



REACHING OUT

Sunday September 22, 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 September 22

Pentecost 18

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3: 13 - 4: 3, 7-8a; Mark 9: 30-37

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection



They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Who Is the Greatest?

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark 9: 30-37

Bible Readings for Sunday September 29

Pentecost 19

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10 & 9: 20-22; Psalm 124; James 5: 13-20; Mark 9: 38-50

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 **Bright** congregation beginning Sunday September 22.

Coming Events

Wed September 25, 8:30 am

10:30 am

Fri September 27, 9:30 am

Sun September 29, 10:30 am

Sat October 26, 2:00pm

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship

Craft Group

Congregation meeting following worship

Community Shop Fashion Parade

NOT FAREWELL BUT WELCOME

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord God, we thank you for the call to journey with you. Thank you for the familiar territory we have already traversed. We are grateful for those you chose to travel with us.

Lord, every day has its routines and challenges. There is always a day's march to be done.

New challenges to be faced. The temptation of reverting to a familiar, safe route and the impetus to try a new way is always with us. And so, it is with a sense of excitement and anticipation that we set off each day. Wondering what each new day will bring.

There may well be bruises and scrapes, an occasional fall. But a sense of purpose and shared adventure can then break-in and pervade our journey together. The new range of peaks beyond call us on. What could have frustrated us as a barrier seems to have a magnetism to draw us further.

There is enough in each day to reward us. Yet a sense that the journey has barely begun.

So much lies ahead- higher ranges, new companions on the way.

Others whose paths touch for a time and then diverge. Thank you, Lord.

You are the way, show us your way.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

In the book, Alice in Wonderland, Alice asks the Cheshire-Puss, 'Would you tell me please which way I should go from here?' 'This depends a good deal on where you want to get to', said the cat. 'I don't much care where from here.....', said Alice. 'Then it doesn't matter which way you go', said the cat.

Of course, those who we encounter and which way we go does matter. Who we encounter and how open we are to God along the way matters.

Journey is a common metaphor for living with purpose and with a destination implied.

In the lifelong pilgrimage which is the Spiritual life there is no 'holy moment' isolated from the rest. But growth and struggle, dark times and bright, sorrows and joys. It is a journey in which God is loving us toward wholeness, seeking to overcome the disunity within and between us.

It calls for growing self-discernment and discipline of lifestyle, for a covenantal relationship with God and a self-giving relationship with neighbour. It is not a journey we are encouraged to take alone but rather within a worshipping, serving, reflective and healing community.

The creative spiritual journey is really just growing in faith.

But like the development of a child's drawings, faith becomes progressively detailed and connected in form and force, more fluent and freer in its execution.

The nature of the spiritual journey very much depends on the traveller's stage of life.

To quote Carl Jung, 'we cannot live in the afternoon of life according to the programme of life's morning: for what in the morning was true, will at evening have become irrelevant. A person in the second half of life..... no longer needs to educate his conscious will, but experience his own inner being'.

SELAH

A BENEDICTION



May God, who created this world with its myriad paths and challenging crossroads, grant you His firm direction.

May the Son, who brings light to the darkest valley, heal your hurts and share your burdens.

May the Holy Spirit, who has always breathed life and hope where there is chaos and despair, renew you in soul and spirit for the day to come

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

September 22

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

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

September 29

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris
Reader: Jenny Mathieson
Prayers: Carol Harris
Early Word: Carol Harris

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

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.

Songs of Praise Worship

Cookinburra Church Community invites everyone to a 'Songs of Praise' service at 2:30 pm this coming Sunday, September 22. Sing favourite hymns and stay for afternoon tea. A small plate would be appreciated.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Carrying a child, a woman walks along a raised sidewalk in Islandia, a town in the Peruvian Amazon.

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth



We are thankful for

- the distinctive rhythms, music, dance, food and natural medicine in this area
- the beauty of the region, forests, mountains, rivers, lakes, and ocean coastlines, and especially indigenous peoples' relationship with, and care for, the natural environment
- churches who witness and work both ecumenically and with those of other faiths to build relationships of trust and commitment amid ongoing injustice and oppression
- the diversity of languages and cultures flourishing in the region despite disruptions that have occurred through colonization, and political and economic turmoil.

We pray for:

- Christians to have the courage, imagination and energy to build bridges of peace and understanding against conflict and division, and to pursue justice for the poor, marginalized and dispossessed
- an end of corruption in all levels of the society, including economic exploitation which impoverishes and hinders economic growth from benefitting all.
- immigrants and refugees seeking a new home, and those who accompany and support them
- coca farmers to find sustainable incomes from other crops, for an end to drug trafficking, and effective assistance for those who are addicted.

Don't Forget!

Congregation meeting next Sunday – Sept 29

Follows worship. Get your cup of tea/coffee and we'll gather in Room 1 for our quarterly meeting.



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LISTENING AND HEARING

By Bill Pugh



"Did you hear what I said?" Are you really listening to me?" How often do parents and teachers use those words.

Making sure the message has really been heard and understood. In the Book of Revelation John writes letters to seven churches with important pastoral advice.

He ends each letter with the same conclusion: *"Let anyone who has an ear, listen to what the spirit is saying to the churches."*

The messages address special challenges for each Christian community and need action.

Because the Spirit is speaking, they are not mere words which go in one ear and out the other.

Reflection:

In the service today, many words have been read, spoken and sung. Somewhere there will be a Spirit message for you, and your Church, to hear and act upon.

For example, in writing to Laodicea, a community which has everything except a cold water supply, because water is piped to each home from hot springs and is lukewarm when it arrives.

Which makes the domestic supply unpalatable. The Spirit warns the Church not to be lukewarm in witness if it is to be effective.

Each of the seven letters has a strong message which applies now as well as then.

They challenge our most attentive reading and listening skills because the Spirit has a message for each of us today

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