



REACHING OUT

Sunday October 27, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

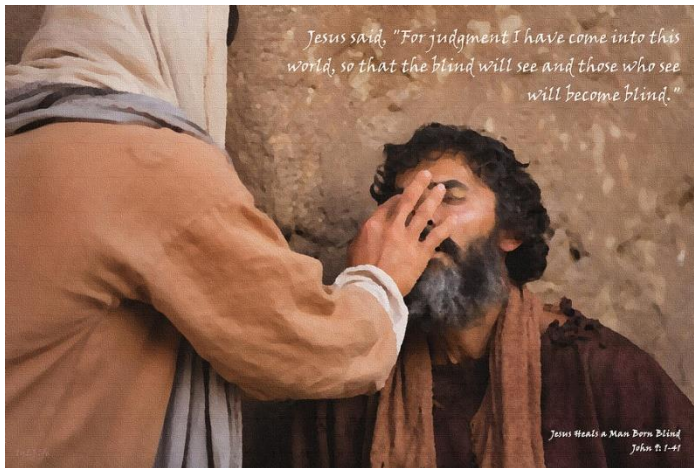
11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday October 27

Pentecost 23

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22); Hebrews 7: 23-28; Mark 10: 46-52

The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus



They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang

up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way

Mark 10:46-52

Bible Readings for Sunday November 3

Pentecost 24

Ruth 1: 1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 11-14; Mark 12: 28-34

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 congregation of **Corryong** Sunday October 27.

Coming Events

Sat October 26, 2:00 pm
Wed October 30, 8:30 am
10:30 am
Fri November 1, 9:30 am

Community Shop Fashion Parade
Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship
Craft Group

ACCEPTING THE REALITY OF WHAT IS

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Dear Lord, you have equipped us with your love, your forgiveness, courage and wisdom. As you have equipped us, so you have called us and given us an assignment to carry out. Lord Jesus, with that equipping and calling, you have also given us the free will to choose our response. And so, it is a decision we must intentionally make to answer the call in the affirmative or to reject you. Lord, sometimes your requests are hard, requiring the gift and grace of faith. But in reality, to reject your call is to reject you and, with your disciples, we can only respond, 'Lord, where can we go other than to you? Lord we Choose You!
Gratefully, we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

There is some inexplicable connection between suffering and joy. One of the greatest graces of this existence is that we can experience joy in the midst of suffering. We might not be able to experience happiness, but the lives of many of the Saints and early Christian martyrs demonstrate the fact that there can be moments of great joy in the midst of the worst suffering. Stephen, one of the early Christian martyrs exemplified this reality at the time of his execution to reveal that these two things are knit together in ways that we don't understand, but which are essential to our existence.

One could argue that tears are an appropriate response to the final acceptance of reality. It's the *acceptance* of what we cannot change that normally makes people cry: He's dead forever; I'm never getting well; the church I love has never been perfect. The part of us that can surrender to that reality is somehow bright. Remember, God is always present in reality *as it is*, not merely as it should be. When we meet people who can smile in the presence of sadness, there's a brightness about them—a clarity, a truth, and a freedom.

Most of those who have suffered hard and long, the great teachers, the great mystics have suffered and worked their way through it. They find that the suffering carves a space out in the heart. In that wide open space, it is possible to feel not only our individual pain but the pain of others and the pain of the world. In that space one is quick to tears. But in that space, one can also experience joy. Most often people who have really faced suffering and tragedy are the quickest to tears, but also the quickest to laughter, and the quickest to joy.

The act of solidarity somehow lessens the pain. We're able to say, "I choose to carry it with you." It's really an alchemy. It lives differently in our hearts. We don't love it, but we have the grace to tolerate it. Not with resistance, but with *yes!* That doesn't come in a moment. It comes with time and maturity.

With this brightness comes a new clarity. The light is illuminating it better. That's what sadness often offers us: a new clarity about the tragic sense of life. It's what Jesus had to accept on the cross—the utterly tragic sense of life. It's not inappropriate—it's clarifying, it's bright.

It's a gift of the Spirit.

SELAH

A BENEDICTION



May the Lord bless and keep you.

May he equip you for the battle and give you peace.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

October 27

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

November 3

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist: TBA

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

Canada, United States of America



Heceta Head Lighthouse on the Oregon Coast north of Florence in the United States, located at Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint. Built in 1894, the 56-foot tall lighthouse shines a beam visible for 21 nautical miles, making it the strongest light on the Oregon Coast. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for:

- the vast expanse of North America with its resources and varied landscapes; may they be preserved, enjoyed and used wisely
- those who are its original inhabitants – First Nations and Native Americans
- church-related organizations that strongly advocate for justice, and those that provide for new immigrants and refugees today, as well as for others who are poor and vulnerable
- ecumenical and interfaith engagements which are occurring in many communities that previously were mainly white and Christian.

We pray for:

- churches facing new challenges, that they may continue to witness boldly to the gospel in evolving multicultural, multireligious and secular contexts
- indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them
- new immigrants, that they will continue to be welcomed in these countries, and that policies will serve the common good
- effectively countering systemic greed that exploits communities and natural resources
- government leaders that they would advance justice, human rights, and peace for all within these countries and in the rest of the world

A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE



By Bill Pugh

While preaching by a stream, outside the city of Philippi, Paul met Lydia, a woman of considerable wealth and property, specialising in the sale of purple dyed garments.

As a believer in God, Paul's preaching touched her. He baptised Lydia and her household into the Christian faith.

Her home of considerable size became a centre for Christian mission where the apostles stayed on their journeys.

Free from having to seek employment to finance their work, Lydia's generosity enabled their mission to continue unhindered.

Reflection:

In today's world there is great need. Church budgets are overwhelmed. Our giving must increase if mission targets are to be met. There are people of means, like Lydia, out there who need to be challenged to give.

Lydia's conversion was a springboard for European Christianity and Christian outreach.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the history book of the Church, Luke records her story (Acts 16:11-15).

From there the word spread to many places.

An encounter with the Gospel by St Paul was the spark of mission.

Lydia's stewardship of her resources and generosity enabled the early missionaries to have a base on which to build.

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

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. Please be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious behaviour by anyone you do not recognise in the building and in the grounds.