



REACHING OUT

Sunday February 2, 2025

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

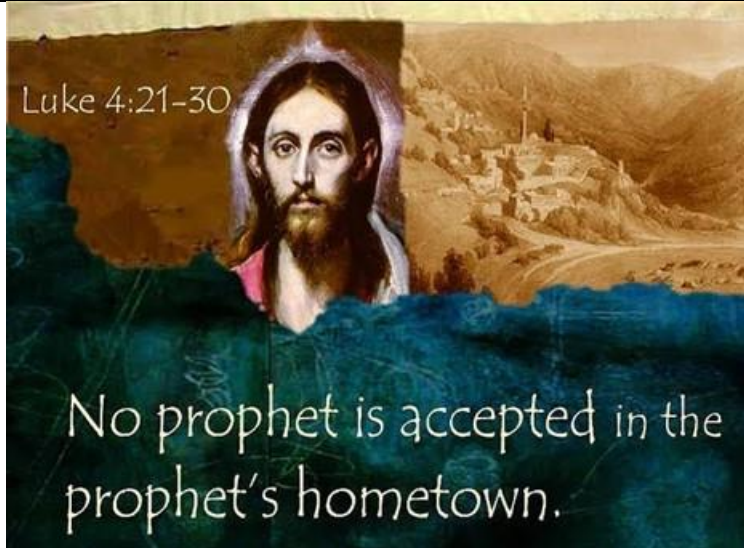
Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jeffries

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday February 2

Epiphany 4

Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Psalm 71: 1-6; 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13; Luke 4: 21-30



Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah,

when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Luke 4: 21-30

Bible Readings for Sunday February 9

Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13), Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

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 congregations of **Cobram and Katamatite** , beginning Sunday, February 2.

Coming Events

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Tue February 4, 7:30pm | Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom |
| Wed February 5, 8:30am | Grounds and Maintenance |
| 10:30am | Morning Tea and Fellowship |
| Fri February 7, 9:30am | Craft group meets at Emmanuel |
| Mon February 10 | Reports for AGM Report to Harold Cover |
| Sun February 23, 10:15am | Annual General Meeting of the Congregation after Worship |

THE JOY OF YOUR PRESENCE

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Dear Lord, you are forever nearby.

You are with us, and you go before us.

Even in the difficulties and dark places, you are there.

Thank you, for surprising us with joy even when the clouds gather and the shadows form.

Thank you, that your presence refreshes and recharges our spirits.

At these times Lord, our faith grows strong, our dedication to you is strengthened.

May your presence bless our lives with a joy that only you can give.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

True joy is a rare experience. We humans are more prone to think in terms of happiness or pleasure, than we are of joy. Joy, that which is a fruit of the Spirit, is meant to have a central place in the Christian life. Such joy is a gift not only to be enjoyed by the one possessing it but to be shared with others.

Sometimes it is easy to be joyful. When our daily needs have been amply supplied, when the relationship of family and friends is sweet, when we have seen God working for, and through us.

In such circumstances we can readily identify with the psalmist who testifies.

'You have made known to me the path of life.

You will fill me with joy in your presence'. (Psalm 16: 11)

But sometimes sadly, the experience of joy becomes routine and predictable, hardly distinguishable from ordinary human happiness. Perhaps, that is because we are looking for joy in the wrong places. We have forgotten that in God's way of doing things, the path to joy is often through obedience and suffering. So sometimes we are surprised by joy.

For joy appears when and where we are least expecting it.

When our hearts have been moved to confess sin and our lives have been cleansed and renewed.

When our ears have listened to God's word and our wills have been set to obey his directions.

When we allow his love to flow through us to others – then we are promised our joy will be complete. When our hearts are broken by sorrow or persecution, when our faith is stretched to the limit, when our cross is more than we can bear; then we are offered pure joy.

Happiness turns up, when we expect it to. A good marriage, a rewarding job, a pleasant vacation. Joy on the other hand, is as notoriously unpredictable as the one who bequeaths it.

The fruit of the Spirit is joy. Joy is the byproduct of possessing the Spirit and being possessed by it.

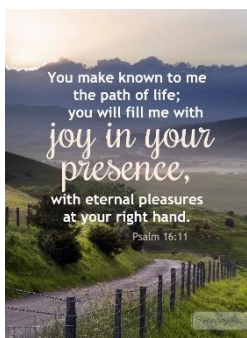
It is the conscious possession of power adequate to carry us through every trial and every situation.

In this life we will never be free of sorrow. But then we will never be free of joy.

Joy is a power that will dry all tears, lift all burdens, and satisfy all needs.

SELAH

BENEDICTION



May the Holy Spirit, through whose power the fruit of joy grows in our lives, give us such motivation and strength to be obedient and faithful servants, that we will be constantly surprised by Joy.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

February 2

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

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

February 9

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

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

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay
0419 990 358
lfindlay03@bigpond.com

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 Saggars on 0427 761 044
Address: PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
Office Phone: Emmanuel Church: (02) 6056 4814
Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com
or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 stabb@inet.net.au by Wednesday.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia



The dunes of Erg Chebbi is one of Morocco's two Saharan seas of sand dunes, formed by the wind. The dunes of Erg Chebbi reach a height of up to 150 meters in places and altogether it spans an area of 50 kilometers from north to south and up to 5–10 kilometers from east to west lining the Algerian border. Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

We are thankful for:

- How the early Christian church developed here.
- The biodiversity of plants, animals and the natural terrain.
- How Berber, Arab and European cultures have blended.
- How these countries have remained and stood against the invasion of cultural and military forces from elsewhere.

We pray for:

- all the people of these countries: Muslims, the tiny remnant of Christians, those of other faiths who continuing bearing witness to their faiths and for all people of good will.
- an end to political violence.
- an end to how dominating powers have fought over these lands and their resources through the years.
- for those suffering exploitation and mistreatment as they travel through these countries

MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU

By Geoff Serpell



What kind of peace you may well ask? David Beswick, a retired Uniting Church Minister, says that it is a gift of wholeness, being made well, reconciled, saved, and knowing God.

Peace and wholeness are brought together in the healing miracles of Jesus illustrated liberally throughout the four gospels.

When people talk about what they are most looking for in life, peace features high on the list. We seek peace and tranquillity from the noise of traffic, inner peace when we are in chaos, world peace, while just a bit of peace and quiet after a day's work is much sought after.

Back in the 60s and 70s, when I was employed by Prince Henry's Hospital in St Kilda Road, I attended a businesspersons' lunchtime church service at Scots' church in Collins Street.

Reflection:

"Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

John 14:27

I do not remember any words said except most times when I was jumping back onto the tram with renewed energy, to get back to work, were the peaceful words regularly said by the Minister, Rev Gordon Powell: *"Let go and let God!"*

I have a little book called *"Prayers of Peace"*: Let me share a few with you.

"In the practice of daily prayer, we can find the blessing of God's peace."

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Matthew 5:9

"Where there is peace, God is."

George Herbert

We should realise that He accepts us and surrounds us with His love. It's when we come to terms with ourselves, and offer what we are to God, that the seed of "peace" is established.