



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
17TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Opening Worship

AND THE

INSTALLATION OF THE 17TH PRESIDENT

REV CHARISSA SIMONE MANAKO-HE-
LOTU KAMISESE PAONGO SULI

7:30PM, 11 JULY 2024
ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH
197 MACQUARIE ST, SYDNEY



threads of love

WEAVING CHRIST'S LOVE ACROSS
CULTURES & BOUNDARIES

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*The Lali (traditional Fijian Drum used in Church) is played to centre us to worship. Courtesy of Parramatta Leigh Memorial Fijian Uniting Church.
Lali played by Sireli Tuiloma.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Susitina Suli

'Come Christians Join to Sing'

*Accompanied by the Tongan National Conference Choir, Tipiloma Sikuea,
Siosifa Sikuea, Conductor: Kathleen Sikuea*

1. Come, unite, let us rejoice
Alleluia, Amen!
Praise to God with every voice
Alleluia, Amen!
From our hearts we praise the One,
Maker, Spirit, and the Son.
Till our work on earth is done, Alleluia, Amen!
2. Renew our hope to learn God's way
Alleluia, Amen!
Let our praises fill this day,
Alleluia, Amen!
Jesus is our Guide and Friend,
Sends us, justice to contend.
Spirit's gift, the world to mend,
Alleluia, Amen!
3. Praise Creator's works and deeds,
Alleluia, Amen!
Heav'n to earth, our souls God feeds
Alleluia, Amen!
Beyond, behind, below, before:
God's own goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore, Alleluia, Amen!
4. Healing God, You – we believe!
Alleluia, Amen!
Threads of love we come to weave.
Alleluia, Amen!
Praise in tongues of every heart
Cultures each become a part
(of) Holy fabric - sacred art,
Alleluia, Amen!

Congregation is seated

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Liekina Vaka Kamisese & Azariah Inoke Suli

Jesus is the light of the world.
He brings love and peace to everyone.
As we light this candle,
we remember that Jesus is with us, always.

WELCOME AND GREETING

Rev Sharon Hollis

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.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY FROM THE GADIGAL PEOPLE OF THE EORA NATION

Uncle Brendan Kerin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev Sharon Hollis

Beloved in Christ, we gather today in the presence of our loving God, who calls us from every corner of creation to celebrate and worship. Today, we come together, not as separate threads, but as a vibrant tapestry woven by the hands of our Creator.

All: We come to worship God, the Weaver of all life, who brings us together in love and unity.

In this sacred moment, we are reminded of our call to weave Christ's love across cultures and boundaries, creating a fabric of hope and compassion.

All: We come to worship God, the Source of all love, who invites us to embrace and celebrate our diversity.

Let us open our hearts to the Spirit, who binds us in perfect harmony. Let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, for we are called to be one in Christ, weaving threads of love into the world.

All: We come to worship God, the Giver of grace, who empowers us to be instruments of peace and reconciliation.

Come, let us worship God, and let the threads of our lives be woven together into the beautiful tapestry of God's love and grace.

Amen.

Congregation stands

HYMN

'E Keu Elelo Afe Mai – O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Rev Feke Kamitoni accompanied by the Tongan National Conference Choir

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 'E ke u 'elelo afe mai!
Ke u hiva'aki mu'a
'A e 'alo'ofa kuo fai
Ma'aku he 'Otua. | O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace! |
| 2. 'Eiki lelei, tokoni mai,
Keu ala fakahā,
Mo fakaongo ki māmani
'A si'o fu'u Huafa. | My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honours of your name. |
| 3. To'o, 'Eiki, hoku ngutu ni,
'Ai pe ke fu'u mafa'a
Ke u lava hono hakeaki'i
'O si'o fu'u Huafa. | Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace. |

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND PRAISE

Led by Jordan Sumner, Rev Amel Manyon, Rev Temukisa A Vaeluaga

Jordan Sumner

Gracious and loving God, Creator of all nations and peoples, we come before You in awe and wonder. You have woven the intricate tapestry of creation, threading each of us into the rich fabric of Your love. We praise You for the beauty and diversity of this world, for the unique cultures and communities that reflect Your image in countless ways. Your love transcends all boundaries, and we thank You for the gift of unity in diversity. We adore You, O God, for You are the Source of all life and the Giver of every good gift.

