



REACHING OUT

Sunday October 1, 2023

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jeffries

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday October 1

Pentecost 18

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned



When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us,

"Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21: 23-32

Bible Readings for Sunday October 8

Pentecost 19

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21: 33-46

COME TO ME: LORD I AM COMING

Rev Leonie Findlay

ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

Speak Lord for your servant is listening.

Incline my heart to your words and let your speech come upon me as dew upon the grass.

Speak to me, to comfort my soul and to change my whole life, in turn may I give you praise and glory and honour forever and ever.

AMEN (Thomas a Kempis)

PRAYER

Every present Creator God, we come expectantly to you, knowing that you delight in meeting with us.

We come with all our doubts and fears confident that you understand.

Loving and sustaining God, the world around us is changing quickly and the future seems uncertain. Our hearts are troubled, and we feel very confused. Please speak to us and be patient with us as we try hard to listen.

Forgive us for our past negligence and help us to be faithful in prayer, and obedient in service.

God, we know that you are with us whatever life holds and especially in this moment.

We ask that you surround us with the abundance of your love compassion and protection.

AMEN

WORDS OF ASSURANCE.

God's deep heart is like a well of infinite love flowing towards all creation in living waters of grace.

There is no wilderness in life which is out of bounds for God. In Christ, we are forever joined together in his abundant love.

Thanks be to God.

SOME THOUGHTS

Reading Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me all who are weary, anxious and burdened and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.

And you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light "

What do we do when life throws, fears and difficulties our way?

Perhaps the question should be 'where do we go when life challenges us?'

Most of the time we go to family and friends seeking answers.

However, answers are frequently difficult to find, and we are left with greater confusion and pain.

God's ways are not necessarily our ways and we are more than often left with ultimate mystery.

Yet God's invitation to come to him remains.

Come, to converse with him, to lay our burdens upon him and he will give us rest and peace.

All we need is to stand firm, believing that ultimately God will walk with us and sustain us in the midst of the challenges before us.

Prayer takes us beyond ordinary thinking. It moves and brings us home to the intimacy of the heart, where we find God.

Prayer brings hope, possibility, and comfort. It brings vital insight.

A life of prayer often begins with a longing for help or answers to our situation.

Prayer is in itself an answer, in all its dimensions. It gathers us in when we feel scattered.

It quietens our troubled minds and nurtures our soul.

"Come to me' Lord I am coming! God has given us the capacity for self-reflection. As a child of God, we are called to review who we are and who we want to be. What God has given us is not to be regarded as a static endowment. Our character can be refined. Our behaviours changed. Our convictions matured.

We are always able to be different, by God's grace and for His glory.

SELAH

BENEDICTION

Go in peace and may you be held in the hollow of God's hand for healing and comfort.

May you be surrounded each day by the presence of God's love and covered by the warmth of the Spirit.

AMEN

Lectionary Comment – Matthew 21: 23-32

In the final week of his earthly life, Jesus has just shown the importance of faith in understanding God's ways. Now, as he teaches in the Temple, representatives of the Sanhedrin ("chief priests and the elders") ask who has given him the power and "authority" to do all that he has done in his ministry. But he will only answer them if they first answer his question (v. 25), one which will show whether they have the requisite faith to understand his answer. His questioners are skilled in the Law, but it is of little help in deciding whether a prophet (in this case John the Baptist) is genuinely from God. If they say that John was from God, they should have repented as he urged; if they say he was not, they will lose face and status with the many who have come to Jesus (v. 26). The Sanhedrin judged such issues, so their answer (v. 27) shows their incompetence. Jesus tells them a parable about admission to the kingdom (vv. 28-30). People known for their evil ways ("tax collectors ...", v. 31) have turned to God (like the first son), while the authorities, (like the second son), have observed the rules (note "sir", v. 30) but have not acted on them. But they can still come to faith; even if they do, people considered to be disreputable will enter the Kingdom "ahead of you" (v. 31).

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Praying For One Another 2023

In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.

Many Congregations are in the habit of deliberately praying 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. We invite our congregations to pray whenever they meet.

For the Uniting Church in the Presbytery of North East Victoria, this week we pray for the congregations of **Waranga Cluster, (Murchison, Rushworth, Colbinabbin, and Tatura)** commencing Sunday October 1.

Emmanuel Roster

October 1

Elder on Duty: David Robinson
Reader: Carol Clutterbuck
Prayers: Karen Robinson
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

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

October 8

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

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey
Usher: Ted Stabb
Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

Coming Events

Wed October 4 9:00am

10:30am

Fri October 6 9:30am

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel

Craft Goup at Emmanuel

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.

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



UNITING FOR THE VOICE IN PRAYER

JOIN 14 DAYS OF PRAYER AHEAD OF THE REFERENDUM ON 14 OCTOBER AND GATHER TOGETHER IN PRAYER FOR A REFERENDUM EVE VIGIL THE DAY BEFORE WE VOTE

As referendum day approaches, the UCA Assembly is organising 14 Days of Prayer reflecting on the significance and possibility that a national vote on a Voice to Parliament will bring. This will be an opportunity to hold one another in prayer over this time, especially our First Nation siblings, and to be reminded that Christ walks with us in our ache for justice, now and in the days ahead.

These prayers will come from across the country, reflecting the diversity of the Uniting Church. We will hear from First Peoples, key leaders, young people, and CALD leaders praying in language.

Visit the Website [14 days of prayer for the Voice – Uniting Church Australia](#) to sign up for the daily prayers to be sent to your e-mail inbox and further information about the ‘Voice’ and the ‘Vigil’. The prayers **will start 29 September and finish 13 October with a national Referendum Eve Vigil.**