come as part of a community,
to learn and grow together.

We bring our diverse gifts, skills, and talents,
to build each other up in love.

There are different ways of serving God:
but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways:
but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through us all.

Together we are the body of Christ:
and individually members of it.

- adapted from *Call to Worship* based on Ephesians 4:1-16,
1 Corinthians 12:4ff and Basis of Union, para 13.



The Uniting Church in Australia was formed in 1977 with the union of the majority of Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Union churches in Australia. An inaugural service was conducted in the Sydney Town Hall. There were celebrations in local churches all over the country and a sense of excitement and anticipation of what was to come.

Were you involved in a church at this time of Union?

What do you remember about it?

Over the years, the church has played various roles in the lives of individuals, and in society. Many of our core Western beliefs and laws are based on Christian values. Churches have been crucial to social reform, education, health and aged care, justice and politics. They can provide places of shelter, hospitality and fellowship, practical support, serving and helping those in need. Churches can be places where we experience God, grow in faith, and give expression to our faith using our gifts and talents. They can be places to deepen our relationship with God, and with others.

Reflect on your church involvement over the years.

Did you attend Sunday School or Youth Group?

Or did you come to faith as an adult?

Are you still involved regularly in a structured community of faith, or do you express your faith in other ways?

Which aspects of church do you appreciate?

Which aspects do you find difficult?

The church as an institution does not always seem to live up to our ideals. We hear stories of hurt, abuse, fear, greed and power. We may have experienced these ourselves. It may be helpful to remember that the church is made up of ordinary people, people just like us, who are striving to follow Christ, seeking God's ways and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, binding us together in love. In this we too often fail, but we are reminded that we are a pilgrim people, and that being the church is not a destination, but a way forward.



The Uniting Church affirms that it belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end...The Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Basis of Union paragraph 18

God in Christ has given to all people in the Church the Holy Spirit as a pledge and foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation. The Church's call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself.

Basis of Union paragraph 3

Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the

chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. New International Version

We pray that God's Spirit will continue to bind us together in love, reforming and renewing us as we seek the ways of Christ in our own lives, and in our churches, and look to the future with hope.



The Uniting Church in Australia

The **cross** of Jesus Christ, in its light and love, stands over a darkened, disconnected **world**, redeeming it through grace and truth.

The wide **U** at the bottom is an incomplete semicircle, reminding us that we are *uniting*:

we continue to seek a life of connectedness with God, with each other and with our world.

The Holy Spirit **dove** guides and empowers us to be witnesses to Jesus Christ and communities of connection.

**Together, we are God's people,
sent out to worship, witness and serve.**

We are a Pilgrim People

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We proclaim Jesus Christ,
the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.

In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.

We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.

We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity
which is both Christ's gift and his will.

We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.

And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.

- *adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia
from Uniting in Worship 2 Creeds & Statements of Faith No. 5*



Closing

Go in peace;
may you carry God's Wisdom,
speak forth God's Word,
and embody God's Presence
wherever you are.

In the name of Christ. Amen.