



REACHING OUT

Sunday November 26, 2023

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

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday November 26

Christ The King

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Matthew 25: 31-46

The Judgement of the Nations



‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

Matthew 25: 31-46

Bible Readings for Sunday Dec 3

Advent 1

Isiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80: 1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13:24-37

LIVING IN THE PRESENT MOMENT

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for the opportunities that each new day brings.

As life proceeds, we find that the events of, and decisions made in the past often dominate our present and even shape our future.

Lord, grant us the wisdom to live in the moment, with faith and courage.

To realise that the past is past and the future is yet to come.

Lord, help us to appreciate and treasure the present moment which is all we have.

Forgive us Lord, for living our lives with the burden of guilt and regret, related to past disappointments, poor choices and perceived failure.

Lord, help us to realise that whether it be the past, present or future you are with us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

A NEW BEGINNING

Increasingly it is important that we learn to live each moment as a new beginning and a unique opportunity to create something new.

The problem is that we allow our past, to colour the present and influence our future.

If we pay ongoing attention to what was, the past becomes an unreliable reality cutting across the possibilities of the present.

This being the case we fail to hear the **God-with-us** whose word to us is:

'I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. There will be no more death, mourning or sadness.

The world of the past has gone." (Rev 21:2-5)

While our resolve may be to live in the moment, the realisation of such a resolve is fraught with challenges. So many things have happened in our lives about which we feel uneasy, regretful, angry, confused or at least ambivalent.

The 'oughts' and 'what ifs' pull us backwards into the unalterable past and forward into the unpredictable future.

God is a God of the NOW, always present in the moment, be that moment challenging or easy, joyful or painful.

God is always where and when we are.

Prayer is the discipline of the moment. When we pray we enter into the presence of God whose name is **God-with-us**. To pray is to listen attentively to the One who addresses us here and now. To dare to trust that ever present, caring and guiding God, is to detach ourselves from the negative voices of past guilt and anxiety, to live in the freedom of the present moment.

When we cease to pray and in so doing fail to listen to the voice of love that speaks to us in the moment, then we are thrown back and forth between the past and the present.

When our lives become restless we lose the desire to meet with God in His Holy place, a place more precious than any other. In this place we can know an intimacy with and be nurtured by the God of the past, future and most importantly the present.

SELAH

BENEDICTION



God is not someone who was or will be, but the one who is for us in the NOW.
The present moment.

AMEN

Refugee Support

It would be wonderful if we could have a generous gift to pass on to Grace Mukozi before Christmas, to assist those from her original community now refugees in Uganda. Please place your donations in an envelope at the back of the church on Sunday mornings or in a direct deposit to the church account – details being: BSB 033-264, account 960276, account name Emmanuel Congregation. Just note 'Grace' or 'refugee support'. Every bit we can give will help to make their lives safer and better. Thank you, everyone, for your giving, for this, and for the general work of our church. LouAnne

Lectionary Comment – Matthew 25: 14-30

Vv. 14-30 are the Parable of the Talents. Jesus has used it to stress the importance of fidelity to him and his mission while he is away. Here Jesus tells us the kind of conduct, of morality, towards others expected of the faithful – and the consequences of not caring for others. Sheep and goats behave differently but in Palestine they were fed together. At the end of the era, when Christ comes again, he will act for the Father (“sit on ... [his] throne”, v. 31). He will separate the “sheep” (v. 32) from the “goats”, assigning the former to a place of honour (“at his right hand”, v. 33) and the latter to dishonour. He, as “king” (v. 34) will invite the godly (or faithful), those whom the Father has pre-ordained for this, to live with him (“the kingdom”), a state that existed before creation (“from the foundation of the world”). Why? Because the godly have fulfilled God’s expectation: in reaching out to the disadvantaged they have, in fact, been reaching out to him (v. 40). We are all part of his family. But the “goats”, those who have ignored the needy, will be permanently separated from God, be unhappy, and be punished, for they have failed to see Christ in people. The “righteous” (v. 46) are the faithful, the godly, those who understand that to serve humanity is to serve Christ – and do so.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Praying For One Another 2023

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 **Bright**, commencing Sunday November 26.

Emmanuel Roster

November 26

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: David Robinson

Prayers: LouAnne Stabb

Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey

Usher: David Robinson

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

December 3

Elder on Duty: David Robinson

Reader: Rod Clutterbuck

Prayers: Carol Harris

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Rod Clutterbuck

Pianist: 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 Sagers 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.

Coming Events

Wed November 29 8:30am
10:30am
Fri December 1 9:30am
5:00pm

Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Craft Goup at Emmanuel
St. Stephen's Wodonga Market - Plants wanted for stall

A TIME TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE COMING OF JESUS... ..



CELEBRATE THE SEASON & MAKE ROOM FOR GOD

**Come to EMMANUEL CHURCH,
39 Emerald Ave,
West Wodonga**

On Sunday December 3rd at 5.00pm.

Worship, singing and creativity for the whole family.
Get to know others that worship in the different spaces each week.
This will be followed by sharing in a provided picnic BBQ in the grounds.

ALL WELCOME

The advent event has been sponsored and organised by members of Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church, St John's Anglican Church, St Stephen's Uniting Church and Kergunyah Uniting Church.

Reign of Christ Sunday



The Christmas Bowl of Remembrance

Today is the first Sunday of the 2023 Christmas Bowl. Since it was founded by Rev. Frank Byatt in 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world, to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Thank you for joining once again with churches across Australia
as we share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

More information here: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

Donate here: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/donate>