



REACHING OUT

Sunday February 9, 2025

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

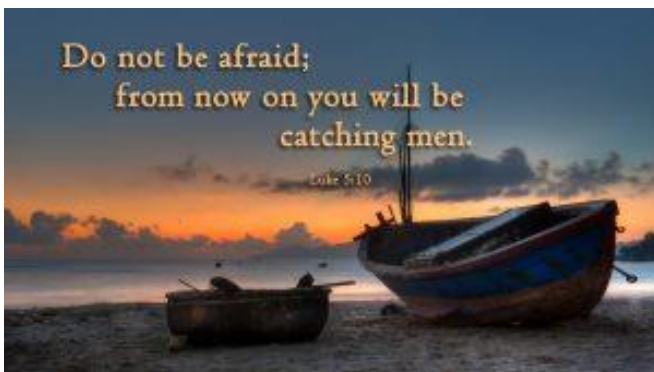
11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

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

Jesus Calls the First Disciples



Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the

deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:1-11

Bible Readings for Sunday February 16

Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20; Luke 6: 17-26

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 **Corryong**, beginning Sunday, February 9.

Coming Events

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mon February 10 | Reports for AGM Report to Harold Cover |
| Wed February 12, 8:30am | Grounds and Maintenance |
| 10:30am | Morning Tea and Fellowship |
| Fri February 14, 9:30am | Craft group meets at Emmanuel |
| Sun February 23, 10:15am | Annual General Meeting of the Congregation after Worship |

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Dear Lord, grant us the grace of endurance in our service. But more importantly in our life of prayer. Lord, we affirm that your Spirit can transform us and, through the struggle of change and growth, bring us to a place of maturity in Jesus. Lord, help us not to resist the movement of our lives in you at every stage. Help us to realise and commit to a life of prayer. Not the hopeful prayer a day but rather, in the words of the apostle Paul, prayer without ceasing.

Prayer that is specific, intentional, and persistent. Lord, may our lives display the type of discipline that only the Spirit can facilitate, and love can generate.

In the name of Christ Jesus

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

Contrary to popular opinion, I believe it could be said that stubbornness is a virtue.

Sometimes the only difference between success and failure is the refusal to give up.

We have only to consider the history of human progress against disease to realise that it is the persistence of scientists and doctors that has wrought healing in many lives.

Perhaps our theology is remiss when we function in prayer as if, once we have made a petition, then God has heard it, and we do not need to do anything else.

But there are many examples in scripture of vehement prayer, which models persistence for us. Moses both interceded for the Israelites, and begged God to take them off his hands.

He was constantly in touch with Yahweh during that 40 year trek through the desert.

Isaiah contended with God: Jeremiah pleaded for judgement: Hannah prayed so fervently that the priest thought she was drunk.

In Jesus' story of the persistent widow, we are told of a woman who simply will not give up on her petition for justice with an unfair judge. It is her persistence alone that overcomes the judge's intention to ignore her. She obviously had no social, political or economic power to leverage his response. What is the message here?

Perhaps it is that we can contend with God for justice on our own accord and that persistence in prayer is important. This encouragement is particularly important when we are faced with life's challenges which persist over a significant period of time. During which, survival seems to be the only reality. At times like this prayer, becomes more honest and constant. And God seems to be like an unjust judge. We may even be uncertain that our heart-rending petitions are getting a hearing. A faithful God intervenes in His time, and we discover that flourishing and justice are possible.

It is through quietness, a state of grace, that people can be overcome by a deep inner tranquillity. It is time spent in communion, in prayer with God that this inner peace is found.

SELAH

PRAYER OF BLESSING



O most blessed Grace, that makes the poor in spirit rich in virtues.

Come to us, come in the morning, fill us with your comfort, lest our souls faint for weariness and dryness of mind.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

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

February 16

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris
Reader: Necia Searle
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
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

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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City



A young man holds a cross during morning prayer with the Lutheran World Federation delegates on day one of COP25 in Madrid, Spain. Photo: Albin Hillert/LWF

We are thankful for:

- the rich historical legacies and distinctive cultures in these countries.
- the faithful witness of the churches in the midst of empire building and colonization
- the many and diverse waves of migrants who have come to these lands.
- the hospitality that long has been shown to those arriving on their shores.

We pray for:

- the preservation of the fragile environments and shorelines in this region.
- an end to economic and political turmoil.
- stable governments that end corruption and serve the common good.
- policies that relieve disparities between those who are rich and poor.

KEEPING YOUR HOME IN ORDER

By Bill Pugh



Wherever we live: home, flat, rental or as an owner, we have a responsibility to care for our property, to keep it in order.

Not only for upkeep of that property but also for our responsibility as owner, buyer or tenant.

For the Christian, maintenance and care is a lesson in stewardship.

There is a spiritual lesson in regard to maintenance and care. It measures our ability to prepare for our home in the next life.

Proverbs reminds us that *"by wisdom a*

house is built, and by understanding it is established".

The Psalms remind us that the master builder is the Lord. And all construction to be successful has his guidance and patience.

Jesus teaches that excellence in little things fits us for greater responsibility. Paul reminds us of our responsibility to care for family and relatives.

And in Colossians he reminds us of our responsibility to live and work in love. To be bound together in harmony.

Reflection:

In sum, the lesson of Bible teaching is that this life is a preparation for living in the home of many mansions above.

How we work and act, here and now, prepares us for the life above. There is no vision of a heavenly home where we will live in absolute luxury.

We will be in the presence of a working, creating God. And we will have responsibilities and stewardship, in line with his creative purpose.

We begin by keeping and leaving our earthly home in order.

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