Rev Amel Manyon

Merciful God, Redeemer of all, we lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving for Your boundless love revealed in Jesus Christ. Through your son, you have shown us the way of love, crossing every divide and embracing every person with open arms. We give thanks for the example of Jesus, who taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves, to welcome the stranger, and to care for the least among us. In Christ, we are woven together as one body, united in Your love. We honour You, O Christ, for You are our Savior and our Guide.

Rev Temukisa A Vaeluaga

Empowering God, Sustainer of all, we praise You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, who moves among us and within us, weaving threads of love, peace, and justice throughout our lives. Your Spirit unites us as people of all nations, empowering us to be Your hands and feet in the world. We give thanks for the ways You have called each of us to serve, to love, and to be agents of Your reconciliation.

As we come together in this moment, we celebrate Your presence among us, and we dedicate ourselves to the work of weaving Christ's love to the world. We glorify You, O Spirit, for You are our Comforter and our Strength.

All: Almighty and everlasting God, as people from all corners of the earth we offer our adoration and praise to You, the One who weaves us into the beautiful tapestry of Your kingdom. May our lives be a testament to Your love and grace, and may we continue to weave your love into every corner of this world. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev Mark Kickett

As we stand in the light of God's boundless love and grace,
we are also called to acknowledge the times
when we have not lived up to this divine calling.
Let us come before God with humble hearts, seeking forgiveness and
renewal.
Let us confess our sins together.

Let us pray...

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Siblings in Christ,
Hear the good news:
God's love for us is unending, and
God's mercy is boundless.
In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
All: Amen. Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

Rev Sharon Hollis

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also, with you.

Congregation exchanges signs of peace

SONG

'Goodness of God'

Latu Suli accompanied by the 17th Assembly Band

1. I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up,
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

En mi vida has sido bueno
En mi vida has sido tan fiel
Con mi ser con cada aliento
Yo cantaré de la bondad de Dios

Chorus in Spanish

신실하신 나의 주님
나의 삶을 인도하셨네
나의 모든 호흡 다해
오 선하신 주를 노래 하리

Chorus in Korean

我的一生祢都是信实
我的一生祢对我真真好
用我的每一个气息
哦我要歌颂神的恩惠

Chorus in Chinese

2. I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known you as a Father/Mother,
I've known you as a Friend,
And I have lived in the goodness of God.

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

Bridge

Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me.
With my life laid down,
I'm surrendered now,
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me x 2

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

Congregation is seated

INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Rev Lindsay Cullen

President, I am pleased to present to you Rev Charissa Simone Manako-He-Lotu Kamisese Paongo Suli to be installed as the 17th President of the Assembly of The Uniting Church in Australia.

Charissa was elected three years ago at the 16th Assembly, and this afternoon the 17th Assembly has confirmed that election.

The President-elect is brought to stage accompanied by Chairperson of Congress Rev Mark Kickett and the President-elect's Chaplains: Rev Kath Merrifield, Jordan Sumner, Rev Seungjae Yeon and Rev Dr Professor Monica Melanchthon (Apology).

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

Rev Sharon Hollis and Rev Lindsay Cullen

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.

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.

QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Rev Sharon Hollis

Charissa, the Assembly has called you to be its President being aware of your gifts, your faith in God, and your service as a member and minister of Christ's body, the Church.

Charissa, my sister in Christ, in being called to this position and responsibility you are asked to reaffirm that faith and to commit yourself to the task entrusted to you.

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.

Do you affirm and commit yourself to the covenant made between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and the Uniting Church and accept the obligation to serve both First and Second peoples?

I do.

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 MEMBERS OF THE UNITING CHURCH

Members of the Uniting Church are invited to stand

Will you, on behalf of all the members of the Uniting Church, receive Rev Charissa Suli 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 other churches are invited to stand

We ask of you, who represent other churches and councils of churches throughout Australia and the world, your prayers for Rev Charissa Suli 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.

May Charissa 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

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 Rev Charissa Suli as your representative to us.

Congregation is seated

HYMN

'Go, labour on; spend and be spent thy joy to do God's will'

Ngangaue Atu Hanga O Fai 'ae Finangalo 'ae Tamai

Accompanied by the Tongan National Conference Choir

1. Ngangaue atu: hanga 'o fai
'Ae finangalo he Tamai
Hala ne fou ai hotau 'Eiki
Taau mo hono sevaniti
2. Go labour on; spend and be spent
Your joy to do God's will
It is the way the Master went
Should not the servant tread it still
3. Ngangaue atu: 'oua, 'e tuka'
'Oua vaivai, pe fiungofua
'Alu he hala kehekehe
Kumi 'ae laumalie he

INSTALLATION PRAYER AND BLESSING

Rev Sharon Hollis

The President-elect kneels

The Retiring President lays hands on the President, along with the Assembly General Secretary, the President's Chaplains, the National Chair of the UAICC, and Rev Phil Newton and Rev Dr Isileli Jason Kioa, representing the Presbytery of Sydney which will have pastoral charge of Charissa during her Presidency.

