



The Uniting Church in Australia

**SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH**

**Order of Service for**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Introit: 584 (TiS) vv. 1, 4, & 6. (*second tune*)

Acknowledgement:

Call to Worship:

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.  
**His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth.**

Let us worship God.

Hymn: 626 (TiS) 'Lord of creation'

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:

Declaration of Forgiveness:

Doxology: 772 (TiS)

COMMISSIONING OF ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS

There are diverse gifts:  
**but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

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 them all.**

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:  
**and there is no gift without its corresponding service.**

There is one ministry of Christ:  
**and in this ministry, we all share.**

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

The Uniting Church provides for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them for the building up of the church.

Having sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are now to commission as elders and church councillors those whom we have elected to those ministries.

*(A representative of the congregation presents the candidate and says)*

On behalf of the people of this congregation, I present the following persons to be commissioned as elders and church councillors:

*(The names of the candidates are read out and the candidates stand together facing the congregation)*

Brothers and sisters, the congregation has elected you to serve Jesus Christ as elders and church councillors.

Your responsibilities include the following:

to share with the minister(s) in building up the congregation in faith and love; to nurture the members in their growth in grace; to visit regularly members and adherents; to share with the minister in the conduct of worship and the administration of the sacraments, the spiritual oversight of the congregation, and in Christian education and evangelistic outreach; to maintain the membership rolls of the congregation and to exercise pastoral discipline; to make recommendations regarding applicant for training for ministry.

#### THE VOWS

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

**I do.**

Do you believe that you are called by God through the church to this ministry?

**I do.**

Will you seek to live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church?

**I will.**

Do you adhere to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia?

**I do.**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to carry out the duties of your office?

**I do.**

*(The people stand)*

Will you the members of this congregation, accept these brothers and sisters as elders and church councillors?

**We will.**

Will you encourage them in love and support them in their ministry, serving with them the one Lord Jesus Christ?

**We will.**

May God give you strength to fulfil these vows; and to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation for ever.

**Amen.**

#### ACT OF COMMISSIONING

Beloved in Christ, let us pray in silence for these people before we commission them for the work to which we believe the Holy Spirit has called them.

*(After a time of silence, the minister offers this prayer)*

Almighty God, in every age you have chosen servants to lead and care for your people. We thank you that you have called these servants to serve you. May they have the same mind, which was in Christ Jesus and be faithful disciples, giving example to Christ's flock and witnessing to the truth of the gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Minister and those appointed lay hands on the head of each candidate in turn, and the minister says)*

N, receive the Holy Spirit for the ministry of elder/councillor.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you in all things, to the glory of his name and the good of his church on earth.

#### DECLARATION

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare you to be elders and church councillors of the Uniting Church in Australia in the Shepparton Congregation.

*(Candidates may now take their seats)*

Readings: 2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10; Mark 6: 1-13

Sermon brief:

- David's coronation on Mount Hebron happened without a crown or sceptre to pass down nor the fanfare of today's royal coronations (2 Samuel 5)
- He is the Lord's anointed, recognized by the elders to reign for forty years in Jerusalem
- David the blood-stained warrior who carried the severed head of Goliath back to Jerusalem was ruthless and not to be worshipped.
- The great leader, the mighty warrior, the poet and musician is no model on non-violence.
- David's greatness was because the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.
- In the end, it is not how the world sees David, or how David may see the world, but how God chose, anoint and empowered his servant.

- David served the Lord, the God of hosts.
- Jesus also was chosen, anointed and served the Lord, the God of hosts.
- Our gospel story from Mark 6 portrays Jesus' hometown folks misunderstood Jesus.
- The hometown folks knew a lot about him – where he is from – 'the carpenter' – the son of Mary'.
- The rejection by his hometown synagogue cannot stop the mission Jesus is called to, nor their lack of faith.
- For Mark, here in chapter 6, faith is not a necessary element in the healing mission of Jesus.
- God's freedom to act cannot be limited in that sense.
- The strategies of God's mission is spelled out in Mark 6: 7 – 13. Jesus is preparing them for potential rejection.
- Just as the established religious traditions and authorities were not always susceptible to God doing a new thing.
- Wherever there is rejection, there is judgement 'shake off the dust from your feet'.
- How the hometown folks see Jesus and the way they defined and characterised him is common in our world.
- As the church of Jesus Christ, we are called to mission whether people believe or not. That is not up to us.
- We carry out God's mission, even if rejected by our very own.
- Jesus was rejected, crucified but risen – the ultimate revelation of God's power. That is the power entrusted to God's servants.

Hymn: 537 (TiS) 'Let us talents and tongues employ'

#### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Narrative of the institution:

The great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Thanks, and praise, glory and honour...

And so, we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Consecration of the elements:

The breaking of the bread:

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
**grant us your peace.**

Distribution of the elements:

Prayer after Communion:

Notices:

Joys and concerns:

Offering:

Prayers of the People:

Hymn: 530 (TiS) 'Now let us from this table rise'.

Blessing:

749 (TiS) 'Thuma mina'.