



REACHING OUT

Sunday May 19

9:00am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday May 19

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm: 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

The Work of the Spirit



'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Bible Readings for Sunday May 26

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6: 1-8; Psalm: 29; Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17

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 **Shepparton, Dookie and Uniting Shepparton**, commencing Sunday May 19.

LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SPEAK

A Reflection-Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Creator God when the earth was created you acknowledged It was good.
However, we are living in a time when your creation is struggling.
Because of the way we have misused, neglected and abused the precious gift entrusted into our keeping.
Rising temperatures, fires, floods, rising sea levels and so much more.
All reflect a natural world out of balance.
The natural world, the work of your hands, is crying out.

LORD, FORGIVE US

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

While it is true that God is a hidden presence, we have only to let nature speak to us about the God who is everywhere. Our common creator.

(Henri Nouwen in the Genesee Diary)

Jesus was deeply connected to the earth on which he walked.
He observed the forces of nature, learned from them, taught about them and revealed that the God of creation is the same God who sent him to preach good news to the poor, sight to the blind and freedom to the prisoners.
The parables Jesus taught were grounded in nature.

The natural world is not just the background to our lives.
It is the living gift that teaches us about the ways and will of the creator.
If we were to slow down and be more observant, we could appreciate the fact that God's presence is woven into every aspect the natural world around us.
Letting nature speak opens up a new way of discerning the Divine presence.
All of nature conceals great secrets that cannot be revealed if we do not listen carefully and patiently to God's hidden language.
Our difficult and now urgent task is to realise that nature is not a possession to be conquered but a gift to be received with respect and gratitude.
When a tree is nothing but a potential chair, it ceases to tell us much about growth.
When a river is only a dumping ground for industrial waste, it can no longer speak to us about movement.
When a flower is nothing more than a plastic decoration, it has little to say about the simple beauty of life.

Nature desires for us to discern the great story of God's love to which it points.
The plant and animal life teach us about birth, death and growth.
Rather than abuse and neglect they require gentle and appropriate care, patience and understanding.

***'When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,
The moon and the stars that you have established;
What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
Mortals that you care for them.....***

***O Lord, our Sovereign,
How majestic is your name in all the earth!'***

(Psalm 8: 3, 4, 9)

SELAH

BENEDICTION.

Dear Lord, you are the Word of God through whom all creation came into being.
You can be found in all your creation.
We thank you for the beauty of all that is.

AMEN.

Emmanuel Roster

May 19

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Ted Stabb
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

May 26

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Ted Stabb
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

Worship next Sunday, May 26

At the end of this year BPNH will be moving to Felldimber Community Centre and Church Council is looking at possibilities for when the congregation will have full use of Meeting Place facilities. We need to explore how our mission and church activity might develop in the future as we move through the year. It is very important that all in the congregation are involved in this process. Thus, it was decided to do this within a service of worship and Sunday May 26, 9:00 a.m. was the date chosen. We will begin our worship, as we always do, by inviting God to be there with us. We will sing, pray and hear the word of God, as usual. However, sermon/reflection time will be given to looking ahead, sharing thoughts and ideas. Members of the Church Council will be involved and Rev. Leonie will preside at Holy Communion to complete our worship. There will be morning tea following the service. We are looking forward to hearing your contributions at our worship next week.

Refugee Support

In 2023 we were able to support the refugee settlement with a gifts 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 May 22, 9:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship
Fri May 24, 9:30am	Craft Group

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.

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.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles



Tsunami survivor Roji Zamsudeen throws his fishing net, provided by ACT International, as the sun rises over the Indian Ocean near Hambantota, on Sri Lanka's southern coast.

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for

- the spectacular scenery, exotic plants, rare animals and abundant sea life that flourish in the region
- how people who are ethnically and religiously diverse have long lived together
- the economic developments that have lifted some out of poverty
- the vital evangelism, social and public witness of churches, and how the churches relate to people of other faiths.

We pray for:

- the fragile environment and the unique plants, animals and lands, that they will be protected, especially as the sea rises
- tourism and other economic developments, that they will not threaten, but enhance life for all the people in these countries
- churches, that they will grow through evangelistic efforts and in their work with those of other faiths
- Christians to be bolder in their public witness for justice and reconciliation, especially in times of political turmoil.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE ON

By Geoff Serpell

Anyone who claims they are self-made makes me wonder.

Did no one hold their hand while they learned to walk?

Did no one help them with their difficult homework?

Who was it who cooked them hot meals or provided a roof over their heads?

Possibly the care given, or sadly, not given, was such that they would rather not acknowledge it.

What a shame. Really none of us are completely self-made.

Maybe we should stop using the phrase as a badge of honour and get back to where we ought to be, which is helping each other make it in this life.

Reflection:

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot hide. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl, instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds, and praise your father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14.

With reference to The Friendship Book 2024 and The NIV Study Bible

www.victasuca.org.au/resources | Photo by freepik.com | May 2024