



REACHING OUT

Sunday September 10, 2023

9:00am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Rhonda Kissick

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday September 10

Pentecost 15

Exodus 12: 1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13: 8-14; Matthew 18: 15-20

Reproving Another Who Sins



'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Matthew 18: 15-20

Bible Readings for Sunday September 17

Pentecost 16

Exodus 14: 19-31; Psalm 114 or Ex. 15: 1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35

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 of **Wangaratta, Eldorado, Greta-Moyhu, Whitfield, and Uniting Wangaratta** commencing Sunday September 10.

Grace Mukozi visiting this Sunday

Grace will be visiting us this Sunday and we will be informing her of our gift of \$550.00 for providing needed materials for care of refugee children in Uganda. She will bring us an update of what is happening there.

Lectionary Comment – Matthew 18: 15-20

Jesus has just told the parable of the lost sheep. When one sheep gets lost, he says, doesn't the shepherd "go in search of the one that went astray?" (v. 12). And, if he finds it, doesn't he rejoice "over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray"? (v. 13).

So, in the church, how should a "member" (v. 15) who has strayed, i.e. sinned, be treated? First, try taking him (or her) aside and "point out the fault" to him. Do not humiliate him by having others present. But if he doesn't listen, face him with his misdemeanour before a few witnesses. Sharing the reproof adds weight to it. If the person still refuses to listen, bring the matter before the whole assembly of the (local) church. If "the offender refuses to listen even to the church" (v. 17), consider the person an unworthy outsider: in Jewish parlance in Jesus' time "a Gentile and a tax collector". Expel him from the church (as Paul did at Corinth, where a man was living with his father's wife.)

Then, in v. 18, Jesus broadens what he said earlier of Peter (16:19); "you" (the whole assembly) have the authority to "bind" (here, condemn) and to "loose" (here, acquit). Their decision will be ratified by God. Finally, in vv. 19-20, Jesus tells us that in common prayer, study, and in decision-making, however small the group, if we ask God for anything seeking to know his will and do it ("in my name"), he will do it, because Jesus, God the Son, is there in the community. *Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton*

Emmanuel Roster

September 10

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
 Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
 Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

September 17

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 September 13	9:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance
	10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri September 15	9:30am	Craft Goup at Emmanuel
Sun September 17	11:00am	Let's Have a Conversation at St. Stephen's Church <i>(don't forget to make a booking – see poster p. 5)</i>

Uniting Worship for coming weeks

Many of you would know that Rev. Leonie will be away for the next few weeks. Her surgery went well and she has moved to a rehabilitation hospital and is receiving therapy there. Arrangements for worship during her absence are as follows:

Sunday, September 10	Emmanuel & Kergunyah	Rev. Rhonda Kissick Worship with Communion
Sunday, September 24	Emmanuel & Kergunyah	LouAnne Stabb

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.

**Presbytery of North East Victoria
Chairperson's letter of encouragement
September 2023**



This month my letter offers encouragement of a different kind. I would not be so foolish as to tell Uniting Church people how to vote in the upcoming referendum, but as someone you have asked to give spiritual leadership, I am bold enough to ask you to let your faith be your guide as you consider how to vote.

I am not a football follower (I know, what can I say, a misspent life) but yesterday with others I took part in the Nagambie leg of the Long Walk led by Aussie Rules great, Michael Long. Michael is recreating his Long Walk of 20 years ago in support of the referendum. That was my personal choice, the place to which my thinking has taken me. As I walked yesterday some things occurred to me, things I wanted to share with you.

I want to ask you to stop watching fringe commentators and newscasts and even politicians that seek to inflame (if in fact you do this) and to listen to people like Michael Long, who are directly affected by the decision that will be made at the Referendum. The man I saw yesterday was impressive. A surprisingly small, quiet man, leaning on a bent stick - part trademark and part necessity I suspect - waiting patiently to speak. When he spoke there was no politicking, no fiery speeches or three-word slogans, no abuse of others, just a calm, quiet man who said he felt the need to share the load carried by Aboriginal leaders like Pat Dodson who was not well. All Michael asked of us was "Walk with me."

Next, I want to encourage you to look at what historians call the primary documents. Go to the Constitution which can be found at <https://www.aph.gov.au/constitution> and read it for yourself noting that the referendum does not seek to alter anything in the existing document, but to add a clause to it, committing governments of all persuasions to listen to indigenous people when considering matters that relate to them. Then read the one-page Uluru Statement from the Heart and make up your own mind about what indigenous leaders are saying. I want to ask you to consider all of this in the light of the Biblical understanding of justice, justice that heals and restores relationships, and then commit all of this to prayer, seeking the leading of the Spirit, as you make up your mind about how to vote. If you are interested further in my own view, next week I will post on the Presbytery Facebook page a copy of a piece I wrote for the local paper. Let me encourage you too, to look on the Long Walk webpage <https://thelongwalk.com.au> for updates about where you can hear Michael for yourself. He will be in Shepparton tomorrow on September 2.

On another matter entirely I want to encourage you again to prayer for work that is being done in relation to the next steps for the Presbytery as we face a different future. A small group of people, from outside the Presbytery and within, will be meeting at Tatura on Saturday, September 16 to look at some proposals that have been put together. These will eventually come to the November Presbytery meeting at Violet Town for further thought and feedback and possibly adoption. We stand in the need of prayer. We stand in the need of the prompting of the Spirit of God on so many fronts. Let's be people of prayer as we consider important things.

The Presence of God, the peace of Christ, and sometimes uncomfortable prompting of the Spirit be with us all, Gereldine

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

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Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies
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[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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Let's have a
conversation



Voice to Parliament

An opportunity to:

**Listen & learn about the proposed Aboriginal &
Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.**

**Have a friendly conversation to become better
informed on the related issues.**

Where: Stephen's Uniting Church, Wodonga

When: Sunday 17th September, 2023

Time: 11am to 12.30pm

RSVP to Judith in the Church Office or place your name on the attendance sheet on the table in the foyer.

[admin@wodongastst.victas.uca.org.au or (02) 6024 2108]

A Light soup luncheon will be provided