



# REACHING OUT

Sunday September 3, 2023

9:00am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jefferies

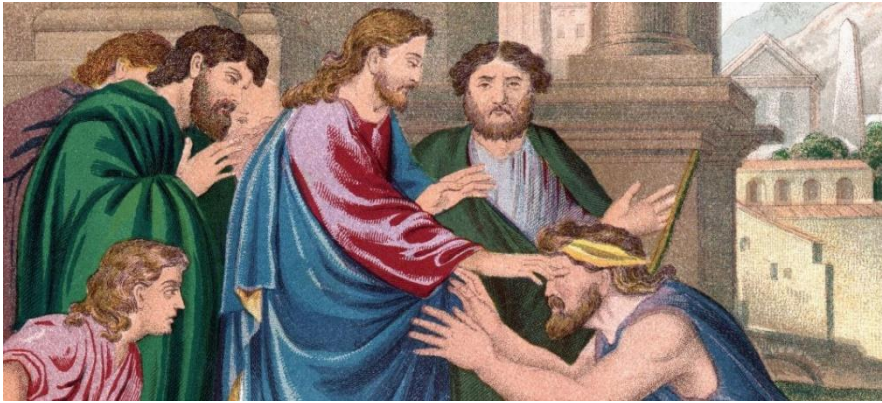
No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

## Bible Readings for Sunday September 3

### Pentecost 14

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12: 9-21; Matthew 16: 21-28

#### Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection



From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never

happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

#### The Cross and Self-Denial

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

**Matthew 16: 21-28**

## Bible Readings for Sunday September 10

### Pentecost 15

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

## 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 **Mathoura** commencing Sunday September 3.

# LESSONS LEARNED, THROUGH SUFFERING

Rev Leonie Findlay

## PRAYER

Lord, of all hopefulness and joy, we realise that without you we wander aimlessly seeking direction and real purpose.

Lord, draw us to yourself and hold us in your love and forgiveness.

Teach us your ways, Lord, and walk with us in your wisdom and truth.

Father, even in the midst of the challenges we encounter, strengthen our resolve to follow closely after you.

Teach us to serve you as we should and to minister to the needs of others in your strength and power.

Grant us a love which is generous and determination which is steadfast.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

**AMEN**

## SOME THOUGHTS

The journey of suffering can lead us down many paths.

Paths of bitterness, resentment and blame, or of understanding, faith, hope and courage.

Some paths lead to isolation, fear, and disappointment while others lead us closer to God and one another.

For most of us suffering is a cycle of holding on, letting go, healing, hurting and healing again.

To suffer is to experience situations and events over which we have no control.

Indeed, we find ourselves in a place where we are forced to give up our defences because we simply have no choice. Hence, we invariably cycle through stages of denial, anger, bargaining, resignation and hopeful acceptance.

To experience suffering often results in us being taken to the edge of our inner resources where we fall into the hands of the living God.

Enduring suffering is an act of choosing – intellectually, emotionally and volitionally.

As followers and representatives of Jesus Christ on earth, we are called to suffer for the sake of Christ.

God's purpose in having His followers suffer is not to punish them.

Instead, it is a glad burden of honour to bear as Christians who are reflectors of the image of His Son who dwells within us. God is faithful, and He will not leave us stranded in our suffering.

Instead, we are to seek after God's heart and trust in Him to fulfill the work he started in us. Though we may not understand why we are being tested, we must trust that God is still good and that we can never be separated from His love as Romans 8:31-39 states; ***'God remains consistent and does not judge us according to our trials of suffering. Instead, He brings us through difficult seasons of suffering so that our faith can be strengthened.'***

In the midst of our trials of suffering, we must look to Him and trust that He is still who He says He is. We must hold fast to His promises, that He is always with us and will never leave us or forsake us. How we encounter suffering may look different than someone else you know, but we are not to compare our sufferings with one another.

Instead, we are to thank God for working in and through us so that we can shine His light and give glory to His name and not our own.

**SELAH.**



## BENEDICTION

Place your trust In the Lord, whose compassion comes speedily to meet us

**AMEN**

## Lectionary Comment – Matthew 16: 21-28

Jesus has been instructing his disciples about the mission they are to carry out on his behalf, about telling the good news. Now his message to them shifts to teaching them that he, the Messiah, must (per God's will and purpose), undergo great suffering – something inconceivable to most Jews. (“Jerusalem” is the city where prophets are put to death.) Peter grasped that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God”, (v. 16) but he cannot yet deal with the impending death of the Messiah, rather than his direct ascendance to glory.

Then v. 24: to be Jesus' followers, we must devote the whole thrust of our lives to God (“deny themselves”), not reserving any part for our personal goals. Be willing to give up physical comfort and safety, accepting martyrdom if necessary. This approach to life will lead to true life with God. V. 26 asks a rhetorical question: nothing that one can get or “gain” now measures up to what God will give to the faithful in the time to come. There will be a reckoning, when Jesus comes in glory at the end of time. Some who hear these words now will still be alive at the Judgement Day (v. 28). People in the early church expected the age to end within their own lifetimes; however some today see the Transfiguration (which follows in Chapter 17) as fulfilment of this prophecy.

*Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton*

## 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.

## 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 is currently recovering in hospital as was the plan. She continues to welcome your prayers as she moves through the healing process. 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	TBA	

## Emmanuel Roster

### September 3

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

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

### September 10

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb  
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## Coming Events

Tue September 5	7:30pm	Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom
Wed September 6	9:00am	Grounds and Maintenance
	10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri September 8	9:30am	Craft Goup at Emmanuel

## Prayer of the Week

### World Council of Churches

Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo



*Attoban area, near Dora Ville, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.*

*Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC*

#### **We are thankful for:**

- the beauty, natural resources, wildlife and different cultures in these countries
- the produce that small farmers continue to grow amid environmental and other hardships
- the spiritual vitality and growth of the churches and how they are cooperating with each other and those of other faiths and practices
- the relative peace and stability that prevails after long years of civil war and political struggle.

#### **We pray for:**

- more democratic governments that are free of corruption and that prioritize what the people most need
- those working to alleviate the poverty, illiteracy and hunger that so many in these countries still experience
- churches faithfully bringing the gospel to, and serving, all people with greater respect for how those of other faiths express their spirituality
- emotional and physical healing, and restoring hope in people who are victims of conflict, disease and human rights abuses

## 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.

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

A Light soup luncheon will be provided