



REACHING OUT

Sunday June 9, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

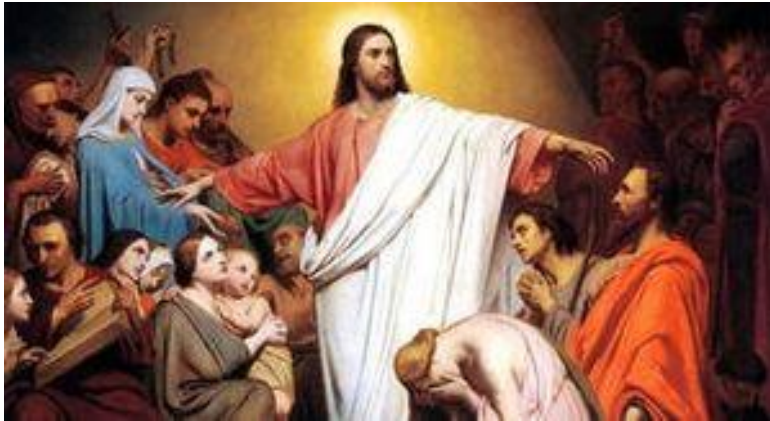
Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday June 9

Pentecost 3

1 Samuel 8: 4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5: 1; Mark 3 :20-35



and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself,

that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

The True Kindred of Jesus

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

Mark 3:20-35

Bible Readings for Sunday June 16

Pentecost 4

1 Samuel 15: 34 - 16: 13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4: 26-34

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 **Violet Town and Strathbogie** commencing Sunday June 9.

GRATITUDE IN THE MIDST OF STRUGGLE

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord, of all hopefulness and joy, we realise that without you we wander aimlessly seeking direction and real purpose.

Lord, draw us to yourself and hold us in your love and forgiveness.

Teach us your ways, Lord, and walk with us in your wisdom and truth.

Father, even in the midst of the challenges we encounter, strengthen our resolve to follow closely after you. Teach us to serve you as we should and to minister to the needs of others in your strength and power.

Grant us a love which is generous and determination which is steadfast.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

The journey of suffering can lead us down many paths.

Paths of bitterness, resentment and blame, or of understanding, faith, hope and courage.

Some paths lead to isolation, fear and disappointment while others lead us closer to God and one another.

For most of us suffering is a cycle of holding on, letting go, healing, hurting and healing again.

To suffer is to experience situations and events over which we have no control.

Indeed, we find ourselves in a place where we are forced to give up our defences because we simply have no choice. Hence, we invariably cycle through stages of denial, anger, bargaining, resignation and hopeful acceptance.

To experience suffering often results in us being taken to the edge of our inner resources where we fall into the hands of the living God.

Enduring suffering is an act of choosing – intellectually, emotionally and volitionally.

As followers and representatives of Jesus Christ on earth, we are called to suffer for the sake of Christ. God's purpose in having His followers suffer is not to punish them.

Instead, it is a glad burden of honour to bear as Christians who are reflectors of the image of His Son who dwells within us.

God is faithful, and He will not leave us stranded in our suffering.

Instead, we are to seek after God's heart and trust in Him to fulfill the work he started in us.

Though we may not understand why we are being tested, we must trust that God is still good and that we can never be separated from His love as Romans 8:31-39 states.

'God remains consistent and does not judge us according to our trials of suffering.'

Instead, He brings us through difficult seasons of suffering so that our faith can be strengthened.'

During our trials of suffering, we must look to Him and trust that He is still who He says He is. We must hold fast to His promises, that He is always with us and will never leave us or forsake us. How we encounter suffering may look different than someone else you know, but we are not to compare our sufferings with one another.

Instead, we are to thank God for working in and through us so that we can shine His light and give glory to His name and not our own.

SELAH

BLESSING



Place your trust In the Lord, whose compassion comes speedily to meet us.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

June 9

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist: Colin Harris

June 16

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

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist: Colin Harris

Refugee Support

In 2023 we were able to support the refugee settlement with a gift of more than \$1000. Already this year we have some donations. We'd like to send a gift mid-June. On Sundays, please place cash, in an envelope marked 'Grace', in the bowl on the offering table. Direct deposit to the Emmanuel Congregation account: BSB 033-264, Account 960276, and notate 'Refugee Support' or 'Grace'. Every gift will go to making life that little bit better for those leaving unsafe communities and awaiting a new place to life. Last years' gifts provided materials for a new roof for a shelter, malaria immunisations and special foods for Christmas celebrations in the community. Thank you.

Coming Events

Wed June 12, 9:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship
Fri June 14, 9:30am	Craft Group
Sun June 30, 10:30am	Congregation Meeting after Worship

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.

Future directions

Thank you to everyone who participated in our discussions about possible use of The Meeting Place in the coming year and beyond, on June 26. It was wonderful to see people sharing ideas for our future. When analysing the suggestions, we found themes which were evident in all groups.

They are:

- Need for a manager/co-ordinator on-site weekdays, especially during Community Shop opening hours
- Strong commitment for the Community Shop
- Wish for the gardens to be sustained, with community garden or support for Birralee and/or other agencies with produce
- Providing a place for interest and activity groups and enhancing our established Church groups
- Hire rooms to community groups for their activities
- Discuss need for West Wodonga presence with *Uniting Wodonga*.

This week the Church Council met with Blake Kempthorne, a Development Officer from Synod. We had a productive time considering the ideas above, but also realistically looking at the resources we have, both of people and finance. It was noted that careful planning is done to ensure that things go smoothly. Blake will be there to work alongside us as we explore possibilities and obtain the information we need to assist in making decisions. There will be more talking with each other. We have a wonderful resource in the property entrusted to our care. We must remember to always centre God in our discernment. We, as people of God, are confident of God's presence with us, and pray that we listen to God in this time of some uncertainty but much possibility.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Botswana, Zimbabwe



Jennifer Mhlanga suffered a spinal injury in a bus accident, and uses a wheelchair to get around Harare, Zimbabwe. She moves along a street in her neighborhood with her three-year old granddaughter, Tariro Bvumakurehwa. Mhlanga's wheelchair, which was carefully fitted to her individual needs, was provided by the Jairos Jiri Association with support from CBM-US.

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for

- the prophetic witness of churches to protest injustices and advocate good governance
- efforts that have been made to stem the spread of HIV and AIDS and to treat those affected
- economic progress that improves the lives of all
- the iconic animals and minerals in these lands and measures to protect them from being exploited.

We pray for:

- fair election of democratic governments to counter instability, violence and human rights abuses
- stable economies that enable all people to prosper and live in justice and peace
- effective measures to improve the health and life expectancy of all
- the biodiversity and animals present in these lands, and measures to preserve them
- the herders and farmers who continue to raise cattle and food, despite droughts and desertification.

A Note for Gentlemen

Please be advised that the automatic flush device in the Gent's toilet is not working and has been disconnected pending repairs. Kindly use the bucket provided to flush before leaving