



REACHING OUT

Sunday October 13, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

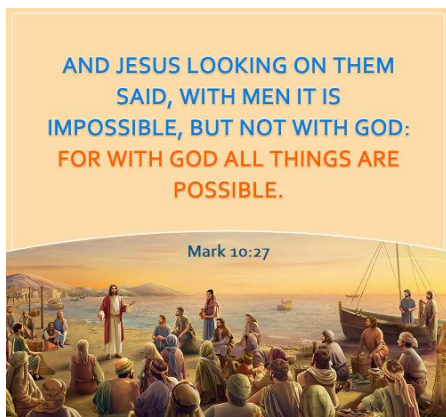
11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday October 13

Pentecost 21

Job 23: 1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22: 1-15; Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 10: 17-31

The Rich Man



As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving,

for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

Mark 10:17-31

Bible Readings for Sunday October 20

Pentecost 22

Job 38: 1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

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 **Faith Communities – Strath Creek, Nagambie Connect Sunday October 13.**

Coming Events

Wed October 16, 8:30 am

10:30 am

Fri October 18, 9:30 am

Sat October 26, 2:00pm

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship

Craft Group

Community Shop Fashion Parade

REFLECTION LESS IS MORE

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Loving Lord, we praise you for the circle of life.

We are so grateful for the signs of spring, the green shoots, bright flowers and blossoms, for the warmer days, the rains that fall on the earth and the rains of the Holy Spirit that enliven our souls.

Lord, you bless us with so much and we give so little.

Teach us Lord, to learn the lessons of simplicity and to embrace even the little we have.

In the name of Jesus,

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

How many of us remember what Jesus said about the simple life.

Of course, we could always go through the familiar texts from the gospels of Luke, and Mark and the Acts of the Apostles, one after the other, where Jesus quite clearly says that we should live simply in this world. But then it would look as if the point was simply to convince or inspire people to live the simple life. But then unless people have really found the truth of what Jesus is saying and are inspired by it for its own sake, the words themselves will have no long-term effect.

All too often preachers have tried to motivate people through guilt feelings or fear, saying, 'You have to do this or that, otherwise God won't love you.'

And if we do the thing in question, out of fear alone, then we might as well not do it, because heart, head and gut are at war with one another. How is it that after two thousand years of meditation on Jesus, we have managed so effectively to avoid so much of what He taught us so unequivocally.

So many have avoided the Sermon on the Mount and the unmistakable teaching of Jesus on poverty. We only have to look around to see how many of us have evaded Jesus' clear directive on non-violence. And then there is his straightforward doctrine of loving your enemies.

Jesus is too much for us. The church is a kind of collective teenager. It could be said that in our maturation process as a Christian Church we have grown so slowly. Perhaps we are finally getting ready for the gospel to talk directly to us. We are ready for answers. But Jesus does not offer us many certainties. He offers us a journey of faith.

Jesus doesn't give us many answers. He tells us what the right questions are, what questions the human soul has to wrestle with to stumble onto Christ and the truth.

Our questions determine what we ultimately find and discover. The challenge often lies in the interpretation of scripture and in the fact that until now the Gospel has been interpreted by a small elite group, usually educated white men. Increasingly though, the interpretation is being offered by people from other base communities who offer a different interpretation of the text.

Then revelation comes to the reader through the Holy Spirit. Whatever the case, to trivialize Christ's words by not responding to the hard instruction is to reject the truth of the Gospel which promises us a way that leads to God and a way to one another.

BENEDICTION

Blessed are the poor in spirit. For they shall inherit the earth.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

October 13

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

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

October 20

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist/Pianist: Betty Bjorksten

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.

St. Stephen's UC Spring Twilight Market – Friday, Oct 18th, 5 – 8 pm

Don't miss it! Plants, Cakes, Gifts, Arts & Crafts, Jams and relishes, phone cases etc.

