



REACHING OUT

Sunday January 26, 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 January 26

Epiphany 3

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

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth



When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news
to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Luke 4: 14-21

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

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 **Broadford**, beginning Sunday, January 26

Coming Events

Tue January 28, 10:00am	U3A Albury Wodonga classes begin
Wed January 29, 8:30am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship
Fri January 31 9:30am	Craft group meets at Emmanuel
Sun February 23, 10:15am	Annual General Meeting of the Congregation after Worship

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEANING AND PURPOSE

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord when you created man you created him in your image.

However, the beauty of your creation was marred and your divine purpose for humankind was compromised when sin entered the world.

Creator God, even to this day we search for meaning and purpose in our lives only to realise that without you there is none.

However, with you Lord, everything has meaning and in anything there is purpose.

While we may not have eyes to see the invisible threads connecting all we do with the fabric of the whole of life, Lord, we thank you that we are part of that whole.

AMEN.

SOME THOUGHTS

Far too often in the complexity and pressure of life we lose sight of the purpose and meaning of our very existence. What and why am I doing what I am?

What is the meaning and value of my life? Where to from here?

These are all questions that plague many, especially in the changing and challenging times in which we live.

The reality is that few activities have purpose in themselves. In most cases their meaning depends on what the participants invest in them.

The gardener gratefully plunges his or her hands into the soil amazed and delighted by the crop of flowers or vegetables that emerge seemingly out of nowhere. Nothing seems so meaningful as nurturing life in any form.

In place of days that are meaningless and lacking in purpose God grants the grace of wonder.

Instead of rising each day in a cloud of disillusionment and despair the gift of wonder lifts us into the experience of awe. How can anything be as perfect as a rose in full bloom?

To the open mind and heart stars cease to be stars and for a moment become diamonds glittering in the night sky.

Where is the meaning and purpose in this, one might ask?

Until our eyes are opened to the wonder and beauty of all that surrounds us, the ultimate meaning could well be lost.

Surrounded by the beauty and majesty of the divine creation our frantic search for meaning and purpose dissipates in the wonder of the realization that instead of mere observers, we are one with and significant in the universe around us.

Instead of an endless search for purpose our lives become a mystery filled with meaning.

SELAH

BENEDICTION

In the hands of the creator everything has meaning and everyone has purpose.

As we are connected to the whole fabric of life, so it is connected back to us.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

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

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

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

Cyprus, Greece, Türkiye



15 May 2022, Paralimni, Cyprus: Blessed bread is distributed after Sunday service is celebrated in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint George, Church of Cyprus, in Paralimni. Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

We are thankful for:

- the 2,000-year presence and witness of the church in Asia Minor (now Türkiye, Cyprus, and Greece) – the region in which St Paul and other apostles first planted the seeds of the Christian faith – and for how Greek culture influenced the early church
- the Church Fathers who came from this area, along with many men and women who were Christian martyrs, and where seven ecumenical councils were convened
- the pioneering work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in quest of Christian unity and for protection of the environment
- those who have reached out to assist people who have fled to, and through, these lands.

We pray for:

- the healing of memories and wounds inflicted by early 20th century genocides of Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian communities, and for current tensions in these lands
- enhanced respect for all minority groups and their claims,
- those who work for justice and reconciliation
- the people who struggle because of economic and political crises in these countries
- more stable democratic governments that further the good of all.

Welcome to U3A Albury Wodonga



U3A Albury Wodonga will commence classes at The Meeting Place next Tuesday. Please make organisers, tutors and participants welcome whenever in the building. Classes will run Monday to Friday in the meeting rooms. U3A have installed a new permanent data projector in room 2 and installed two new large screen smart TV sets. The outdoor play area will be upgraded for U3A outdoor activities and hospitality using their outdoor furniture. We look forward to an ongoing cooperative relationship with U3A over the next three years and beyond.

U3A website provides additional information. <https://u3aalburywodonga.org.au/>

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

By Bill Pugh

Sometimes we sleep like a top, so the saying goes. But sometimes we wake and can't get back to sleep.

Many thoughts and worries invade our minds. Some seek sleep therapy, others pills.

But maybe the Bible can help. When I wake up I vision the alphabet and a Bible character for each letter, starting from A to Z.

If that does not work, maybe a warm Milo will help.

Reflection:

"Unless the lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is vain that you rise up early, and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved."

Psalm 127:1,2

The first and last words of the Greek alphabet are a wonderful description of God: *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Revelation 1:8

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



Moderator's Emergency Response Fund

The new *Moderator's Emergency Response* Fund helps Victorian and Tasmanian communities with assistance in times of emergencies.

Donations can be made at any time, not just in response to a specific emergency. To donate, visit www.victas.uca.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA