



**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
FIFTEENTH ASSEMBLY**

**OPENING WORSHIP
&
INSTALLATION OF
THE PRESIDENT**

WORSHIP LEADERS

*Sunday 8 July 2018 7.30pm
St Michael's Uniting Church
120 Collins St, Melbourne VIC*



The Gathering of the People of God

Before the service the Billabong video begins playing on the screen (no sound) – it continues playing through the whole service.

1. Choir – *Festive Alleluia*

MiniM

Standing at front – stay in position after song

2. Processional Hymn

Jo Palmer, Rhys Boak

Jo Palmer: please stand as you are able to join in the hymn of praise.

Congregation stands.

Accompanied by Organ – organist Rhys Boak

MiniM lead the singing from the front

Procession: President, Mr Stuart McMillan, President-Elect, Dr Deidre Palmer, Wurundjeri Elder, Assembly General Secretary, Ms Colleen Geyer, President of UAICC, Rev. Garry Dronfield, Moderator of Vic/ Tas Synod, Rev. Sharon Hollis and President's Chaplains Rev. Felicity Amery, Rev. Rob Brown and Rev. Charissa Suli.

Bible and candle carried in with procession and placed on table.

Greenery carried in by Dusty Feet mob and placed on steps.

Praise with Joy, the World's Creator

by John Bell and Graham Maule

1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.
2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence –
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.
3. Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –
Foolishness none dare deride.
4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in community,
Calling Christians to embody
Oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
Shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Congregation is seated.

MiniM return to their seats, band moves into position

3. Candle

Stuart McMillan

The Candle is lit by the retiring President, Mr Stuart McMillan.

4. Welcome and Greeting

Stuart McMillan

Retiring President, Mr Stuart McMillan gives a welcome

Stuart McMillan: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And also with you.

5. Call to Worship

Stuart McMillan

Stuart McMillan: God, the gracious source of life, is calling us,
calling us out of our ordinary lives to gather together in community,
to be the church at worship in this place and at this time;
and we are glad to be here.

God is calling us in Christ,
calling us to live within God's Word,
to be light in the darkness and good news to the poor;
and we are glad to be bearers of light and justice.

God is calling us through the Holy Spirit,
calling us to live out our baptism
to be liberating hope where hope is scarce
and bring abundant grace to all who find themselves imprisoned;
and we are glad to be bringers of hope and freedom.

God is calling us,
so we pray that we might open ourselves
to the Spirit that dwells within us
and continue to grow and thrive in love and joy
as the colourful people of Christ.

Amen.

6. Welcome to Country from First Peoples of the Land
Wurundjeri Council

7. Song **Stuart McMillan, Band**

Stuart McMillan: Together we worship God in song.

Congregation stands.

Accompanied by Band (Jo Palmer, Jenni Hughes, Mandy Hutchinson, Sean Gilbert, John Hughes and Kate White on piano and voice).

Come One, Come All

by Malcolm Gordon

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

Chorus:

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.

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.
Repeat chorus and last verse to end.

Congregation is seated.

8. Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Colleen Geyer, Richard LaBrooy, Joy Han, Stuart McMillan

Colleen Geyer: Creator of the ends of the earth, everlasting God,
you speak our world into being
with your Wisdom Word
welling up from the source of life.
We praise and worship you.
Renew our strength today,
that we may rise up with wings like eagles,
run and not be weary,
walk and not faint.

Richard LaBrooy: God of transforming justice and peace,
you come to us in Christ for the sake of the world,
pouring out the living water of your grace.
We worship and honour you.
Give us this water always,
gushing from the spring of eternal life,
that refreshed in spirit,
we may rise up in Christ
to live out the abundance of his grace.

Joy Han: God of abiding love,
you have given us of your Spirit
that we may abide in you,
loving one another as you have loved us in Christ.
We honour and adore you.
Flood us with liberating hope
that we may rise up to proclaim
the healing salvation of the world,
embodying the perfect love that casts out fear.
Amen.

