



# REACHING OUT

Sunday May 5 – Easter 6

**9:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church**

*Anglican tradition led by Rev Cathy Carden*

**11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church**

*Rev Leonie Findlay*

## Bible Readings for May 5

### Easter 6

Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide



in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master

is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**John 15: 9-17**

## Bible Readings for May 12

### Easter 7

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5: 9-13; John 17: 6-19

## Praying For One Another 2024

**In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.**

Congregations in the Presbytery are called to pray for one another each time they meet. By naming each other in prayer we enhance our pastoral support with each other, in God's company. This invitation builds our faith linkages every year. This week we pray for the congregations of **Rutherglen, Corowa, Howlong** commencing Sunday May 5.

## Coming Events

Fri May 3, 7:00pm	Shalom Women's Choir Concert, St. Stephen's Church
Sat May 4, 7:00pm	Shalom Women's Choir Concert, St David's Church, Albury
Tues May 7, 7:30pm	Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom
Wed May 8, 9:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri May 10, 9:30am	Craft Group

## THE LOSS OF CERTAINTY; A SUFFERING OF THE SOUL

### A Reflection-Rev Leonie Findlay

#### **PRAYER**

Lord God, in so many ways and in so many situations you bless us.  
In spite of the fact that we fail to follow you, rather choosing a path that takes us far from you, still you love us.  
Lord, you are a great God, a God who deserves all our praise.  
For in your presence, we find love and grace, wholeness and life.  
Lord with our voices we sing your praise.  
With our hearts, hands and all that we have, we give you praise.  
Lord, save us from ourselves and bring us into a new relationship with yourself.  
These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.  
AMEN

#### **SOME THOUGHTS.**

Struggle, long a recognised factor in personal development and spiritual growth, has become one of the major spiritual problems of our time.  
Change, the shifting of life from one stable context to another, envelops us.  
Nothing seems fixed any more. Not theology, nor culture, not institutions, relationships or families, not even our own sense of self.  
In the post- modern world, with its critique of the modernist belief in progress, suspicion becomes the lens through which we view everything.  
In past years we were raised on absolutes and categories, on rules and certainties.  
But now, all the givens have changed and all the rules with them.  
Built in obsolescence is the new given.

Everything in life is in flux. Everything in life is simply another step, not the final step, in the process of becoming something else.  
Life itself has become a series of life -changing interruptions we are meant to expect and to handle with very little help. Never before has the entire universe, the social order, the sense of personal power, the promise of possibility and even the surety of the spiritual life seemed so fragile.  
Nationality is a thing of the past. National borders have simply ceased to exist.  
We can live in a virtual reality in any country of the world as long as a television camera or an internet access is available. Old values find themselves facing new standards of judgement as science and technology create a world, no church ever thought possible.  
To resolve tensions that come with ethical confusion, with political conflict, with theologies of domination, some people hold onto the past even more tightly than before.  
Others put down the past entirely and take up little or nothing in its place.  
But most of us simply go on trying to find some point of meaning between the two.  
Some would say the world is getting smaller. However, we know that it is also getting to be more than that. It is getting infinitely more confusing and infinitely more uncontrollable at the same time.  
The great secret in life is how to survive struggle without succumbing to it. How to bear struggle without being defeated by it. How to come out of the struggle better than when we found ourselves in the midst of it.  
A spirituality of struggle exposes the secret to the world.

#### **SELAH**

#### **BENEDICTION**

God who is present with us, yet invisible, present but not controlling, the one permanence in our changing lives speaks to us from the hidden travails of forced change. He calls us to a place of new beginnings: CONVERSION.  
AMEN

## Birallee Park Neighbourhood House

Birallee Park Neighbourhood has held a licence with the Uniting Church Victoria Synod Property Trust for 'The Meeting Place' for the past 22 years. In January of 2003, they moved their operation from the Emerald Avenue house down the road to our newly completed 'Meeting Place'. The original licence was for 20 years, with an option for extending it. The plans for the joint operation were for the congregation and the neighbourhood house to work together co-operatively. It began that way, but for a variety of reasons, including mistakes by both co-operating bodies, it didn't work out that way. There were many difficult times causing concern and hurt to congregation members. At the end of the 20 years the decision of the Church Council was to recommend that the Property Trust not renew the licence. At that time a 2-year extension was granted by Synod, to end on December 31, 2024. Late last year BPNH wrote to the Property Trust requesting a further 1-year extension. They also had made arrangements with Wodonga Council to manage the Felltimber Community Centre commencing 2025. Recently both parties were notified that the extension would not be granted, and BPNH has written to the congregation members of the Meeting Place Joint Management Committee, notifying them that they would be departing on December 31, 2024.

The Neighbourhood House has provided many excellent programs over the years, and we commend them for the good work that they have done. We certainly wish them well in the new direction that they are taking. We realise, though, that their departure will stir a variety of feelings from congregation members. There certainly is a sadness that the strong hopes we had back in 2000, just didn't work. There is hope, too, that some contact can be maintained.

We move now into a time when we will need to work collaboratively with BPNH as they begin the process of moving to the Felltimber Community Centre by the end of the year. We hope and pray that we all will together to make this time one of growing into the change and becoming ready to use the property entrusted to our care to increase our own ministry to each other and the community. God is, and will be, with us as we move forward into a new part of our ministry as Emmanuel.

If you have questions or would like to talk about this, do contact one of the church council members.

## Death of Andrew Blair (January 3, 1941 – April 27, 2024)

Andrew was the husband of Rev. Margaret Blair, who was the Uniting Church minister at Emmanuel from 1994 to 1997. Andrew was very active in the life of our congregation. He and Margaret put the idea of creating 'The Corner House' to the congregation when the Serpentine Avenue residence was put on the market. Andrew was instrumental in organizing the renovations and repairs that made the house into student accommodation. He also had a hand in developing the 'The Emmanuel Community Shop', which began its life on High Street, Wodonga, in a corner of what used to be the Mann Centre. For Emmanuel's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary Andrew sent up a copy of his many photos which he'd taken in their time with us. Those were greatly enjoyed, and we still have them to show. We remember him for his fun, practicality and quiet but strong support of Margaret in her ministry with us and the then Wodonga UCA Parish ordination.

We give thanks for the time he shared with us and the memories of those of our congregation who were knew him then. Andrew's funeral will be Friday, May 3, 11:00 a.m. at the Healesville Uniting Church. The service will be live-streamed. Obituary, as published in *The Age* on Monday, April 29, is available from LePine Funerals, <https://www.lepinefunerals.com.au/upcoming-funerals/zdxt/>. The link for the streamed service is available there and should be working by then.

### Tributes from The Age

Andrew David, 3.1.1941~27.4.2024 Husband of Margaret. Father of Jenny and David (dec). Grandpa Ab for Zoe, Leo, Ella and Jasper. Father-in-law of Lachlan and Sera. Brother of Ross (dec) and Robert. Will be missed by his family, friends, dog Jess, and the many people who benefitted from his encyclopaedic knowledge and 70 years spent photographing the Victorian railways.

## Emmanuel Roster

### May 5

Elder on Duty: David Robinson  
Reader: Carol Harris  
Prayers: Karen Robinson  
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck  
Organist: Colin Harris

### May 12

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb  
Reader: Carol Clutterbuck  
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck  
Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Harold Cover  
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

## Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay  
0419 990 358  
[lfindlay03@bigpond.com](mailto:lfindlay03@bigpond.com)

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies  
02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069  
[stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au)  
[weekly RDO: Friday]

Emmanuel Pastoral Care: speak with an Elder or Warden  
Emmanuel Prayer Chain: give requests to Betty Sagers on 0427 761 044  
Address: PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689  
Office Phone: Emmanuel Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460  
Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 [hcover@bigpond.com](mailto:hcover@bigpond.com)  
or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 [stabb@iinet.net.au](mailto:stabb@iinet.net.au) by Wednesday.

## Prayer of the Week

### World Council of Churches

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka



*Methodist Deaconess Laveena Anil sings with children as she helps them study after school in Moinabad, India, where she serves as superintendent of the Methodist student hostel. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth*

#### We give thanks for

- the diversity of peoples in these countries: their cultures, values and spirituality
- for the resilience of minority religious groups and those on the margins of society such as indigenous communities, Dalits, women, youth, the disabled and sexual minorities, amid discrimination and persecution
- for the contributions of Christians and Christian churches in these countries to education and health services and for their innovative attempts in contextualizing their worship, theology and institutional life
- efforts to forge inter-religious solidarity for the sake of the common good.

#### We pray for:

- those who struggle to overcome grinding poverty
- Christians and others who selflessly work in the community, their efforts at ensuring the rights of all citizens, and their collaborative work
- efforts to build understanding and harmony among peoples across religious, caste and ethnic identities
- peoples' movements struggling for the rights of women, Dalits, Indigenous peoples, and the integrity of the earth
- leaders to keep priority on the wellbeing of the people and the earth itself amid demands for economic growth.