God of gentleness and strength,
in every age you have chosen servants
to speak your word and lead your people.
We thank you for Charissa
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.

Congregation stands

AARONIC BLESSING

Accompanied by the 17th Assembly Band

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen

Congregation is seated

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS

The President receives the symbols of ministry from the retiring President

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

Rev Sharon Hollis

In the name of God, the Holy Trinity,
who calls and sends you,
and by the authority of the Assembly,
I declare you, Rev Charissa Suli,
to be installed as President of
The Uniting Church in Australia.

The people may applaud

DOXOLOGY

Accompanied by the Tongan National Conference Choir

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above you heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The second time, you may sing in the language of your heart

Tau kau ke fakamalo'ia
'Ae Tamai, Alo, laumalie
Kau 'ae kakai 'o langi'na
Kau mo mamani Fulipe

만복의 근원 하나님
온 백성 찬송드리고
저 천사여 찬송하세
찬송 성부 성자 성령

普天之下万国万民，
齐声赞美父子圣灵，
三位一体 同荣同尊，
万有之源万福之本。

لَوَهُوْ أَلْبُ وَأَلْبِنْ

و رُوح فِي أَلْزَلْ

ي هَدِي الثَّنَاءُ أَلْعَظْمَا

لَنَا نَارْ ضَوْسَمَا

Kalou cecere duabau.
Keimami vakamuduo
Ka seretaka na yacamuni
Kalou dokai mai lomalagi.

Pu-ji-lah Kha-lik semes-ta,
Sumber se-ga-la kur-ni-a;
Sor-ga dan bu-mi, pu-ji t'rus
Sang Ba-pa, Pu-tra, Roh Kudus

Alabad a Dios de quien fluye toda bendición
Alabadle toda criatura creada
Alabadle ejército celestial
Alabad al Padre, al Hijo, y al Espíritu Santo
Amén

la vi'ia oe o le Atua, Le puna o manuia uma.
la vi'ia oe le Tamā, Le Alo ma le Agaga Sa.

Փառք եւ պատիւ ու զօրութիւն,
Հօրն ու Որդւոյն եւ Սուրբ Հոգւոյն,
Միասնական երրորդութեան:
Փառք ի բարձունս յաւիտեան: Ամէն:

Congregation is seated

GREETING THE NEWLY INSTALLED PRESIDENT

Accompaniment by Rev Kepueli Vaka, Mrs Grace Song & Ruci Tuiwai "Mo Ni rokovi/I will exalt thee"

Uniting Church leaders, heads of churches and leaders of other faiths greet the new President.

Assembly Leaders

- Retiring President, Rev Sharon Hollis
- National Chairperson of Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Rev Mark Kickett
- Assembly General Secretary (Interim), Rev Lindsay Cullen

President's Chaplains

- Mr. Jordan Sumner, Rev Kath Merrifield, Rev Seungjae Yeon and Rev Dr Monica Melanchthon (apology)

Past Presidents

- Dr Jill Tabart
- Rev John Mavor
- Rev Dr Dean Drayton
- Rev Alistair Macrae
- Dr Deidre Palmer

Moderators

- Moderator New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory Synod, Rev Faaimata Havea Hiliau
- Moderator Northern Synod, Rev Tony Goodluck
- Moderator South Australia Synod, Rev Peter Morel
- Moderator Queensland Synod, Rev Bruce Moore
- Moderator Western Australia Synod, Rev Dr Ian Tozer
- Moderator Victoria Tasmania Synod, Rev David Fotheringham

Overseas Partner Churches & Overseas Guests (with their symbols)

- Dr Terito Peyroux-Semu, Vice President, The Methodist Church of New Zealand
- Right Honourable Rev Dr Tevita Koloa'ia Havea, President, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
- Rev Dr Sameer Khimla, Bishop, Church of North India – Durgapur
- Rev Dr Demianus Ice, Moderator, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera
- Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary, Pacific Conference of Churches
- Professor Rev Dr Grace Ji-Sun Kim, 17th Assembly Cato Lecturer from the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua.
- Rev Dr Eui Sig Kim, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Korea
- Rev Sau Faupula, Tongan Assemblies of God in New Zealand
- Mr Craig Corkill, Baptist Church of NSW/ACT