Colleen Geyer: Let us open our hearts to God in confession.

When we dishonour your creation,
and look away from you our Creator,
seeking other sources of life and hope.

O God have mercy: *have mercy on us.*

Richard LaBrooy: When we block the flow of your grace
drawing refreshment from the wells that leave us thirsty.

O Christ have mercy: *have mercy on us.*

Joy Han: When we fall short of your love for the world,
failing to love you with all that we are
and turning our backs on our neighbours.

O God have mercy: *have mercy on us.*

Stuart McMillan: Call us again as your children
to return to you
through the abundance of your grace
along the liberating highway of hope.
Amen.

9. Declaration of Forgiveness

Stuart McMillan

Stuart McMillan: Brothers and Sisters,
God is love, and those who abide in love
abide in God, and God abides in them.
We love because God first loved us.

Hear Christ's word of abundant grace,
and drink deep from the well of his hope.
We are loved, We are forgiven, We are free.
Thanks be to God.

10. The Peace

Stuart McMillan

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.
I invite you to share the peace with those around you.

Congregation exchanges signs of peace.
Stuart returns to seat.

11. Song

Band

Jo Palmer: Let us join together in song.

*Congregation stands
Accompanied by the band*

The Deeper River

by Digby Hannah

1. There's a river running deep within the silence of our souls.
Where the quenching healing waters carve their art
At its source a spring of living water surging and sustained.
It's the voice of Jesus waiting for the listening of our hearts.

Chorus:
When the living waters flow in us
When the living waters flow again,
They will carry us, they will wash us down.
They will quench our thirst again.
2. Sometimes the river of our life winds wandering away,
Sometimes the rapids tumble restlessly,
Comes the time to stop and find the deeper river running
strong
To drink refreshing waters, and hear the Spirit's song.
3. Hear the call to thirsty people there's no need to thirst again,
To the weary come beside still waters lie
Full of goodness full of mercy our cup will overflow
When the call of that deep river is a voice we've come to know.

*Stuart and Colleen enter during last verse of song
Congregation is seated*

Installation of the President

12. Introduction

**Stuart McMillan, Colleen Geyer, Deidre Palmer, Garry Dronfield,
Chaplains**

Introduction of the President-elect

Colleen Geyer: President, I am pleased to present to you Dr Deidre Edith Palmer to be installed as the Fifteenth President of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. Deidre was elected 3 years ago at the Fourteenth Assembly, and this afternoon the Fifteenth Assembly has confirmed that election.

President-elect is brought to stage – accompanied by Rev. Garry Dronfield and chaplains Rev. Felicity Amery, Rev. Rob Brown, Rev. Charissa Suli.

Piano accompaniment – Kate White

Description of Office

Stuart McMillan: The Uniting Church lives and works within the faith and unity of the one holy, catholic and apostolic church and rejoices to take its place bearing witness to that unity in faith and mission. The church preaches Christ, the risen crucified One, and in the strength of the Spirit, confesses him Lord.

Colleen Geyer: The President of the Uniting Church in Australia is called to:

- give spiritual leadership and encouragement to the Church
- be a servant and shepherd of the Church,
- preside over the Assembly,
- teach, inspire and encourage,
- represent the Uniting Church, and give counsel as occasion may require.

13. Questions

Questions to the President-elect

Stuart McMillan: Do you reaffirm your faith in God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
and confess anew
Jesus Christ as Lord of the church
and Saviour of the world?

I do.

Do you believe that God calls you
through the Assembly to the office of President?

I do so believe.

Will you be open to the guidance of God,
and be faithful to your office
as you serve the whole church?

I will, by the grace of God.

Questions to the Members of the Uniting Church

Members of the Uniting Church are invited to stand.

Stuart McMillan: Will you, on behalf of all the members of the Uniting Church,

receive Deidre Palmer as President?

Will you pray for her and support her throughout her term of office?

We will, by the grace of God.

