



# REACHING OUT

Sunday September 29, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

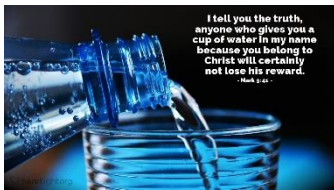
No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

## Bible Readings for Sunday September 29

### Pentecost 19

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9: and Psalm 124; Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

### Another Exorcist



John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of

Christ will by no means lose the reward.

### Temptations to Sin

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell., And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Mark 9:38-50

## Bible Readings for Sunday October 6

### Pentecost 20

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

## 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 **Seymour and Avenel** Sunday September 29.

### Coming Events

Wed October 2, 8:30 am  
10:30 am

Fri October 4, 9:30 am

Tue October 8, 7:30pm

Sat October 26, 2:00pm

Grounds and Maintenance  
Morning Tea and Fellowship

Craft Group

Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom

Community Shop Fashion Parade

# HOPE

## Rev Leonie Findlay

### PRAYER

God of hope, we confess that we have fallen prey to false hopes.

Hopes of success, prestige, influence: we have invested ourselves emotionally in them only to be disappointed.

We pray for those we see deceived by the illusions of false hope: led by false shepherds, political and psychological messiahs who promise much but deliver little.

We praise and thank you for our true hope, a sure and certain hope in your Son, and pray that each morning we might rise ready to live each day in the light of the last day.

Help us not to be nostalgic for the past nor possessive of the present, but to hold each day open to the future heritage of your kingdom.

**AMEN**

### SOME THOUGHTS

Every day we are made promises. Advertisers promise us cheap peace, translating our wants into needs. A trouble-free existence is ours at a price.

Some preachers promise serenity without strife, tranquillity without turmoil, resurrection without gethsemane or calvary.

Jesus said there is no life except through death. The primal sin of Adam and Eve was to try to get knowledge without working for it, to arrive without the pain of the journey to attain instant godliness.

Much of our life's journey is through uncharted and unfamiliar waters. During such times we are encouraged by the words of the Lord found in, 'When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you.' Says the Lord, 'Your troubles will not overwhelm you..... For I am the Lord your God, who saves you.' (Isaiah 43:2-3)

God is good... he who gives us our lives not only rules over us but loves us. He is for us and not against us. Out of that realisation comes the ability to receive the events of life with gratitude, not resentment and to regard them as expressions of mysterious love rather than acts of hostility.

It is amazing the difference a stance of gratitude can make in the way we cope with difficulty. If we begin to look on things that happen to us as good gifts from the father, then even the problems take on a different shape.

Instead of seeing them as hopeless obstacles to our happiness, we come to see them as the challenges that give life its meaning and excitement.

What would our existence be like, really, if no effort were ever called for or no challenges ever posed?

Such a levelled-off-existence would be intolerably boring.

Problems cease to be overwhelming when we see them as something to be received in gratitude.

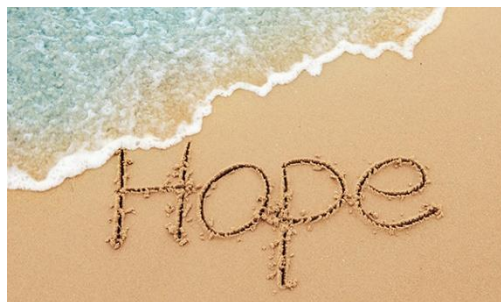
Just as it is the nature of the tide to flow in and to draw out again, so it is the nature of the Father not only to reach out in love but also to draw all things to Himself.

The Father is the source and fountain of all. He shares that life with the Son and the Spirit with mankind in a communion in which what comes forth from Him is meant to return to Him.

The Father presents himself as love, openness, self-offering, invitation, sharing in a way to which every person has the capacity to respond and to find in him his ultimate goal.

**SELAH**

### THE BLESSING



Lord, may we live in faith, walk in hope, and be renewed in love.

Until the whole world reflects your glory,

And you are all in all.

Even so, come Lord Jesus

**AMEN**

## Emmanuel Roster

### September 29

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

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

### October 6

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

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey  
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck  
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

Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela



*Indigenous children who live on the contested Hacienda El Prado, near Cayambe, Ecuador, pray during an activity led by a United Methodist missionary. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth*

#### We are thankful for

- the beauty in these countries, including in their people and cultural traditions
- persistent, patient, prophetic work of churches and ecumenical and other organizations, to establish peace with justice throughout the region, especially in Colombia
- resistance to past colonization, and to practices of today that prioritize economic ideologies over the needs of the people
- efforts by churches and people of goodwill for inclusive and respectful relations in society and government.

#### We pray for:

- the continued pursuit of peace in Colombia, the fulfilment of agreements reached, the reintegration of insurgents into society, broad and inclusive dialogue for justice, and fair compensation of those victimized by conflict
- the strengthening of democratically elected governments in the region, without pressure from outside interests
- greater respect for the human rights of all, especially vulnerable populations and those who work for the wellbeing of others and of the environment
- an end to the corruption in these societies, and to unsustainable exploitation of their resources.

# ON TAPS AND ABUNDANCE

By Ian Menzies



Turn on a tap, and mostly we would simply assume clean, potable water will flow.

How often do we really consider the engineering behind the creation of that tap, or the huge but largely hidden network of pipes, filters, pumps and dams bringing that liquid gold to our fingertips?

The catchment forests, mountain streams rising from mere trickles and the pure rainfalls that swell them?

Or even the complexities of the desalination and other plants that increasingly add to our often taken-for-granted water supplies?

## *Reflection:*

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Then, after taking our relatively tiny sip, much of this water is in turn whisked away through another network of drains, pumps and treatments.

And all of this is usually just assumed, day after day, until possibly something goes wrong or some vision of how things are for less fortunate elsewhere forces a rethink.

It is good to stop, consider and acknowledge the many things we often take for granted.

To notice, appreciate and give thanks for the astounding dance of life that flows so abundantly around us throughout the majesty of God's creation.

**Henry Williams Baker, 1821-77, based on Psalm 23**

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by freepik.com | September 2024