Ecumenical Guests

- Bishop Vincent Long, Catholic Diocese of Parramatta
- Bishop Rt. Rev Peter Stuart, Anglican Church of Australia
- Pr. Kojo Akomeah, Director, Seventh Day Adventist
- Major Louise Walker, The Salvation Army
- The Very Rev'd Father Anastasios Bozikis, President, NSW Ecumenical Council
- Rev John Gilmore, President, National Council of Churches in Australia
- His Grace Bishop Bartholomew of Charioupolis, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
- Most Reverend Silouan Silala Vea, +Bishop of Ecumenical Orthodox-Catholic Mission of Australia Oceania and Asia Pacific Region.

Other Faiths

- Mr Ahmet Orhan Polat, Australian Muslim Community, Executive Director of the Affinity Intercultural Foundation

Family

- Liekina Vaka-Kamisese

RELINQUISHING OF THE PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP

Rev Charissa Suli and Rev Lindsay Cullen

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.

On 19th July 2021
the Assembly installed
Rev Sharon Hollis as President.
Sharon, 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

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 Yarra Yarra Presbytery in the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. We pray God's blessing on you as you continue in the ministry of Christ.

BLESSING SONG

'May the Feet of God Walk with You'

Accompanied by the Tongan National Conference Choir

May the feet of God walk with you,
And God's hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
And God's ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be before you,
And God's breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you,
And God's love bring you home.

PRAYER FOR THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

Rev Charissa Suli

The Retiring President returns to her seat and the congregation is seated

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ella Evans

Gracious God,
as we prepare to hear Your holy Word,
we ask for Your Spirit to move among us.
Open our hearts and minds to receive
the wisdom and guidance You offer.
Illuminate our understanding,
so that we may grasp the depth of Your love
and the breadth of Your grace.
May Your Word inspire us,
challenge us, and
equip us to weave Christ's love into every aspect of our lives.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

BIBLE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Rev Dr Krikor Youmshajekian

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

ANTHEM

'Zadok the Priest'

*Park Church Congregation Choir, QLD Synod
Conductor: Siaosi Otumaka Taufu*

BIBLE READINGS

Colossians 3:12-17

Langi Suli

In this is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

John 4:1-42

*Rev's Ellie Elia, Seungjae Yeon and Grant Atkins
(The Inclusive Bible [adapted])*

Lord may your Word live in us
And bear much fruit to your glory.

ANTHEM

'The Heavens are telling the Glory of God'

Tongan National Conference Choir

Pianist: Tiplioma Sikuea

Conductor: Kathleen Sikuea

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Rev Charissa Suli

Sermon Theme

"Threads of Love: Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries"

SONG

'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine'

Accompanied by the 17th Assembly Band

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain: This is my story...

Bridge

This is our story
We'll testify
That God is good,
All the time
God saw me
And heard my cry
Now, I am his

This is our story
We'll testify
That God is good
All the time
God saw us
And heard our cries
Now we'll testify
And He is mine, He is mine

Refrain

This is our story, this is our song,
praising our Savior all the day long.
This is our story, this is our song,
praising our Savior all the day long.

Congregation remains standing

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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.**

Congregation are seated

COMMITMENT TO BEING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Members of the 17th Assembly meeting to stand

As members of the 17th 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.

Congregation are seated

OFFERING & OFFERING SONG

“아버지 사랑합니다”

*Ruci Tuiwai, Josh Yeon, Sione Hehepoto. Accompanied by 17th Assembly Band
Offering collected by Manu Ahosivi, Siosiana Tangi, Ofa Foiakau, Taina Paea,
Malia Puna, Emily Evans, Benjamin Quilliam, Luke Keenan, Nathan Pullman.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Rev Dr Ji Zhang

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Written by Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference
of Churches for the installation service.*

Rev Lieutenant Colonel Alamoti Lavaki

Prayer for the President Rev Charissa Suli

Loving and embracing God, the Master Weaver of all Creation,
As you weave the multi-coloured threads of the communities of faith that
make up the rich tapestry, that you desire the Uniting Church in Australia to
be, we pray for your daughter Charissa, whom you have called, in your
wisdom to lead this church as President.