Questions to Representatives of Other Churches

Members of churches (including International guests) are invited to stand.

Stuart McMillan: We ask you, who represent other churches

and councils of churches

throughout Australia and the world,

for your prayers for Deidre Palmer

as President of The Uniting Church in Australia,

that in our various ministries together

Christ's prayer, that all may be one, will be fulfilled.

May she be filled with wisdom, mercy, peace and love as she hears and responds to God's call.

Questions to Representatives of Other Faiths and community groups

Members of other faiths and community groups are invited to stand.

Stuart McMillan: We invite those of you,

who represent people of other faiths

and the wider society in which

the Uniting Church worships, witnesses and serves,

to acknowledge the role of our duly elected President in representing us to you.

We recognise your President as your representative to us.

14. Installation Prayer and Blessing Stuart McMillan, Band

Lord, listen to your children praying

by Ken Medema

Accompanied by the band

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The President-elect kneels.

The Retiring President lays hands on the President to be installed, along with the Assembly General Secretary, President's Chaplains, UAICC President – gathered around.

Stuart McMillan: God of gentleness and strength,
in every age you have chosen servants
to speak your word
and lead your people.
We thank you for Deidre
whom you have called
to be our President.
Fill her with the Holy Spirit
and give her the gifts for this ministry.
May she have the same mind
that was in Christ Jesus
and be a true disciple,
an example to the church
and a faithful witness in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Aaronic Blessing

tune by Jeremy Burtenshaw (Band & Congregation)

Accompanied by the band

The Lord bless you, bless you and keep you
And make his face shine gently on you.
The Lord be gracious unto you
Lift up his countenance on you
And give you peace,
Forever give you peace.

The congregation is seated

15. Presentation of Symbols

The new President stands to face the people (those who have laid on hands, return to their seats)

Stuart McMillan: May the witness of the scripture
be your comfort and guide.
I invite you now to sign
the Assembly Bible.

The new President signs the Assembly Bible on the Bible stand.

Stuart McMillan: Receive this cross.
Follow in the footsteps of Christ
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Retiring President places a cross around the President's neck.

Stuart McMillan: Receive this scarf as a sign of the yoke
which you bear in the name of Christ.

Jesus said: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
(Matthew 11:29 NRSV)

*The Retiring President removes the scarf from his own neck and places
it on the President-elect.*

16. Declaration and Doxology

*The new President faces the people. The Retiring President addresses her
and the people.*

Stuart McMillan: In the name of God, the Holy Trinity,
who calls and sends you,
and by the authority of the Assembly,
I declare you, Dr Deidre Edith Palmer
to be installed as President
of The Uniting Church in Australia.

The people may applaud.

Doxology

*Accompanied by the organ
The congregation stands*

Praise God, the Source of life and birth.
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth.
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame.
All glory, honour to God’s name! Amen.

Stuart McMillan: I invite the leaders of our church and a
representative of the heads of churches to greet our new President.

*The new President is greeted by Assembly General Secretary, President of UAICC, President's Chaplains, Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (representing Uniting Church leaders) and a representative of heads of Churches.
The congregation is seated.*

*Retiring President's chaplains enter stage and gather close to President.
(Ms Isabel Thomas-Dobson, Mr Zac Hatfield-Dodds, Rev. Dr Ji Zhang)*

17. Relinquishing of the Pastoral Relationship

Introduction

Deidre Palmer: Since the church lives by the power of the Word, it is assured that God has never failed to provide a witness to that Word.

Colleen Geyer: On Sunday July 12th, 2015, the Assembly installed Mr. Stuart McMillan as President. Stuart, we witnessed your promises to take part in the public worship of God, to contribute to the work of God, and to make a Christian witness in the community by word and action.

Release from Ministry

Deidre Palmer: And now, on behalf of the Assembly we thank you for your ministry of God's grace with us. We release you from this ministry, and commend you

to the continuing pastoral care
of the Pilgrim Presbytery of the Northern Synod.
We pray God's blessing on you
as you continue
in the ministry of Christ.

