



REACHING OUT

Sunday October 29, 2023

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Joint Anglican and Uniting tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague and Rev Leonie Findlay

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

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

The Greatest Commandment



When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

The Question about David's Son

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

'Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet'?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22: 34-46

Bible Readings for Sunday November 5

Pentecost 23

Joshua 3: 7-17; Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12

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

Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah, Myrtleford-Whorouly, and Alpine & Rural Resource Ministry (ARRM)

commencing Sunday October 29.

PRAISE: THE BUSINESS OF ETERNITY

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Father, we acknowledge you alone as God. Supreme in your authority, limitless in your power and unswerving in your faithfulness. We acknowledge you as blazing in your glory, unending in your mercy, dazzling in your beauty and unfathomable in your love.

We confess that we have not praised you as we should have, for surely you are worthy.

Enlarge our hearts and help us to be better worshippers.

Help us, Lord! Set our spirits free to adore you richly, to be a sweet, joyful sound in your ear.

Fill our hearts and mouths with praise and worship every day, O God.

Make our lives bastions of your glorious praise.

AMEN.

SOME THOUGHTS

Praise is the business of Eternity. Extravagant, demonstrative, passionate praise!

Heaven is filled with the noise of our God's praises. But the earth is strangely silent.

The church has substituted silence for praise. Worship is more like a funeral than a festivity.

What is praise? Some ill-timed shout of 'Hallelujah'?

Biblical praise is both vocal and public in nature. It involves the affirmation of who God is, as well as what he has done. Silently, I might be grateful for the things God has done in my life this week, but it is only as I verbalise that to another person can it be said that God has been truly praised.

We live in a society where the value of almost everything seems to be estimated in terms of what it is good for.

Nothing appears to deserve esteem simply for its own sake; nothing seems to have intrinsic value; and, for many of us, the world can be divided between the useful and the useless. In such a world, those who want to get ahead choose their friends, their goods, and their activities on the basis of what these can do for them. Under such circumstances, much of mutuality is simply a kind of shared selfishness; and in such a world, much of religious behaviour can be understood as getting what one can out of God. It is scarce wonder, no wonder at all, that in a society dedicated to consumerism, people ask, "What can I get out of worship?"

We should never forget that God created us to be joyful worshippers, but sin drew us into everything else but worship. Then in God's love and mercy in Christ Jesus, we were restored into the fellowship of the Godhead through the miracle of the new birth.

"You have been forgiven and restored," God reminds us. "I am your Creator and Redeemer and Lord, and I delight in your worship."

To this promise we must give God the full response of our hearts.

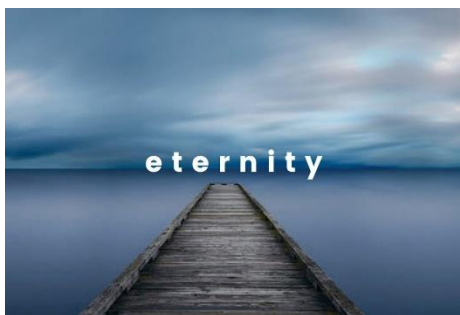
Praise is at once the most powerful tonic for a tired soul and the greatest therapy for the heavy spirit.

Praise is the churches' secret weapon against which the enemy has no defence and before which his ranks fall into confusion and disarray. Praise douses doubts and waters faith at the same time.

Worship is not an optional extra, but it is the very life and essence of the church.

SELAH

BENEDICTION



Now may the Lord God Almighty, who alone is worthy of all adoration, so fill your actions, your words, and your attitudes that in all, at all times, your life will be to the praise of His glory.

AMEN

Lectionary Comment – Matthew 22: 34-46

Some Sadducees (who believed that life ended with physical death) have argued with Jesus; they have tried to show him, by quoting from the Pentateuch, the absurdity of belief in resurrection. He has told them that they neither understand the “power of God” (v. 29, to transform us into a new way of being alive when risen) nor the purpose of the Scriptures.

The Pharisees now “test” (v. 35) Jesus by asking him a question often debated (v. 36): of the 613 laws in the Torah, which is most important? Jesus’ answer would not have surprised them, but his “second” (v. 39) of equal weight (“like it”) would, for it was considered unimportant. Developing a right relationship of actively loving God and fellow humans is the key to the Scriptures.

Now Jesus asks the Pharisees (who considered themselves experts in biblical interpretation) some questions (v. 42). People expected a political “Messiah” descended from David, “the son of David”. In vv. 43-44 Jesus asks: “How is ... that David” (inspired “by the Spirit” to write Psalms – as was then thought) refers to “him” (the Messiah) as “Lord” (overlord), in writing “The Lord” God (Yahweh) “said to my Lord” (i.e. David’s overlord, whom Jesus takes to be the Messiah) “sit ...” So (v. 45) how can the Messiah be both David’s son and his overlord? (While in English and Greek, “Lord”, kurios, occurs twice, Jesus would have quoted Psalm 110:1 in Hebrew; there the words are different. He was probably not unique in taking “my lord” there to be the Messiah, for a political Messiah would defeat his “enemies”.) The Pharisees too do not understand the Scriptures.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

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

November 5

Elder on Duty: David Robinson
Reader: Ted Stabb
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

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

Coming Events

Sun October 29 10:30am	Quarterly Congregation Meeting after Worship at Emmanuel
Wed November 1 9:00am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri November 3 9:30am	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

Canada, United States of America



Heceta Head Lighthouse on the Oregon Coast north of Florence in the United States, located at Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint. Built in 1894, the 56-foot tall lighthouse shines a beam visible for 21 nautical miles, making it the strongest light on the Oregon Coast. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for:

- the vast expanse of North America with its resources and varied landscapes; may they be preserved, enjoyed and used wisely
- those who are its original inhabitants – First Nations and Native Americans
- church-related organizations that strongly advocate for justice, and those that provide for new immigrants and refugees today, as well as for others who are poor and vulnerable
- ecumenical and interfaith engagements which are occurring in many communities that previously were mainly white and Christian.

We pray for:

- churches facing new challenges, that they may continue to witness boldly to the gospel in evolving multicultural, multireligious and secular contexts
- indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them
- new immigrants, that they will continue to be welcomed in these countries, and that policies will serve the common good
- effectively countering systemic greed that exploits communities and natural resources
- government leaders that they would advance justice, human rights, and peace for all within these countries and in the rest of the world..



We are uniquely different to and from each other, with strengths and weaknesses to be dealt with during our lives.

Love the differences in our spouses, neighbours, and friends rather than wasting time trying to change each other.

Reflection:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples. If you love one another."

Carl Rogers said: *"When I walk on the beach to watch the sunset, I do not call out, 'a little more orange over to the right please', or 'would you mind giving us less purple in the back?' No, enjoy the always different sunsets as they are. We do well to do the same with people we love."*

John 13:34

www.victas.uca.org.au/resources | Photo by freepik.com | October 2023