Lord, we acknowledge your hand in preparing Charissa for this special
ministry. From the time you knit her together in her mother's womb, you
wove her life to be a fine mat to be presented for your Kingdom, to the
Uniting Church. Now she, in turn is called to guide the weaving of a mat that
invites the broken, the weary, the fearful. those seeking fellowship and
relationship with God, creation and neighbour, to weave themselves into a
joyful community of love, justice and peace. Bless her with wisdom, courage,
patience and grace so she may be a servant leader of your people, a
nurturing mother to this family of Christ, a prophetic voice to the many
peoples of these lands now called Australia.

Rev Dr Tony Floyd

Prayer For Charissa's family and community

We pray for those woven into Charissa's life – her husband Langi, children
Susitina, Liekina Jnr, Latu, Azariah-Inoke and mother Liekina Snr. We pray for
her cultural and spiritual families, who have raised her as their own
daughter, sister and kinswoman of faith and tradition.

May their strands strengthen the mat that Charissa weaves and may your hand continue to weave their lives in accordance with your plans for them. Amidst the challenges of Charissa's new ministry, may their bonds of love be like the coconut sinnet that is rolled into strong ropes to hold the household together.

Rev Dr Roy Surjanegara

Prayer for those in ministry

Gracious God, we pray for those who serve in the many forms of Ministry in the Uniting Church in Australia, each a fellow weaver of the rich tapestry of this community of faith. May the strands and threads they have been entrusted with be woven lovingly to bring healing, wholeness, faith, hope and peace.

Rev Kath Merrifield

Prayer For Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relationships

Holy Lord, we pray for the Body of Christ across this land now called Australia, from mountains to islands, cities to wide open spaces where your Spirit flows freely. We pray for those who know and worship you in different ways.

We pray for the household of God across this planet that is our common home. We pray for the communities of or fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, for their servant leaders. May they too be humble, courageous and compassionate as they guide their flocks through dark valleys of global, regional and local challenges, and into green pastures of your abundant Grace.

We know, Lord that the mat of spiritual fellowship is still incomplete, frayed in places and in need of reweaving in others. Guide our corporate acts of weaving, so that we may do so with sensitivity to your divine spirit and with respect to the weaving work of other communities, through dialogue, collaborative acts of justice and in risky solidarity.

Ps. Kemerli Lievano

Prayer For the World

We pray for this world that you called out of chaos and named as very good, this world that you love so much that you sent your son Jesus to redeem and renew.

As we acknowledge that the fine web of creation is torn by this world's insecurity, greed, and apathy, revealed in conflict, poverty, many forms of violence, extraction and exploitation, and endless growth and corporate colonisation in the guise of endless growth and prosperity.

Help us in our collective and personal tasks of unweaving these topics threads and strands which have damaged the divine mat of your peaceable kingdom. We pray for those resisting oppression, occupation; for those seeking justice, flourishing and joy.

Arlene Kumar

Prayer for those seeking acceptance, respect and love

We pray for those seeking second chances, forgiveness, redemption and reconciliation.

By your grace, may those who use violence for power find the courage to reshape their swords into ploughshares and pruning hooks. May those who are victims be empowered by your Spirit to be wounded healers. May those who remain silent bystanders be inspired to not only sing your praise but speak your truth in love. May those who seek only to clasp their hands in prayer, be led by your son to open them up, and extend them in fellowship and compassion, knowing that each act of justice and fellowship is an act of weaving the strands of your love.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You may pray in the language and translation of your heart.

Announcements

Rev Charissa Suli

SONG

'I, the Lord of Sea and Sky'

Accompanied by the 17th Assembly Band

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

WORDS OF MISSION & BLESSING

Rev Charissa Suli

RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Handel's Messiah: Hallelujah Chorus'

Led by the Fiji Parish, Sydney Presbytery, NSW/ACT Synod

Please remain standing as the President and Assembly and Church leaders process out, followed by Past Presidents, Partner Church and Overseas guests, Ecumenical and Community Leaders. Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who are gathered here tonight to worship and offer your prayers and support for the 17th Assembly meeting and the newly installed President.

You all are invited to join us for light refreshments in the Ferguson Hall.