Blessing Song – For You Deep Stillness

words by Julie Perrin, music by Robin Mann

Accompanied by the band

Congregation stands

*During the song Pilgrim Presbytery representative Rev Felicity Amery
and representatives of the Yolngu people present Stuart with the Gal'pu
(woomera) which indicated his authority and responsibility as an elder.*

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;
For you, deep blue of the desert skies;
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones;
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges, seek the heartlands,
And when you're burnt by the journey,
May the cool winds of the hovering Spirit soothe and
replenish you.

In the name of Christ,

In the name of Christ.

(repeat)

Prayer for the Retiring President

Deidre Palmer:

*Retiring President, Mr Stuart McMillan returns to his seat
and his family.*

Congregation is seated

Service of the Word

18. Prayer of Illumination

Felicity Amery

Felicity Amery: Come Holy Spirit.
As we listen to the testimony of Scripture
help us to hear and know the living Word
upon whom salvation depends.
Move us by your grace,
like a river flowing to the sea.
Stir in us your wisdom and truth,
as the breeze blows a grassfire, renewing the land.
And inspire us to hope,
like a newborn child drawing its first breath.
In the name of Christ,
Word and Wisdom incarnate.
Amen.

19. Bible Readings

Garry Dronfield, Charissa Suli, Gospel readers

Isaiah 40:28-31

Read by Rev. Garry Dronfield

Garry Dronfield: *before reading*

Your Word, O Lord,
is a lamp to our feet:
A light to our path.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

1 John 4: 7-21

Read by Rev. Charissa Suli

Charissa Suli:

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 4: 3-42

A dramatic reading with three voices: Rev. Lauleti Tu’inauvai, Rev. Robin Yang, Rev. Jan Sebastian

3 gospel readers in unison: *after reading*

Lord may your Word live in us

and bear much fruit to your Glory.

20. Choir – *Please Come* by Nichole Nordeman MiniM

**21. Proclamation of the Word –
Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope Deidre Palmer**

The newly installed President Dr Deidre Palmer preaches.

Response to the Word

22. Amazing Grace Dance

Dusty Feet Mob

23. Affirmation of Faith

Deidre Palmer

Deidre Palmer: *Please stand as you are able.*

Congregation stands

Deidre Palmer: Brothers and sisters in Christ centred around the waters of baptism, let us affirm the faith into which we were baptised and in which we continue to live and grow.

*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.*

*UCA Affirmation of Faith Uniting in Worship II, p. 45, Uniting in
Worship People's Book pp. 130-131.*

24. Theme Song

Band, David MacGregor

Accompanied by band with David MacGregor

Your Grace and Your Hope

by David MacGregor

1. Abundant Grace, Hope that can free
Offering life, Injustice see;
All this in Christ, making loves way,
Shining in darkness: Light of New Day.

Chorus:

Let your justice roll down like a river.
Let your righteousness flow like a stream.
As disciples of Christ, we carry your Light.
O, your Grace and your Hope are our song.
God, your Grace and your Hope are our song.

2. Hope liberates; God's life in us.
together we stand, 'gainst all that's unjust.
Our life is Christ; dies, rises again.
Love reconciles, restores and befriends.

Chorus:

Let your justice roll down like a river.
Let your righteousness flow like a stream.
As disciples of Christ, we carry your Light.
O, your Grace and your Hope are our song.
O, your Grace and your Hope are our song.
God, your Grace and your Hope are our song.

Congregation is seated

25. Commitment to Being a Christian Community

The President invites all Members of the Fifteenth Assembly to stand and say together:

***As members of the Fifteenth Assembly,
we commit ourselves throughout this meeting
to seek to be obedient to Christ our Head:
to actively wait upon God's Word,
to prayerfully discern God's will,
and to humbly recognise the limits of our authority.***

***Having been called and addressed,
we commit ourselves through our time together
to seek to model behaviour that embodies Christ's love
and values each person as made in God's image;
that encourages respectful conversation,
debate and theological reflection,
and which provides a safe place for everyone
as we journey together in faithfulness to Christ.***

26. Offering

Deidre Palmer, Kate White

As the offering is collected the President greets representatives of other churches and faiths, and international guests.

27. Offering Prayer

Deidre Palmer

28. Prayers of the People

Rob Brown, Denise Champion, Josh Tretheway

*Rev Rob Brown (at Lectern) – Prayers for the President and her family
and a broader prayer for people engaged in various forms of ministry
Denise Champion (handheld mic) – Prayers for the Church
Josh Tretheway (handheld mic) – Prayers for the World
Concluding with...*

Josh Tretheway: I invite you to join in the Lord's Prayer
in your 'heart language'

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

Sending Forth of the People of God

29. Blessing and Words of Mission

Deidre Palmer

Band and MiniM take their place (Band will lead the singing of Lord of all hopefulness, then MiniM sings after the hymn).

Congregation stands

30. Recessional Hymn

Rhys Boak

Accompanied by organ

Deidre and her chaplains process out during last verse of hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

by Joyce Placzek

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy.
Be there at our waking and give us, we pray.
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

31. Choir MiniM

a sending out song

Acknowledgements

Prayers from our Presidents

In preparation for the Fifteenth Assembly, President-elect Dr Deidre Palmer, interviewed past Presidents of the Uniting Church, and asked “What is your prayer for the Uniting Church in Australia?”

Rev. Dr D’Arcy Wood: President 1991-1994

Holy Spirit of God, help us to pray as Jesus taught his disciples. May the practice of prayer in the Uniting Church be strengthened and may church members encourage each other in their spiritual growth.

In these days of division in society and in the churches, we pray that the Spirit will bring people closer together in fellowship and in mutual love. Amen.

Dr Jill Tabart: President 1994-1997

That we are prepared to have a go
That conflict may not destroy us as individuals and as the church, but be a catalyst for discovering new truths.

Rev. John Mavor: President 1997-2000

That we can so focus on Jesus that we can live together in the Uniting Church with our different opinions, and carry forward God’s mission in this land so that we will be the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Prof. James Haire: President 2000-2003

Most gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as we are gathered in this national Assembly, we give you thanks for your special gift to us in the Uniting Church in Australia, of calling all our fellow Christians into the reunion of your church in this nation.

Unity of Christians is your special call upon us.
Guide us to unity, and let us do nothing that would prevent further visible Christian unity.
Give growth to our Church, and give us courage as we seek to do your will.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Dr Dean Drayton: President 2003-2006

Eternal God, creator of all, and present to your creation, keep us witnessing to your glory as seen in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. In him you have given us our unity and mission in the reconciling and renewing power of your Holy Spirit. We wait for the time when your restoration of the universe imbues all with your justice and love. We praise you for the wonder of your purpose already made known through him in whose name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Gregor Henderson: President 2006-2009

My prayer for the Uniting Church is that first and foremost we seek to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And that means proclaiming the good news that God is available to us, loves every human being and therefore we are to live in love for every human being.

And the inevitable consequences of that are that we work for peace and justice and the wellbeing of people. And that we are a church that shows courage, that lives with courage in being faithful to the Gospel.

So my prayer is we be a courageous church living faithfully to the Gospel in witnessing to God's love, in evangelism, in prayer, in spiritual life, in working for justice – all those things. A whole-hearted, all of life church.

Rev. Alistair Macrae: President 2009-2012

“Inspired by an old hymn (paraphrased) ‘I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful, brave and true,’ my prayer for the Uniting Church is that we will be faithful, brave and true in our day. Faithful to Jesus and his vision of the Kingdom. Brave, as in prophetic and doing and saying what God calls us to do and say; and true to the Gospel of liberating grace - that’s my prayer.”

Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney: President 2012-2015

“That they may be one” - this is my prayer. This was the thing that crystallised for me during my term. The centrality of Christ’s gift and call to the Church to be the fellowship of reconciliation. Having seen this once, it’s now all I see in the New Testament – layer upon layer of the gift and call to people who are different to be reconciled in Christ.”

Mr Stuart McMillan: President 2015-2018

Creator Spirit, I give thanks for this land, its waters and all you have given life to here including the First Peoples. My prayer is that we, the Uniting Church in Australia, will embrace Creation’s gift and her First Peoples so that we all may be whole and Holy, as you O God are Holy. In the power of the Trinity of Love we pray. Amen.

Dr Deidre Palmer: President 2018-2021

Gracious and loving God,

We thank you for the Uniting Church in Australia, for the ways your Spirit has empowered us to participate in Your liberating mission in the world.

Renew our life as your church. May your Holy Spirit continue to fill us with courage and passion for Christ’s mission so that we will be bearers of God’s good news of love, compassion, justice and healing in your world. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

- 1. Rev. Dr Davis McCaughey (1977-1979)*
- 2. Rev. Winston O'Reilly (1979-1982)*
- 3. Rev. Dr Rolland Busch (1982-1985)*
- 4. Rev. Ian Tanner (1985-1988)*
- 5. Sir Ronald Wilson (1988-1991)*
- 6. Rev. Dr D'Arcy Wood (1991-1994)*
- 7. Dr Jill Tabart (1994-1997)*
- 8. Rev. John Mavor (1997-2000)*
- 9. Rev. Professor James Haire (2000-2003)*
- 10. Rev. Dr Dean Drayton (2003-2006)*
- 11. Rev. Gregor Henderson (2006-2009)*
- 12. Rev. Alistair Macrae (2009-2012)*
- 13. Rev. Professor Andrew Dutney (2012-2015)*
- 14. Mr Stuart McMillan (2015-2018)*
- 15. Dr Deidre Palmer (2018-2021)*

Thank you to all those involved in this evening's service:

Worship Team:

Rev. Ian Ferguson

Ms Christina Rowntree

Moderator of the Vic/Tas Synod:

Rev. Sharon Hollis

Welcome to Country:

an elder representing the Wurundjeri Council

Songwriters, singers and musicians:

MiniM choir – Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts

Organist: Rhys Boak

Band:

Rev. Sean Gilbert

Rev. Jenni Hughes

Rev. John Hughes

Dr Mandy Hutchinson

Dr Jo Palmer

Ms Kate White

Rev. David MacGregor – for the theme song

Dusty Feet Mob:

Ms Wanita Calyun

Ms Nadene Barnes

Ms Tamika Feilding

Miss Twyla Stuart

Miss Tyeisha Taylor

Prayers of Praise, Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Ms Colleen Geyer

Mr Richard LaBrooy

Ms Joy Han

Mr Stuart McMcillan

Prayers of the People

Rev. Rob Brown

Rev. Denise Champion

Mr Josh Tretheway

Bible Readings:

Rev. Garry Dronfield

Rev. Charissa Suli

John 4:

Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai

Rev. Robin Yang

Rev. Jan Sebastian

The Installation

Retiring President – Mr Stuart McMillan

Ms Colleen Geyer

Rev. Felicity Amery

Rev. Rob Brown

Rev. Charissa Suli

Rev. Garry Dronfield

Liturgists who created prayers:

Rev. Ian Ferguson

Ms Neryl McCallum

Retiring President's Chaplains:

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson

Mr Zac Hatfield Dodds

Rev. Dr Ji Zhang

Family of the Retiring President, Mr Stuart McMillan

For the Design of the Logo for the Assembly Theme: Ms Winaya Kamaputri

For the Design of this book: Mr Shane Gillard

For the Billabong video: Ms Josie Telfer

To the staff and community of St Michael's Uniting Church

Light/Sound: Jackson Raine

To all of you who are gathered here tonight to worship and offer your prayers and support for our Assembly meeting and our newly installed President.

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