



# REACHING OUT

Sunday October 22, 2023

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

*Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay*

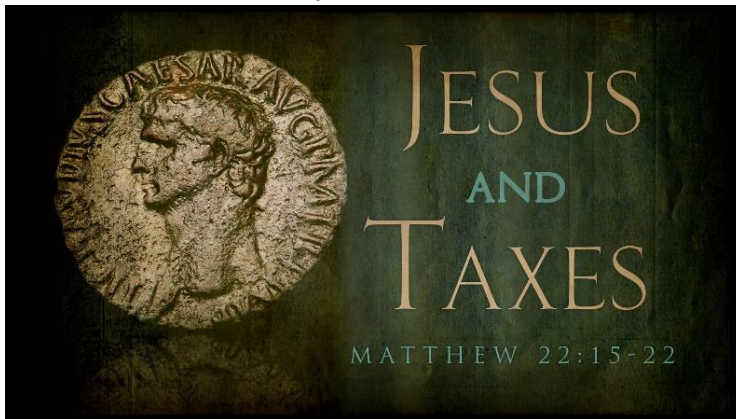
11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

## Bible Readings for Sunday October 22

Pentecost 21

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

### The Question about Paying Taxes



Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,

'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

**Matthew 22:15-22**

## Bible Readings for Sunday October 29

Pentecost 22

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46

## 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 **Seymour and Avenel** commencing Sunday October 22.

## Vale Rev Lance Armstrong

We are saddened to learn of the passing of the passing of Rev Lance Armstrong, at age 83. Lance was ordained in 1971 and died on 14 October 2023. Lance was in ministry in St Kilda, Tasmanian Division of Christian Education, Pilgrim Launceston, and St David's Albury. Lance will be fondly remembered for his leading worship at Emmanuel some years ago. He was the Greens member for the House of Assembly in the Tasmanian parliament from 1989 to 1996. He was a colleague of Bob Brown in those days. Details of funeral arrangements to be advised.

# THE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND PURPOSE

Rev Leonie Findlay

## PRAYER

Lord, when you created man, you created him in your image.

However, the beauty of your creation was marred and your divine purpose for humankind was compromised when sin entered the world.

Creator God, even to this day we search for meaning and purpose in our lives, only to realise that without you there is none. With you Lord, everything has meaning and in anything there is purpose.

While we may not have eyes to see the invisible threads connecting all we do with the fabric of the whole of life, Lord, we thank you that we are part of the whole.

**AMEN**

## SOME THOUGHTS.

Far too often in the complexity and pressure of life we lose sight of the meaning and purpose of our very existence. What and why am I doing what I am doing?

What is the meaning and value of my life? Where to from here?

These are all questions that plague many. Especially in the changing and challenging times in which we live.

The reality is that few activities have purpose in themselves. In most cases their meaning depends on what the participants invest in them.

The gardener gratefully plunges his or hands into the soil amazed and delighted by the crop of flowers or vegetables that emerge seemingly out of nowhere. Nothing seems so meaningful as nurturing life in any form.

Being present for another person can never be regarded as a meaningless activity. Realising that an individual is able to discover meaning and purpose in their life is like discovering

the secret of life itself.

So many are on a quest for meaning yet have no idea where to look or for what they are looking.

Often the act of doing what is asked or demanded of us out of necessity, with an open heart, is actually a living prayer.

In place of days that are meaningless and lacking in purpose, God grants the grace of wonder.

Instead of rising each day in a cloud of disillusionment and despair the gift of wonder lifts us into the experience of awe. How can anything be as perfect as a rose in full bloom?

To the open mind and heart stars cease to be stars and for a moment become diamonds glittering in the night sky.

Where is the meaning and purpose in this, one might ask?

Until our eyes are opened to the wonder and beauty of all that surrounds us, the ultimate meaning could well be lost.

Surrounded by the beauty and majesty of the divine creation, our frantic search for meaning and purpose expands in the wonder of the realization that instead of mere observers, we are one with and significant in the universe around us. Instead of an endless search for purpose, our lives become a mystery filled with meaning.

**SELAH**

## BENEDICTION



In the hands of the creator everything has meaning and everyone has purpose.

As we are connected to the whole fabric of life, so it is connected back to us.

**AMEN**

## Lectionary Comment – Matthew 22:15-22

Back in 21:23, as Jesus was teaching in the Temple, Jewish officials questioned his authority to do “these things”, all he has done in his earthly ministry. Jesus declined to answer the question, for the answer could only be understood by those with faith. Just before our reading, we find the parable of the Wedding Feast, which the Pharisees saw as an attack on them.

Now followers of the “Pharisees” (v. 15) and “Herodians” (v. 16, people who supported Herod, the Roman puppet king, and his successors) – united only in their desire to get rid of Jesus – speak to him. They appear to respect him, but speak with irony. And then the question, the subject of great debate in Jewish circles: should we pay the annual poll tax to Rome? (v. 17) Opinions varied: one group, the Zealots, claimed that God’s people should not be subject to pagan Gentiles. Jesus sees through their plot; he calls them “hypocrites” (v. 18) for pretending to respect him but intending to discredit him. If Jesus says yes, Zealots and other Jews hostile to Rome will turn against him; if he says no, he will risk arrest for inciting rebellion against Rome. We know his answer, as translated, but “Give” (v. 21) can be give back or repay. To Jews then and to us now, all we have is given to us by God; we owe everything to him. Jesus sidesteps another issue (vv. 20-22): the obverse side of the coin is inscribed Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, great high priest – an affront to his fellow monotheistic Jews.

*Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton*

## Emmanuel Roster

### 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

### October 29

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Harold Cover  
Pianist: Colin Harris

## Coming Events

Wed October 25 9:00am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri October 27 9:30am	Craft Goup at Emmanuel
Sun October 29 10:30am	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.

## Prayer of the Week

### World Council of Churches

#### The Caribbean



Children playing on the street of the colonial town of Trinidad, Cuba, listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

#### We are thankful for:

- the natural beauty, climate, and distinctive cultural practices of these islands
- how churches have responded to disasters and served all in need
- how liberation from colonialism and oppression has been pursued through music, words and actions
- the leaders of the ecumenical movement who have come from this region.

#### We pray for:

- those devastated by disasters, that their lives, communities and eco-systems might be rebuilt
- the strengthening of all who faithfully witness through word and deed to the gospel
- all those affected by crime and addictions
- good governance and smooth transitions between political leaders.

## THE TEST OF TIME

By Bill Pugh



My brothers and I grew up at the end of the Depression and during WWII.

We did not have much money as a family and relied on hand-me-downs, which stood the test of time.

A remarkable inheritance was our four-wheel bicycle.

The tyres wore out periodically and were replaced, punctures were mended and new globes installed for the lights which were generated by an attachment on the front wheel.

A bit of paint was used to rub out scratches on the frame, which stood firm for many years of riding.

I have many books stored in my study, covered, a bit faded but still readable, and they will last the test of my lifetime.

Even an old Bible, awarded as a school prize, much used and very precious.

In Timothy, we have these wise words which have stood the test of time from this very Bible. Paul writes to Timothy thus: *"Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from men of faith and love which are in Christ Jesus, guard the truth which has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us."*

2 Timothy 1:13,14

#### Reflection:

Identify someone who in your life has influenced your faith.  
Give thanks for his or her example.