



# REACHING OUT

Sunday September 1, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jefferies

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

## Bible Readings for Sunday September 1

Pentecost 15

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 and Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9; James 1: 17-27; Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### The Tradition of the Elders



Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also

many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me teaching human precepts as doctrines." You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.' Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

## Bible Readings for Sunday September 8

Pentecost 16

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7: 24-37

## 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 **Mooroopna** and **Mathoura**, commencing Sunday September 1.

# PRAISE : THE BUSINESS OF ETERNITY

Rev Leonie Findlay

## PRAYER

Father, we acknowledge you alone as God: supreme in your authority, limitless in your power, unswerving in your faithfulness. You are, blazing in your glory, unending in your mercy, dazzling in your beauty and unfathomable in your love .

We confess we have not praised you as we should have, for truly you are worthy. Enlarge our hearts and teach us to be better worshippers. Help, us Lord! Set our spirits free to adore you, to be 'a sweet, joyful sound in your ear.' Fill our hearts and mouths with praise and worship every day. Make our lives bastions of your glorious praise. In the name of Christ, we pray.

## AMEN

## SOME THOUGHTS

Praise is the business of eternity. Extravagant, passionate praise. Heaven is filled with the noise of our God's praises! But the earth is strangely quiet. The angels continuously declare Jesus' glory. King David boldly declared the works of God in the midst of God's people.

But the church has substituted silence for praise. Worship is sometimes more like a funeral than a festivity. What is praise?

Some ill-timed shout of Hallelujah? Emotions running out of control?

The mindless repetition of some catch phrase like 'praise the Lord?'

Biblical praise is both vocal and public in nature. It involves the affirmation of who God is, as well as what he has done. Silently, we might thank God for the specific things he has done in our lives. But only as we verbalise that to another person can it be said that God has truly been praised. The church gathered together, needs to become a place of celebrating God's wonder: sometimes prayer can become transactional. It can be approached in a way that appears to be understood as getting what one can out of God. It is no wonder, in such a community, people ask, 'what can I get out of worship'? Getting ready to arrive at church on time Sunday morning, coming in a Spirit of praise that springs from a life of praise and devotion, coming with a readiness to pour out our energy in praise are all issues that demand something from us.

In that we simply owe God a tithe of our emotions, our tears, our joy and our intellectual commitment. To save something of ourselves for God on Sunday is a volitional act that Satan will labour long and hard to subvert. God reminds us: 'I am your creator, Redeemer and Lord, and I delight in your worship'.

Praise is at once the most powerful tonic for the tired soul and the greatest therapy for a heavy spirit. Praise is the church's secret weapon against which the enemy has no defence, and before which his ranks fall into confusion and disarray. Praise douses doubts and waters faith at the same time.

## SELAH

## A BENEDICTION



Now may the Lord God Almighty, who alone is worthy of all adoration, so fill your actions, your words and your attitudes that in all things and at all times your life will be to the praise of his glory.

AMEN

## Coming Events

Tue September 3, 7:30pm	Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom
Wed September 4, 9:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship
Thursday September 5, 11:00 am	Funeral of Don Grant, at St. John's Anglican Church, Wodonga
Fri September 6, 9:30am	Craft Group

## Emmanuel Roster

### September 1

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

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

### September 8

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

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

## Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay  
0419 990 358  
[lfindlay03@bigpond.com](mailto:lfindlay03@bigpond.com)

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies  
02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069  
[stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:hcover@bigpond.com)  
or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 [stabb@inet.net.au](mailto:stabb@inet.net.au) by Wednesday.

## Prayer of the Week

### World Council of Churches

Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo



*Attoban area, near Dora Ville, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC*

#### We are thankful for

- the beauty, natural resources, wildlife and different cultures in these countries
- the produce that small farmers continue to grow amid environmental and other hardships
- the spiritual vitality and growth of the churches and how they are cooperating with each other and those of other faiths and practices
- the relative peace and stability that prevails after long years of civil war and political struggle.

#### We pray for:

- more democratic governments that are free of corruption and that prioritize what the people most need
- those working to alleviate the poverty, illiteracy and hunger that so many in these countries still experience
- churches faithfully bringing the gospel to, and serving, all people with greater respect for how those of other faiths express their spirituality
- emotional and physical healing, and restoring hope in people who are victims of conflict, disease and human rights abuses



# SOME FRUITS OF SOLITUDE

By Geoff Serpell

This was the title of a book penned by a Quaker, William Penn, who was born in 1644 in London.

He was a scholar at Oxford University, an English writer, religious thinker, and influential Quaker who founded the Province of Pennsylvania, in the USA.

Once prisoned in the Tower of London for his views, he had amicable relations and successful treaties with the Lenape Native Americans.

Quakers were relatively strict Christians in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, believing all men were equal under God.

He believed that the *“God who made the world did not dwell in temples made with hands”*.

## **Reflection:**

From his book, *‘Some fruits of Solitude’*, it suggests that we:

Think twice before speaking once, & you will speak twice as well.

Rarely promise, but always deliver.

Do good with what you have, or it will do you no good.

Love is the hardest lesson. For that reason, we should try hardest to learn it.

He supported the rights of the individual upon which modern democracies were later founded.

A man of deep religious conviction, he exhorted believers to the spirit of Primitive Christianity.

He wrote about how *“the Lord visited me and gave me divine impressions of Himself”*.

He received plenty of opposition to his writings as a Quaker from both the Catholic and the Anglican churches, however, he expressly confessed he believed in the Holy Three and the divinity of Christ.