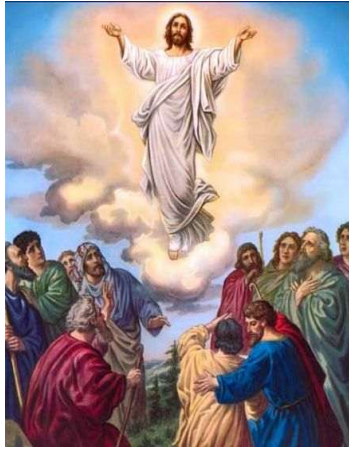




# Werribee Uniting Church

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and we gather.



17 May 2026:  
Easter 7

## Reflection

*Greetings, Sisters and  
Brothers in Christ!*

**Sunday 17 May  
is known as  
Ascension  
Sunday**

**A brief reflection on  
our text taken from Luke 24: 44-53**

The disciples were with Jesus around three years and had the experience of travelling with him, watching him perform miracles and hearing him teach. They saw him arrested and knew how he suffered and died. Now, risen from the dead, Jesus opened their minds to understand the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms in the light of that experience.

Now, Jesus directed the disciples to the future. The risen Lord's Spirit will lead these disciples next. Both Luke 24 and Acts 1 included Jesus' promise of the Spirit and his call to bear witness to God's work in the world. The Ascension was not a picture of the risen Christ who left the disciples and disappeared among the clouds. Jesus left the disciples not in order to disappear, but to go ahead of them on behalf of that message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins that will be preached to all nations.

Even though the disciples did not know when they would see Jesus again but that didn't bother them. The disciples were filled with joy and celebrations that Jesus ascended to heaven. How different was this from when Jesus was last taken from them in the garden. When he was arrested, they were grief stricken. They were lost and scattered like sheep without a shepherd.

Why the difference at Bethany? After rising from the dead, Jesus appeared many times to the disciples and many others. He always went away and came back again. Each time, the power of his resurrection was confirmed in their hearts and minds. Before ascending at Bethany, Jesus opened the Scriptures and they understood that everything written about him in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets, and the Psalms were fulfilled. Jesus' ascension was part of God's plan.

Do you think that Jesus has gone and is far away from us? When he was on earth, he was far away from us; now he is very near. He is in our hearts. He is in this place. Having gone ahead of us into heaven, Jesus stands before the Father as our advocate. His crucified body brought us peace, and his resurrection is our hope of eternal life.

While standing at Bethany, the disciples were beginning to understand that Jesus would be with them in a new and powerful way. He was not in a fixed place, but present in all places where his people gathered. Since Christ ascended to heaven, God is always with His people as He has never been before.

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

17 May: Raymond Surujpal

24 May: Raymond Surujpal

**For Pastoral Care:** Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184.

### Bible readings

**This week:** Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 6:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

**Next week:** Acts:2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34,35B 1 Cor12:3B-13, John 20:19-23

### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 9.30am Bible Study

**Wednesday:** 9.30am Property Group;  
7pm Church Council

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group;  
5.30pm Choir Practice

**Friday:** 6.30pm Youth Group

### Rosters 17 May (24 May)

**Greetings:** Deb Cochran (Margaret Gook)

**Audiovisual:** Mahonrie Aiga (Jacob Lewis)

**Morning Tea:** Sandra Savory & Julie Rees  
(Dorothy Rookes & ?)

**Music:** Gina Lee (Wendy Barnes)

**Prayers:** Sandra Savory (Emily Mehtusela)

**Reader:** Paul Cochran (Fa Tuipea)

### Werribee UC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/>

### Church office

Open 9.30am to 12 noon. Phone 97411084

Email [office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

PO Box 2156, Werribee, Vic 3030

### WUC Newsletter

Please send information for inclusion to the church office by Tuesday on 97411084 or email [office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

### To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

[bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### Samoan service

3rd Sunday, 12pm, in the Church: All welcome.

This is why the disciples were filled with joy and worshipped Jesus as God. Their risen and ascended Lord was with them, and with all believers throughout the ages. Jesus rules through his Word. Through the preaching of the Gospel, Christ forgives sins and expands his kingdom in this world. Jesus' ascension to heaven was not his farewell. Ascending on high is how he comes to each one of us. He comes in the hearing of the Gospel. He comes in the water and the Word, in the bread and wine and in the sharing of the Good News between believers. Jesus is present with us in a more powerful way than when he was on earth. He is very near to us. He is with you now and always. Amen.

Blessings Raymond Surujpal

(Image above: By unknown artist: Taken from on-line pictures)

## Mothers Day



Our service last week was a special celebration. Eileen Bolton and Louise Denove shared their reflections on being mothers. Lauina told us about the Samoan tradition of presenting mothers with a lei of lollies on Mothers Day and her helpers presented all the ladies with a lei of lollies.

We would also like to thank the Kirkman Family for the lovely flowers for the mothers.

Also for those who helped in the kitchen.

Raymond preached on the gospel reading John 14:15-21 where Jesus promised his followers - "I will not leave you orphaned." "The Father will give you another Advocate." Raymond focused on love. He reminded us of the command of Jesus to love one another and encouraged us to follow Jesus and live a life of love knowing that Jesus will be with us as he promised.

## Pentecost Sunday 24 May 2026

Sunday 24 May 2026 is Pentecost Sunday, which celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and is regarded as the beginning of the Church when the Apostles began actively preaching the Gospel. It is symbolised by tongues of fire, so we encourage, if you are able to wear something **RED**, please do so.

## Theological Books

Marg Tolliday has a rather large collection of Neil's Theological books and is willing to move them on to people who could use /share them. If you would like to peruse the books you need to make arrangements with Marg.....who is currently in the UK but will return by the end of the month. For further details you can contact Margaret Gook. Thankyou

## Occasional Sunday Lunch Out (O.S.L.O)

The next O.S.L.O. will be Sunday 24 May, 2026 at the R.S.L. Werribee at 12md.

Please contact Elaine Belcher on 0435998013 or Lorna Hodge on 0419101766 by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2026 for Catering Numbers or for Cancellations.

Everyone welcome. (Lorna Hodge).

## Newsletter Articles

If in future anyone has an article that they think would be interesting or appropriate for the newsletter, please email it to the Church Office by Wednesday.