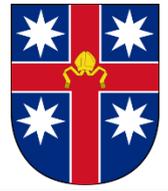




REACHING OUT

Weekly Newsletter of Emmanuel and Kergunyah Churches



Sunday August 3, 2025

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

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday August 3

Pentecost 8

Hosea 11: 1-11; Psalm 107: 1-9, 43; Colossians 3: 1-11; Luke 12: 13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool



One of the multitude said to him, "Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?" And he said to them, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I

do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:13-21

Bible Readings for Sunday August 10

Pentecost 9

Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20; Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16; Luke 12: 32-40

Praying For One Another 2025

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 congregation of **Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah and Myrtleford-Whorouly** beginning Sunday, August 3

Coming Events

Tues. Aug 5, 7:30 p.m.	Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom
Wed. Aug 6, 9:00 a.m.	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 a.m.	Morning Tea and Fellowship
Fri August 8, 9:30 a.m.	Craft Group

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies

stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au

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

Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com by Wednesday.

CHRIST – OUR CORNERSTONE

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER.

Eternal God, creator of the world. Jesus Christ, our saviour and Lord. Holy Spirit, our comforter and healer.

We come to you in our humanity. We come with all our differences and in - spite of our differences.

We come on journeys of our own, to places where we meet.

We come seeking you and a unique connectedness with one another.

Lord, we come to you secure in the knowledge that with you there is light and life, a hope and future.

With grateful hearts we come to you, praying in the name of Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

SOME THOUGHTS

In **Psalm 118:22** we read: **'the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'**

What is a cornerstone one might ask and what is its significance?

The corner stone was the first stone laid and marked the beginning of the construction of a building in the preindustrial age. It was the measuring line for the building, the best piece of stone or the marker stone upon which the rest of the building took its shape, colour, texture and direction.

The cornerstone is the pure perfect stone without fault or weakness.

A true representation of all other stones which together make up the final structure.

In 1 Peter 2: 6 – 10, Peter talks of Christ as the one precious cornerstone that the builders rejected. The pure faultless stone upon which our church and faith are founded.

Indeed, Jesus Christ, is the perfect, flawless cornerstone upon which we as living stones are laid. From which we take our position, direction and orientation as parts of the Church, the visible body of Christ.

In his letter to God's elect and chosen people, Peter encourages them to live lives that are Holy. Living, though rejected, precious stones to be built into a spiritual house of which Christ is the cornerstone.

Having said that what does this have to do with you and I?

We, as living stones, together create a safe and secure place to which others can come, shelter, be encouraged and nurtured. This being the case, the challenge we each face relates to the structure and integrity of the stone we bring to the building.

As we measure ourselves against the cornerstone, can we be confident we are the very best stone we can be?

If not then let us search our hearts before the master builder, willingly submitting ourselves to whatever needs to be done to shape, mould and polish us into whatever He needs us to be.

Let us not allow past positions, tasks and ways of doing things, pride or arrogance cause us to be hard and inflexible in the hands of the stone mason.

Let us be willing to identify and secure any fault lines that are exposed.

Let us be open and willing enough to be placed in a different place in the building if time and circumstances have changed our shape and texture.

Above all, let us be willing to trust the wisdom of the master builder whose heart and desire is that the building be honouring to God. That its structure be sound and its ultimate purpose a blessing to all.

SELAH.

BLESSING



May the blessings of God rest upon us.

May His peace abide with us.

May His presence illuminate our hearts and ever guide our way.

Now and for ever more.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

August 3

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: Ted Stabb

Prayers: LouAnne Stabb

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Music: LouAnne Stabb

August 10

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck

Reader: Ted Stabb

Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck

Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Music: LouAnne Stabb

Prayer of the Week

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe



Women displaced by war in the eastern Congo line up to receive hygiene kits provided by the United Nations in a camp in the village of Sasha. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for:

- wildlife and rainforests in these lands, and those who protect this habitat
- the oral traditions, folklore, and good practices that have been preserved
- rich minerals and economic development, although benefits need to be shared more fairly
- healing from exploitative practices that began under colonial rule.

We pray for:

- democratic fair elections and political stability in this region
- economic development that benefits all the people, especially those living in poverty
- preservation of the wildlife and the land
- the witness of the churches and other faith groups in the midst of the challenges.

FEAR NOT

By Ian Menzies

The Bible is packed with references urging us to 'fear not'. Why?

Perhaps those who lived in biblical times were continually afraid?

I would be, if I had to live in those times. Everything was edgy. Subsistence living made even the weather terrifying and health was an ongoing concern.

Dangers abounded, from lions and adders, through plague and pestilence, to famine and warfare. The unknowns were many.

Psalms 91 is sometimes cited as 'the most powerful prayer in the Bible', when it declares safety, protection and a long life were given to those who "abide in the shadow of the Almighty".

I was surprised then when recently I came across a discussion of another facet of fear: self-consciousness.

This trait was described as a "cruel thief in the night who robs us of success" that, if overcome, enabled one to "evolve from a person into a personality".

No abiding in shadows here, then.

This new perspective seemed to me to be putting forward a challenge for openness in our faith: a sharing with others of God's role in our lives, not just keeping it quietly to ourselves.

A challenge, indeed, to 'fear not.'

www.victas.uca.org.au/resources | Photo by freepik.com | August 2025

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts, major donations & trusts – help the work of the Church today

Gifts can take many forms, including cash, shares, real or things such as valuable paintings. Some people choose to establish a trust which commences during their lifetime, others choose to establish a testamentary gift (bequest) in their will, others as a memorial to a loved one.

Want to know more?

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:

www.victas.uca.org.au