



# REACHING OUT

Sunday January 19, 2025

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

## Bible Readings for Sunday January 19

### Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 36: 5-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

#### The Wedding at Cana



On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of

purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**John 2: 1-11**

## Bible Readings for Sunday January 26

### Epiphany 3

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21

## 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 **Bright and Porepunkah**, beginning Sunday, January 19

## Coming Events

Mon January 20, 10:30am	Community Shop reopens for 2025
Wed January 23, 8:30am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship
	Craft group resumes in February
Sun February 23, 10:15am	Annual General Meeting of the Congregation after Worship

# PRAYER AND REFLECTION IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR

Rev Leonie Findlay

## PRAYER.

Ever present Creator God, we come expectantly to you knowing that you delight in meeting with us.

We come with all our doubts and fears confident that you understand.

Loving and sustaining God, the world around us is changing quickly and the future seems uncertain. Our hearts are troubled, and we feel very confused.

Please speak to us and be patient with us as we try hard to listen.

Forgive us for our past negligence and help us to be faithful in prayer and obedient in service.

God, we know that you are with us whatever life holds and especially in this moment.

We ask that you surround us with the abundance of your love, compassion and protection.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

**AMEN**

## SOME THOUGHTS

Reading Matthew 11:28-30

***“Come to me all who are weary, anxious and burdened and I will give you rest.***

***Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart***

***And you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light “***

What do we do when life throws, fears and difficulties our way?

Perhaps the question should be ‘where do we go when life challenges us?’

Most of the time we go to family and friends seeking answers.

However, answers are frequently difficult to find, and we are left with greater confusion and pain.

God’s ways are not necessarily our ways, and we are more than often left with ultimate mystery.

So, it is in our present experience when the earth is heaving under the pressure of our neglect and disease challenges our world leaving sickness and death.

Jesus says, ***“Come to me all who are weary anxious and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest.”***

The question is how do we do that? Just as we share with a friend, God welcomes us to meet with Him. To converse with him, to lay our burdens upon him and he will give us rest and peace.

This is not to say that we will be free of the mystery but in drawing close to God in prayer we will receive all we need to stand firm. Believing that ultimately God will walk with us and sustain us in the midst of the challenges before us.

Prayer takes us beyond ordinary thinking. It moves us.

It brings us home to the intimacy of the heart- a life where we find God.

Prayer brings hope, possibility and comfort. It brings vital insight.

A life of prayer often begins with a longing for help or answers to our situation.

Prayer is in itself an answer, in all its dimensions. It gathers us in when we feel scattered.

It quietens our troubled minds and nurtures our soul.

“Come to me,” says the Lord. Our answer, “Lord I am coming!” Amen.

**SELAH**

## BLESSING



God’s deep heart is like a well of infinite love flowing towards all creation in living waters of grace.

There is no wilderness in life which is out of bounds for God.

In Christ, we are forever joined together in his abundant love.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## Emmanuel Roster

### January 19

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

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

### January 26

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck  
Reader: Carol Clutterbuck  
Prayers: Carol Harris  
Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Ted Stabb  
Organist: Colin Harris

## 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

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen



*12 December 2023, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: Young people gather outside the plenary buildings at the United Nations climate summit COP28 on the conference's last scheduled day to push for an agreement on a complete fossil fuel phase-out to be part of the final text adopted. Photo: Albin Hillert/LWF*

#### We are thankful for:

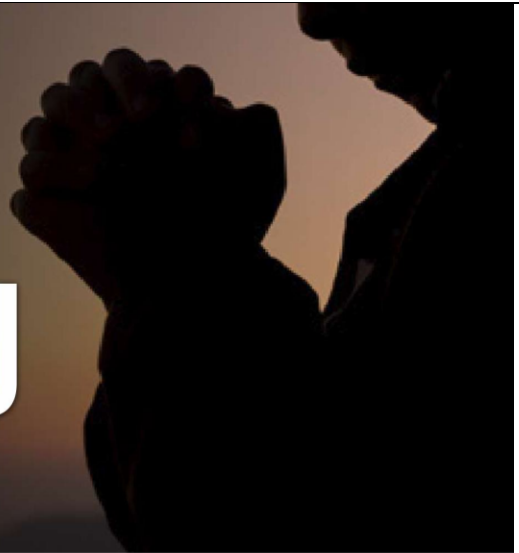
- the ancient cultures and religions that have been sustained in this area for millennia
- those who continue to pursue peace in the midst of ethnic strife and terrorism
- the faithfulness of Muslims in expressing their faith and working with others
- Christians who practice their faith even when they are a small, often discriminated minority.

#### We pray for:

- women and others in these countries who are deprived of basic freedoms and human dignity
- those who misuse or exploit religious identity for extremist political ends
- the wise use of the benefits of oil and other natural resources for the sake of all
- the emergence of stable democratic societies based on the rule of law, social justice, and respect for religious and other freedoms.

# 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.