

Lay Preachers' Sunday
2nd August, 2026
A liturgy to celebrate Lay Preachers



The first Sunday in August is recognised by the Synod of South Australia as Lay Preachers' Sunday. This year that falls on the 2nd of August.

In another document, the Lay Preachers' Committee offers comprehensive notes for liturgy and preaching for the day. However, we know that not every congregation wishes to employ all those resources, so in this document we include just a brief liturgy for the actual celebration of Lay Preachers' Sunday itself, and the recognition of Lay Preachers that goes with it. This is the most important aspect of the day, and we invite all congregations to use the words offered here as part of their liturgy around the Prayers for the World.

A celebration of Lay Preachers

This can be read as an introduction to the pastoral prayers

To preach the Gospel, the grace of God in Jesus Christ, is one of the greatest privileges anyone can have – and a pretty significant responsibility as well! In the Uniting Church we recognise that that privilege is extended not just to ordained ministers – Ministers of the Word and Deacons – and to Pastors in congregation placement, but to lay people, “ordinary” members of a congregation who respond to a Call from God to bring the Gospel of grace to their people.

The Ministry of Lay Preaching is a Specified Ministry in the Uniting Church, that is, it is of such importance that there are Regulations relating to the training and formal recognition of Lay Preachers. And those who have been through the formation will bear witness to the incredible richness of understanding, and deepening of faith, that accompanies the study involved.

We also recognise that there are many who faithfully lead their people in worship and with preaching each week and who do not have any formal recognition. The church recognises the reality that without the faithful service of these people, there would be many congregation on any given Sunday with nobody to lead their worship.

So in this celebration of Lay Preachers, we thank God for the dedication and the gifts of accredited Lay Preachers, but also all people Lay and Ordained who bring the insights of their life experience to their faith and share that with us each week.

We pray the blessing of God on them all.