



# REACHING OUT

Sunday October 15, 2023

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Rev Christine Page and Rev Peter McKeague

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

## Bible Readings for Sunday October 15

Pentecost 20

Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14

### The Parable of the Wedding Banquet



Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the

wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

**Matthew 22: 1-14**

## Bible Readings for Sunday October 22

Pentecost 21

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

## 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 congregation **Emmanuel West Wodonga and Kergunyah** commencing Sunday October 15.

# THE HAZARDOUS JOURNEY

Rev Leonie Findlay

## PRAYER

Lord, the journeying is fun sometimes, but at other times we are exhausted and discouraged.

The way you do things is mysterious. Sometimes you seem patient and forgiving.

Lord, we need to change. But we need more than just a surface change.

So please reach into the depths of our being, to cleanse, reorientate and transform with your healing hand. Lord, unless you give us light, we will never know who we are.

So please help to find more unity between our conscious and unconscious minds.

So that, with your help, we may find wholeness and direction for the journey ahead.

Lord, thank you for journeying with us. Please lead on.

**AMEN**

## SOME THOUGHTS.

There is an inaccurate view of Christian guidance concerning the nature of the God centred life. This is best expressed by Alexander Pope in his book, "**The road not taken**" which concludes:

**"So I wove my way through life, thankful for God's goodness, trying to be loving, avoiding nasty things, and knowing God is achieving his purposes. I look back now and feel God would not have been impressed by this loyalty which avoided taking my responsibilities and sinfulness more seriously. "**

But it was a case of, **"give as much of yourself that you know, to as much of God that you know. "**

The fact is that to know God, is to learn about God as we abide in Him.

We can never **KNOW** God, but we can experience the hand of God in our lives as we continue to **ABIDE IN HIM**, reorienting our attitudes while trying to be open.

Choices must be made on a daily basis. Such choices will lead us on new paths, on which we may need to face old hurts, questions, and consequences of past decisions.

Such a process will call us to seek God's support. The psalmist in Psalm 34 needs such support **"I need your helping hand again, O Lord, for I feel thrown down, not able to rise.....Lead on Lord."**

Because we are human, we will fall. Because we have been redeemed, we are able to rise again.

To listen with our minds, already made up is an empty gesture. Only when we allow the voice of God to release our inner freedom from the bonds of pride and wilfulness that enslave us, can we discover the purpose for which we alone were made.

Self -knowledge is ruled out for most people by the increasingly effective self- deception they practice as they grow older. By middle age, most of us are accomplished fugitives from ourselves.

In middle and later life after the heat of the struggle to succeed is over, we struggle to let go and rest.

We struggle to become servants of God, inspiring others by our relaxed and joyful incarnations of Christ. However, the testing experience of falling and ultimately failing, will lead us to a deep and wonderful knowledge of the consistency of God's love, which neither can nor will be broken because of sin. To know this is of great profit.

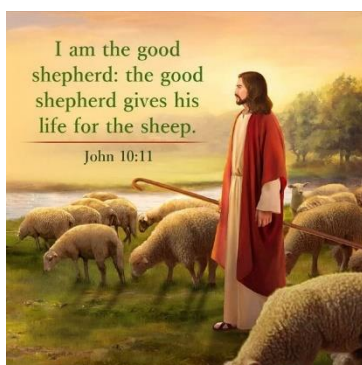
**SELAH**

## BENEDICTION.

I, the Lord, will be the shepherd of my sheep. I will seek them out.

I will watch over and feed them with justice, love, and grace.

**AMEN**



## Lectionary Comment – Matthew 22: 1-14

This is the third parable about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus' audience would naturally associate a festive meal with the celebration of God's people at the end of time. This story has elements of harshness and tragedy; some responses seem disproportionate to the crime. It was the custom for the host to send "his slaves" (v. 3) to invite the guests, and again to tell them when dinner was ready; preparing a banquet took many hours. To refuse to come, to refuse a king's command, is treason; to kill his slaves (v. 6) amounts to insurrection, so the king sends troops to put down the rebellion. After those whom the king had chosen refuse to come, he invites all people, "both good and bad" (v. 10). (In Jesus' day tax collectors were considered "bad".) One guest is ill-prepared for the banquet (v. 11); the king banishes him to torment.

We recognize the king as God. The first guests are those who are hostile to Jesus; the one without the wedding robe represents those who do not count the cost in becoming disciples. The judgement on anyone who does not prepare will be at least as severe as that on those who reject Christ. The final verse is the moral of the story – a generalization of Jesus' intent in telling the parable.

*Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton*

## Emmanuel Roster

### October 15

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: Carol Harris

Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck

Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Rod Clutterbuck

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

### October 22

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris

Reader: LouAnne Stabb

Prayers: Karen Robinson

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Ted Stabb

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

## Coming Events

Wed October 18 9:00am

9:30am

10:30am

Fri October 20 9:30am

Sun October 29 10:30am

Grounds and Maintenance

Community Shop Meeting at Emmanuel

Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel

Craft Goup at Emmanuel

Quarterly Congregation Meeting after Worship at Emmanuel

## 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@iinet.net.au](mailto:stabb@iinet.net.au) by Wednesday.

## Your Weekly Offering



If you wish to use direct deposit for your offering, account details are: BSB 033-264, account 960276, account name Emmanuel Congregation. Thank you, everyone, for your giving. LouAnne.

## From Grace

Grace Mukozi hopes to be with us this Sunday to tell us about the work that our recent gifts provided. Here are some photos that she sent us.



Original roof



Working on the roof



The finished roof.

We will continue to support her work with offerings in the envelopes provided at church or by direct deposit into the church account (details above), noting 'refugee support' on the envelope or deposit. It would be great if we could have another contribution by Christmas time.

# PEACE AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME

By Geoff Serpell

The tower in London, now called Elizabeth Tower, was built in 1859, and is 96 metres tall. It houses the great clock of Westminster and the bell called Big Ben.

The clock has seen many changes down through the years, like the underground tube railways, and the change from street gaslights to electricity.

Horses have given way to motorised transport. Accurate time has been kept and, during World War II, during the nightly air raids, the chiming bell was recorded via radio into homes throughout the United Kingdom at 9pm each evening.

It was a call to stop and have a silent minute to reflect on the hope of peace, which came in 1945.

### Reflection:

We all have a need for peace in our lives and so can we just stop and reflect for maybe a minute each day to give praise for what we have and ponder in the hope of achieving peace in our relationships with others and in the world around us.

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by freepik.com | October 2023