Op Shop open, electricals, bikes, furniture, too! **BBQ**

All profits go to the mission of St. Stephen's.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico



Supervised by a volunteer from the Good Shepherd Methodist Church in Mexico City, children in the village of San Andrés Tlalamac, Mexico, play at a clinic run by the Methodist Church of Mexico. The clinic is supported by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for

- the cultures and foods distinctive here, yet enjoyed around the world
- indigenous and other groups who have resisted injustice and human rights violations
- church leaders who have spoken out and acted on behalf of the poor and marginalized
- developments that improve life for all, while also caring for the environment.

We pray for:

- stable, democratically elected governments committed to the peace and wellbeing of all
- comfort and healing for the families and loved ones of those who have been killed or disappeared, and for those responsible to be brought to justice
- stopping corruption, drug traffic, and violence, and those who profit from such activities
- improved economic life and trade policies so that people will not be exploited and can pursue livelihoods in these countries rather than migrating elsewhere for work.

Presbytery of North East Victoria, October 2024

Chairperson's letter of Encouragement

Dear friends,

Sometimes, when I sit down to write to you, words just fly off the paper. This has not been one of times. Strangely I know what I have wanted to convey to you, but the words have not come - just so – until now. Sleeping on it has helped and sometimes we just have to trust our own thoughts and words, so here goes.

When Jesus came, he came proclaiming the good news that the Kingdom of God was at hand. This is the gospel of Jesus the Christ : the kingdom of God is at hand. With this letter I have sent a little video clip to show you what I think Jesus meant by at hand. If you look at the clip you will see a blacksmith at work with tools laid out so that he can reach out his hand and take hold of what he needs. Jesus is saying this is how close the kingdom is – so close, we can reach out and take hold of it. If you look at the clip again, you will see there is something solid and dependable about those tools in a line. There is no mistaking that they are real, that they are there. The kingdom of God is so close that we can reach out, almost without looking, and take a hold of it. It is real and solid and dependable and when I think about it, useful for the task of creating with God something beautiful or useful, or fit for purpose. <https://youtu.be/BeIO9UR2L7M?si=jAsqbR380FdqcYWx>

When Jesus talks about the kingdom of God, or the reign and rule of God, he is drawing heavily on the Old Testament book of Isaiah: where God-like justice leads to peace (2:1-4); where oppression is ended, where relationships are put right (9:2-7); where God's stand with those who suffer. (11:1-10) where joy replaces shame and sorrow. (25:6-9) where creation sings because God saves (35:1-10); where there is rejoicing because God is known, where restitution is sure (60:1-22). There is more – too much for this letter so I want to take you to beginning of chapter 61, to the passage that Jesus takes and makes his own. You will know it. It begins: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news... (61:1-7). I think you could recite the rest. In every age, whether we be up or down, we have one task: to announce that the kingdom of God is at hand and then to live as citizens of that kingdom. When we do the world changes.

This is not to say we always get it right. Even in the kingdom, mid-course corrections are necessary. Sometimes the world invades, and we need to hear, again and afresh, the voice of Jesus over the clamour. We are at the beginning of a great change – a change in the way that we think, a change in the way that we understand ourselves as God's people. Right now, I suspect we need to explore things like the difference between charity and sharing our lives and our possessions, the difference between compassion and fellowship. Understanding these differences will change us. In terms of the kingdom, I suspect we are a bit like the Pharisees, almost there, but not quite. Maybe this is always the case and maybe we are always needing to make those little course corrections. Still, God is loving, and love is a tool that is as strong and as sturdy and as much at hand as any blacksmith's hammer. We can rely on it. We can lean on it. We can use it in the best sense of that word.

I want to leave you with a sentence from Isaiah today as a word of encouragement. *How beautiful on the mountain are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says: God reigns!*

This is the gospel, the good news of Jesus, may we live it always,
Gereldine

Security Reminder

Please be vigilant with all personal property whenever at Emmanuel Church or at The Meeting Place. This includes mobile phone, car and house keys, wallets and handbags. Unfortunately, an incident occurred on Saturday when three church windows were smashed and on Monday at Emmanuel where personal property was stolen from within the building from one of our members. Please be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious behaviour by anyone you do not recognise in the building and in the grounds.