



REACHING OUT

Sunday July 228, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Led by Rev Leonie Findlay

Bible Readings for Sunday July 28

Pentecost 10

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Feeding the Five Thousand



After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those

who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

John 6:1-21

Bible Readings for Sunday August

Pentecost 10

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16;
John 6:24-35

A Reflection-People First

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Teach us Lord, that institutions and compassion do not often successfully mix.

It is only when we are powerless that the limitless love of God is demonstrated.

It is when we identify with those in need, rather than bending towards them from a privileged position, that they are best helped. May we not rest too much if there are still human beings with tears in their eyes.

Our model for compassion is our Servant - Lord. Save us from the moralism of doing good because that is what is expected of Christians. Save us, too, from the motivation of guilt: helping the less fortunate because we have so much.

We want to serve you, Lord, from gratitude, and as part of our search for you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

AMEN.

SOME THOUGHTS

He was known only as, 'the man with the withered hand.'

Like most of the people whom Jesus helped, this man remained, anonymous.

We have no case history, no name or address, no details of the problem.

We do not even know if the man came seeking healing.

We are told only that the man was there. Probably he did hope for a cure.,

Because Mark has already told us in his opening chapter that news of Jesus had spread over the whole region of Galilee. Everyone was looking for him, the sick, the deformed, the depressed and the curious. No wonder the synagogue was crowded on this particular Sabbath.

The enemies of Jesus were there, too. It had not taken long for opposition to be aroused towards this teacher who spoke as no other man spoke, who taught with authority, not as the Scribes, who forgave sins, who moved out with compassion even to touch lepers and the rejected.

Jesus' opponents came to the place of worship solely to look for a reason to accuse him.

There are those only too happy to exploit human need for personal, political, financial or even theological reasons.

Jesus was aware of this. He was just beginning his ministry and people were responding with overwhelming enthusiasm. Surely this was the time to build on this early success, not to stir up antagonism. Instead of avoiding confrontation, Jesus made a big thing of the encounter. He asked the man to stand up in front of everyone.

Jesus knew that confrontation over this issue was inevitable and chose to meet it head on.

There is always an element of risk in acts of mercy and kindness.

The risks are not often as dramatic as this, but they are real enough. There is the risk that one's motives will be misunderstood. The kindness will be rejected. There may be physical danger in some circumstances, certainly inconvenience. In today's world there can be legal consequences.

The healing of the man was no casual event. It was the difference between Jesus' approach to people and the prevailing customs. The effect. was so intense they were ready to kill him.

The indelible message is people come first. Not systems, not traditions, not rules, not one's own advantage, not even personal safety. They have their place but not first place.

SELAH

A BENEDICTION



To you Lord, and to all people in need, we offer our love, our faith, and our hope.

Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, forever and ever.

AMEN

Praying For One Another 2024

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 **Northern Rivers - Rochester, Elmore and Bamawm** commencing Sunday July 28

Coming Events

Wed July 31, 9:00 am
10:30 am
Fri Aug 2, 9:30am

Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship
Craft Group

Emmanuel Roster

July 28

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck
Reader: Necia Searle
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist:

August 4

Elder on Duty: TBA
Reader: Betty Saggars
Prayers: Harold Cover
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Harold Cover
Organist:

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 Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460
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

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe



Women displaced by war in the eastern Congo line up to receive hygiene kits provided by the United Nations in a camp in the village of Sasha. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for

- wildlife and rainforests in these lands, and those who protect this habitat
- the oral traditions, folklore, and good practices that have been preserved
- rich minerals and economic development, although benefits need to be shared more fairly
- healing from exploitative practices that began under colonial rule.

We pray for:

- democratic fair elections and political stability in this region
- economic development that benefits all the people, especially those living in poverty
- preservation of the wildlife and the land
- the witness of the churches and other faith groups in the midst of the challenges.



Most of us live in the metropolitan concrete jungles where the sound of birdsong may bring a rare smile.

Nature has a valuable effect on our senses where cities with ample parklands have been found to have reduced violence.

Walking through parks may reduce stress, reset anxious thoughts, and give feelings of peace.

Reflection:

Feel the love of God through nature in His wonderful world.

www.victas.uca.org.au/resources | Photo by freepik.com | July 2024

Connecting with creation also connects us with our creator.

Next time life seems overwhelming, get into nature, smell the roses, and watch a brilliant sunset.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts, major donations & trusts – help the work of the Church today

Gifts can take many forms, including cash, shares, real or things such as valuable paintings. Some people choose to establish a trust which commences during their lifetime, others choose to establish a testamentary gift (bequest) in their will, others as a memorial to a loved one.

Want to know more?

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:

www.victas.uca.org.au