



REACHING OUT February 9, 2020

Weekly News for Wodonga West and Rural Uniting Churches

Epiphany 5

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

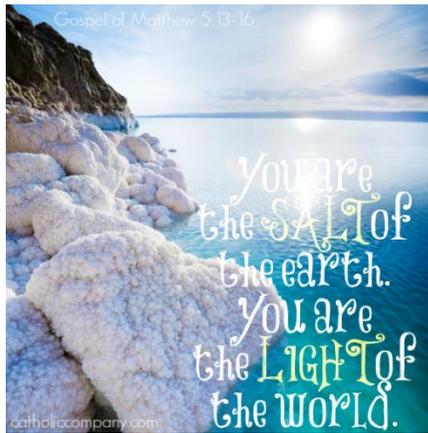
9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

11:00am Kergunyah Uniting Church

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16),

Matthew 5:13-20

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.



No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not

one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13-20

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Emmanuel please note: On days declared **Code Red** fire danger, Church Council has resolved that Sunday services at Emmanuel will be not be held and all other church activities are to be cancelled.

COMING EVENTS

Mon	10 Feb	9:30am	Prayer Group at Emmanuel
Tue	11 Feb	10:00am	Playgroup for children 0-5 years, parents and carers
Wed	12 Feb	9:00am	Emmanuel Grounds and Maintenance Group
Sun	16 Feb	10:30am	AGM Emmanuel Congregation
Sun	23 Feb	3:00pm	Installation of 11 th Bishop of Wangaratta
Wed	26 Feb		Ash Wednesday, Lent commences
Fri	6 Mar	10:00am	World Day of Prayer at St John's

AGM OF EMMANUEL CONGREGATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Emmanuel Church will be held on **Sunday February 16, 2020**, commencing at 10:30am after worship. Please email late reports to Harold Cover: hcover@bigpond.com

LECTIONARY COMMENT

Matthew 5:13-20

On a mountain in Galilee, Jesus has described the qualities and rewards of the "blessed" (vv. 3-11). Now Jesus uses homely metaphors to teach essential lessons about being disciples. "Salt" does not really lose its taste, but in Judaism it can become ritually unclean and need to be "thrown out". (It was used to season incense and offerings to God.) Jesus may also be thinking of the salt deposits around the Dead Sea: when heavily rained upon, they still look like salt but no longer are. A follower who loses his faith is useless, and will be discarded.

Jesus calls on disciples to be examples to others – of God's ability to change lives (vv. 14-16). In so being, they will spread and make known God's power ("glory"). (A Palestinian house had only one room and a sole opening: the door.) The life of disciples must be visible and attractive: as a "city" is. Now vv. 17-20: the "scribes and the Pharisees" were "righteous" for they kept the Law scrupulously, but Jesus says that such meritorious conduct is inadequate for admission to the Kingdom. As vv. 21-48 show, he preaches a religion that goes beyond the Law: one of the heart, of love and compassion. The gospel fulfills the Law, and exceeds it by adding grace. One of the ways he fulfills the Law is by looking at its intent and not just the words used to express it. (For example, the Law says you shall not murder but Jesus says, in effect, you shall attempt never to impair your relations with another person.) Whoever regards the Law as he does, even if he or she fails sometimes, will gain entry into the Kingdom.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton



St Stephen's Uniting Church Wodonga



"This will become a classic" — ANNE RICE, author of *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*
SIMPLY CHRISTIAN
 Why Christianity Makes Sense
 N. T. WRIGHT

How well do you understand the faith you believe want to believe have doubts about wonder about don't believe?

This 10-Part DVD discussion series aims to present a broad-sweep understanding of Christian Faith commencing with 4 universal "longings" as the starting point and working through a Biblical perspective that leads to a "New Creation" as a means to develop your grasp of this Faith's essence and implications.

Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense

This discussion material addresses the question of the reasonableness of the Christian faith in the modern world.

It features Tom Wright and is based on his best-selling book *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. In this ten-session discussion, Wright begins by exploring what seem to be universal longings — for justice and relationship, spirituality and beauty — and goes on to simply and powerfully explain the core of Christian faith.



Topics of Video Presentations in each Session

1. Feb 6: Simply Christian Introduction (20:45)
2. Feb 13: Justice & Spirituality (16:30) – Ch 1&2
3. Feb 20: Relationships & Beauty (15:22) – Ch 3&4
4. Feb 27: God (16:47) – Ch 5
5. Mar 5: Israel (17:24) Ch 6
6. Mar 12: Jesus (19:49) – Ch 7&8
7. Mar 19: The Holy Spirit (16:27) – Ch 9&10
8. Mar 26: Worship & Prayer (18:43) – Ch 11&12
9. Apr 2: Scripture (18:33) – Ch 13&14
10. Apr 8 (Wed – Thur is Maundy Thur): Church & New Creation (18:37) – Ch 15&16

Tom Wright is a former Bishop of Durham in England and one of the world's leading Bible scholars serving as the Chair of New Testament and Early Christianity at the School of Divinity at the University of St. Andrews Scotland.

Commencing: Thurs 6 Feb 7:30pm
Location: Bedford's 12 Jevington Dr Wodonga
Facilitator: Ian Bedford 0412 544 770

MINISTERS OF THE WORD & OTHER CONTACTS

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

Emmanuel Pastoral Care: *speak with an Elder or Warden*
Emmanuel Prayer Chain: *give requests to Betty Siggers on 0427 761 044*

Address: PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
Office Phone: Emmanuel Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460
Office Open: Not staffed at present
Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com or LouAnne Stabb 02 6059 2244 stabb@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.
Website: <http://www.emmanuel.unitingchurch.org.au/index/htm>

BIBLE READINGS for NEXT SUNDAY

Epiphany 6

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37



WORSHIP SERVICES for NEXT WEEK

9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church
 11:00am Kergunyah Uniting Church

ON DUTY

	Sunday Feb 9 (Uniting)	Sunday Feb 16 (Anglican)
Readings	Carol Harris	Ted Stabb
Elders/Wardens	Carol Harris Karen Robinson	Ted Stabb Carol Harris
Organist	LouAnne Stabb	LouAnne Stabb
Prayers	Karen Robinson	LouAnne Stabb
Early Word	Carol Harris	LouAnne Stabb

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

World Council of Churches

Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

We pray for:

- environmental practices that preserve the natural environment, especially the Alps' melting glaciers
- the work for justice, reconciliation and peace pursued by the people and organizations here, seeking to shape globalization so that it benefits all
 - religious freedom, also for those from non-Christian traditions
- overcoming the fear of, and welcoming the embrace of, those who are outsiders to the countries' historic, ethnic traditions.

