



REACHING OUT

Sunday February 4, 2024

9:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jefferies

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday February 4

Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40: 21-31; Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House



As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Mark 1:29-39

Bible Readings for Sunday February 11

Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Rev Leonie

I had a lovely visit with Leonie on Tuesday afternoon. She has now settled in at the rehabilitation unit at Wodonga Hospital and her program of therapy has begun. She is so much brighter and responsive than when I saw her on January 19. Her improvement since then is remarkable and what joy and thanks that brings. Tuesday she and I visited for awhile as she was having her evening meal. As she said to me, having a visit is enjoyable, but is tiring. However, she would enjoy visits, but of course she has therapy sessions both morning and afternoon and those tire her as well. Ross has asked that should you wish to visit her please contact him first. His number is 0421 610 580. He will be able to suggest a time that would be best for her. We continue to remember her in prayer as we do others who are unwell, and indeed, each other – the fighting fit and otherwise.

Passing of Margaret Sandilands

Margaret and Peter Sandilands were part of Emmanuel for several years prior to moving to Townsville in around 2016. Peter was in the Army here and the family was active in the Bandiana Primary School community where her children attended and both Roger and I taught. Her connecting with others with interest and pastoral care was greatly valued by the school community. That skill was shared with many at Emmanuel and so appreciated. Margaret did wonderful things with flowers and also participated in the life and work of the Community Shop. Peter's logistical prowess was much welcomed when Fete time approached. A card was signed this past Sunday by some who knew and remembered her well. We give thanks for her faithful service and extend our sympathy to Peter and the family. Margaret died in care on January 24, 2023 in Townsville.

Her service at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Townsville, will be livestreamed at

<https://www.morleys.net.au/client.html?nid=a2c34def-7e17-48aa-a621-1f0253483174>

at 3:00 pm (Melbourne time) at the link above. The link can also be found at the website of Mourley's Funeral Home, Townsville, where full notice and a tribute page is available.

<https://www.morleys.net.au/tribute-centre.html>

PRAYER - THE PROPHETIC GIFT

Rev Leonie Findlay

(published January 29, 2023)

PRAYER

God, give us courage to live and work for a new heaven and new earth as Jesus did.

Give us the freedom to speak out when we see evil and to offer praises when we see that which is good.

God, most of all, make us faithful to the vision you have given to each of us.

By living faithfully, Lord, may we demonstrate your all-renewing love to whomever we meet and through whatever we do.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

As our lives become more prayerful we not only gain a deeper insight into ourselves and our neighbours, but we also develop a better feeling for the pulse of the world in which we live.

If we are really earnest in prayer, we cannot avoid having critical questions about the great problems with which the world is grappling.

At some point our thoughts seem inadequate and the situation requires a prophetic witness by those of us who have the opportunity to speak out.

Facing such challenges, we realise that there can be no change without action.

The Christian witness is a critical witness at such times because the Christian professes that the Lord will come again and make all things new.

God calls for radical changes, a new way of being human and a new peace.

Critical prophets are those who attract others by their inner power.

Such people listen intently, speak with a self-possessed authority and a vision that guides their lives to which they are obedient. Such people do not live to maintain the status quo but work for a new world.

Prayer is a prophetic experience. It requires being constantly ready to let go of certainty and to move beyond where we presently are. It demands that we leave our places of comfort and take to the road again and again always looking forward to a new land and a new way of passing on the message God has given us to share.

Prayer demands self-sacrifice, that is, the readiness to live a life in which we hold our possession lightly. Always being ready to begin afresh.

Living in such a way we become vulnerable. But we also experience a freedom to see the world and let the world show itself in its true form.

Such vulnerability demands courage.

If we accept the challenge of a prayerful life, we could become fearful facing the risks and possible consequences involved. In these times it is vital to remember that courage is also a gift from God for which we can pray.

BENEDICTION

How can we claim our call to renew our world in the name of Jesus?

How can we make a difference in our world?

Are we prepared and willing to fulfill our role as agents of change being children of God?

AMEN



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 **Cobram and Katamatite** commencing Sunday February 4.

Lectionary Comment – Mark 1:29-39

Mark has begun to tell us of a day, a sabbath, early in Jesus' ministry spent at Capernaum. In the synagogue, Jesus has taught "as one having authority" (v. 22) beyond knowledge of the scriptures; he has healed a man possessed by evil – simply by commanding the evil force to leave him.

Now, with the four disciples he has called so far, he heals the mother of Peter's wife. That she serves them shows that she is completely and immediately cured (v. 31). Note that Jesus "took her by the hand": no respected religious leader would do so, especially not on the Sabbath. Was she so seriously ill that Jesus could not wait a few hours to heal her until the Sabbath ended, thus avoiding controversy as to whether this healing could be done on the Sabbath? Mark doesn't tell us of any.

Then, after the Sabbath, at the start of the next Jewish day ("that evening", v. 32), many who are in like condition to the man in the synagogue (mentally ill) and to Peter's mother-in-law (physically ill) are brought to him. Many gather around the doorway ("door", v. 33) of the house to see his miracles. The evil forces recognize his power over them but he intends to show himself as God's agent later, so he does not "permit the demons to speak" (v. 34). Jesus then withdraws to be alone to commune with God (v. 35). Perhaps Peter and the others see him as missing an opportunity to heal, but Jesus insists that his mission extends beyond Capernaum (v. 38). He travels throughout the region, proclaiming the good news to Jews who meet for worship and study, and overcoming evil forces in people (v. 39).

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

February 4

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: Jenny Mathieson

Prayers: Carol Harris

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey

Usher: Ted Stabb

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

February 11

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris

Reader: Karen Robinson

Prayers: David Robinson

Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Ted Stabb

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

Coming Events

Tue February 6, 730pm	Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom
Wed February 7, 8:30 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Sun February 25, 10:30am	Emmanuel Congregation AGM after Worship

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay
(currently unavailable)

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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

AGM of Emmanuel Congregation



Church Committees

The Annual General Meeting of the Emmanuel Church will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2024, commencing at 10:30am after worship. The AGM Report is now being prepared and reports from respective coordinators of church activities are now being accepted. **Reports can be submitted to Harold Cover by Monday February 12** (hcover@bigpond.com) to allow time to complete editing and publishing prior to the AGM. Nominations will be called for in coming weeks for Member of Church Council, Treasurer, Uniting Church Elder and Uniting Church representative to Presbytery. Please give prayerful consideration to an invitation to be nominated.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebration at the Anglican Centre in Rome.
Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

We are thankful for:

- the rich historical legacies and distinctive cultures in these countries.
- the faithful witness of the churches in the midst of empire building and colonization
- the many and diverse waves of migrants who have come to these lands.
- the hospitality that long has been shown to those arriving on their shores.

We pray for:

- the preservation of the fragile environments and shorelines in this region.
- an end to economic and political turmoil.
- stable governments that end corruption and serve the common good.
- policies that relieve disparities between those who are rich and poor.



Tradewind Tea and Coffee

The organisation strives to provide growers with a fair return for their produce and Emmanuel has supported it for many years. If you would like to order, please go to the website above and choose your products. Alternatively, I can assist you with the website.



Tradewind's website: <https://www.tradewinds.org.au/>

Tradewind Products: <https://www.tradewinds.org.au/page/shop-all/> Go to this page to make your selection.

I will order on behalf of everyone and we get a discount in products and postage if the total order is more than \$150. Payment is not required until delivery.

Carolyn Renfrey. cmrenfrey@gmail.com