



# REACHING OUT

Sunday February 23, 2025

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

*Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay*

**No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church**

## Bible Readings for Sunday February 23

### Epiphany 7

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15; Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38; Luke 6: 27-38

#### Love for Enemies

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you..' If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

#### Judging Others



'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

**Luke 6: 27-38**

## Bible Readings for Sunday March 2

### Transfiguration of Jesus

Exodus 34: 29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2; Luke 9: 28-36, (37-43a)

## 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 the **Alpine Rural Resource Ministry (ARRM)** and the **Small Church Network**, beginning Sunday, February 23.

## UCA Communion

Church Council has decided that we will return to serving both the bread and the wine of the sacrament on Uniting Sunday with Sunday, Feb. 23, being the first. Receiving will include the same process of moving to the front of the sanctuary where Rev Leonie will serve you the wafer, as is our custom. An elder will be with her, providing grape juice from the tray of filled communion glasses. Upon completion, the used classes can be placed in a tray, located on a table which will be in place on both the left and right sides of the 'step', as communicants return to their seats as is our custom.

# LIVING GENEROUSLY

Rev Leonie Findlay

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, we are ever ready to come to you with a list of requests.

And yet the prayer we call The Lord's Prayer clearly shows us that to pray as Christ demonstrated is to first come to you with an attitude of praise and adoration. Indeed, as we consider our lives we become very aware of the many and varied blessings you bestow upon us so generously.

**AMEN**

## SOME THOUGHTS

One of the effects of our fast-paced lifestyles is that we often do not make time to consider our blessings. An old gospel hymn instructs us to, "Count your blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

When we stay too busy to count our blessings, the difficulties and problems of our lives can become overwhelming.

Another result of our hectic lifestyle is that too many Christians live their lives without having time or opportunity to bless others by acting generously towards them.

We provide things for one another, but the thing most often needed, is time spent with another.

Sometimes we have little to share.

A lack of time even means we do not relish the good things that happen, long enough or deeply enough to develop an appreciation of and gratitude for all the blessings our generous God bestows upon us.

During challenging periods in our lives, it is good to deliberately focus on the good things that happen. Every word of affirmation and encouragement that comes from family and friends can fill up what otherwise can become empty and ultimately very emotionally negative spaces.

Compassion is feeling and intent. Beneficence is actually doing!

Beneficence is proactive and takes initiative to offer hospitable space and random acts of kindness. We all need beneficence shown to us at one time or another.

The pace of our lives almost makes giving and receiving such acts of kindness a luxury.

Each of us will have times when our needs are not being met and times when they are.

What we do at these times is crucial to our mood and state of mental health.

Whatever our life experiences, we have a harvest of blessings.

If there is one thing nature can teach us it is how to move with the time available.

Nature's way of beginning and ending a day teaches us about the abundance of time. For in nature the day begins very slowly.

The light in the east is faint and gradually increases as the earth moves on its axis.

The falling of night is a reverse of the morning's movement.

There is a constant change, but the change itself happens very slowly.

Perhaps the development of patience and stillness is necessary if we are to appreciate the abundance of blessing which is ours to appreciate.

We are called to gather in the kindnesses given generously to us and the time offered by others that has come to us. And to let them all fall deep within, filling us with gratitude for the providence of God.

**SELAH**

## BENEDICTION



People of faith can still be driven, willingly and gladly seeking to do good to everyone.

Even though they, like the majority of others, live lives that leave little spare time for little else than being active. By so doing, the gifts of devotion and reflection are rarely enjoyed and their benefits unappreciated.

Lord may this not be a reality in our lives.

**AMEN**

## Coming Events

Sun February 23, 10:15am Annual General Meeting of the Congregation after Worship  
Tue February 25, 1:30pm Funeral of Nell Welsh at St. Stephen's Church  
Wed February 26, 8:30am Grounds and Maintenance  
10:30am Morning Tea and Fellowship  
Fri February 28, 9:30am Craft group meets at Emmanuel

## Emmanuel Roster

### February 23

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

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

### March 2

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Carolyn Renfrey  
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 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](mailto:hcover@bigpond.com)  
or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 [stabb@inet.net.au](mailto:stabb@inet.net.au) by Wednesday.

## Prayer of the Week World Council of Churches

France, Germany, Monaco



*The Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris illuminated at night. Photo: Sean Hawkey/Life on Earth*

### We are thankful for:

- the rich historic and cultural legacies that have come to the world from these lands.
- Franco-German friendship, reconciliation and cooperation that has emerged since the hostilities of the second world war.
- how churches and governments in France and Germany have welcomed new immigrants.
- the generosity in supporting ecumenical, interfaith and development work in the world.

### We pray for:

- overcoming fears and suspicions that still remain from 20th century atrocities, and more recent terrorist attacks.
- churches and governments to effectively counter anti-immigrant populist sentiments in these countries so that they truly will become more multi-ethnic.
- economic decisions that are accountable to those who are most vulnerable and not only to those making a profit.
- election of political leaders who will further the common good not only for their country but for the sake of Europe and the rest of world.

# WORLD DAY of PRAYER 2025

Focus Country: the Cook Islands



Join your local one-hour prayer service

Location of Service	Wodonga Lutheran Church Victory School, Drages Road, Wodonga
Date and Time	10:00am, Friday 7 March 2025
Contact Number	Carol Harris 6020 8582