MEMBERS OF THE PROCESSION AND SYMBOLS

Hosting Synod of the 17th Assembly

- NSW/ACT Synod Moderator
- NSW/ACT Synod General Secretary
- St Stephens Uniting Church Minister

Rev Faaimata Havea-Hiliau
(Woven Tapestry)
Rev Jane Fry
Rev Ken Day

Past Presidents and their partners

Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood (1991-1994)
Dr Jill Tabart (1994-1997)
Rev John Mavor (1997-2000)
Rev Dr Dean Drayton (2003-2006)
Rev Alistair Macrae (2009-2012)
Dr Deidre Palmer (2018-2021)

President-elect's Chaplains

Rev Kath Merrifield
Mr Jordan Sumner
Rev Seungjae Yeon
Rev Dr Professor Monica Melanchthon (Apology)

Uniting Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress Chairperson

Rev Mark Kickett (Clapsticks)

Assembly General Secretary Interim

Rev Lindsay Cullen

Retiring President Rev Sharon Hollis

(Assembly Bible, Scarf & Cross)

President-elect

Rev Charissa Suli

Charissa's Family

Langi & Azariah-Inoke Suli, Liekina Kamisese (Candle)

Sydney Presbytery

Rev Dr Isileli Jason Kioa & Rev Phil Newton



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) |
| 16. Rev Sharon Hollis | (2021-2024) |
| 17. Rev Charissa Suli | (2024-2027) |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Worship Service

Retiring President Rev Sharon Hollis, Azariah Suli, Liekina Kamisese, Rev Mark Kickett, Rev Feke Kamitoni

Welcome to Country

Uncle Brendan Kerin

Prayers of Praise, Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev Amel Manyon, Jordan Sumner, Rev Temukisa A Vaeluaga

Prayers of the People

Rev Lt. Ct. Alamoti Lavaki, Rev Dr Tony Floyd, Rev Kath Merrifield, Rev Dr Roy Surjanegara, Ps. Kemeru Leivano and Arlene Kumar

The Installation

Retiring President Rev Sharon Hollis, Assembly General Secretary Interim Rev Lindsay Cullen

President's Chaplains

Rev Kath Merrifield, Jordan Sumner, Rev Seungjae Yeon and Rev Dr Professor Monica Melancthon

Prayer of Illumination

Ella Evans

Bible Readers

Rev Dr Krikor Youmshajekian, Langi Suli, Rev Ellie Elia, Rev Seungjae Yeon and Rev Grant Atkins

Offering and Offering Prayer

Rev Dr Ji Zhang, Manu Ahosivi, Siosiana Tangi, Ofa Foiakau, Taina Paea, Malia Puna, Emily Evans, Benjamin Quilliam, Luke Keenan, Nathan Pullman

Liturgists and writers of prayers

Rev James Bhagwan, Rev Charissa Suli and prayers from UIW2

Songwriters, singers, and musicians

Fiji Parish of Sydney Presbytery, Park Church Congregation-QLD Synod, Tongan National Conference choir, Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler and the 17th Assembly Band.

Design of the Logo for the Assembly Theme

Grace Williams, Michael Zewdie, Rev Charissa Suli

17th Assembly Theme Candle

Designed and made by Dr Denise Wood

17th Assembly Band

Grace Song	Piano	Eastwood Uniting
Rev Kepueli Vaka	Keyboard	Tuggerah Lakes South Faith Community
Rev Sunil Baek	Drums	Gosford Wyoming Uniting
Samiu Uhi	Bass	Tonga Parish
Sione Hehepoto	Guitar/Vocalist	Canterbury Uniting Church, VIC/TAS
Ruci Tuiwai	Vocalist	Fiji Parish
Josh Yeon	Vocalist	Eastwood Uniting
Ps. Susitina Suli	Vocalist	Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting
Latu Suli	Vocalist	Mascot Wesley Uniting
Liekina Suli	Vocalist	Mascot Wesley Uniting

Technology and Sound

Staff of Sound King, Lara Regan, Tonga Vision Paula Moimoi, staff of GO LIVE, staff of Signal Box.

St Stephen's Uniting Church

Rev Ken Day, Rev Tim Robinson and members of the congregation.

NSW/ACT Synod & Assembly staff and volunteers

Natasha Holmes, Kingsley Murphy, Patricia Modica, Nikkita Mitchell, Lauren Becker, Adrian Drayton, Rebecca Beisler, Bethany Broadstock, Michael Zewdie, Abbey Sim, Malia Puna, Ps. Virginia Lavaki and the many volunteers from across the NSW/ACT Synod for assisting with logistics and administration.

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I, The Lord of Sea and Sky © American composer of Catholic liturgical music Dan Schutte (b.1947) in 1979 and published in 1981