



REACHING OUT

Sunday April 21 – Easter 4

9:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

11:15 a.m. at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Rev. Leonie Findlay

Bible Readings for April 21

Easter 4

Acts 4: 5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3: 16-24; J ohn 10: 11-18



‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

John 10:11-18

Bible Readings for April 28

Easter 5

Acts 8: 26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31; 1 John 4: 7-21; John 15: 1-8

Praying For One Another 2024

In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.

Congregations in the Presbytery are called to pray 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. This week we pray for the congregations of **Northern Rivers – Rochester, Elmore, and Bamawm**, commencing Sunday April 21.

Coming Events

Wed April 24, 9:00 am
10:30 am
Fri April 26, 9:30am
Sun April 21, 2:30pm

Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Craft Group
Cookinburra Songs of Praise will be followed by afternoon tea.
Enquiries to Carol White 60267284.

THE JOY OF YOUR PRESENCE

A Reflection-Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Dear Lord, you are forever nearby.
You are with us, and you go before us.
Even among the difficulties and dark places, you are there.
Thank you for surprising us with joy even when the clouds gather and the shadows form.
Thank you that your presence refreshes and recharges our spirits.
At these times Lord, our faith grows strong, our dedication to you is strengthened.
May your presence bless our lives with a joy that only you can give.
In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

True joy is a rare experience. We humans are more prone to think in terms of happiness or pleasure, than we are of joy. Joy, that which is a fruit of the Spirit, is meant to have a central place in the Christian life. Such joy is a gift not only to be enjoyed by the one possessing it but to be shared with others. Sometimes it is easy to be joyful. When our daily needs have been amply supplied, when the relationship of family and friends is sweet, when we have seen God working for us and through us. In such circumstances we can readily identify with the psalmist who testifies.

'You have made known to me the path of life.

You will fill me with joy in your presence'. (Psalm 16: 11)

But sometimes sadly, the experience of joy becomes routine and predictable, hardly distinguishable from ordinary human happiness. Perhaps that is because we are looking for joy in the wrong places. We have forgotten that in God's way of doing things, the path to joy is often through obedience and suffering. So sometimes we are surprised by joy.

For joy appears when and where we are least expecting it.

When our hearts have been moved to confess sin and our lives have been cleansed and renewed, when our ears have listened to God's word and our wills have been set to obey his directions.

When we allow his love to flow through us to others – then we are promised our joy will be complete. When our hearts are broken by sorrow or persecution; when our faith is stretched to the limit; when our cross is more than we can bear; then we are offered pure joy.

Happiness turns up more or less when you expect it to. A good marriage, a rewarding job, a pleasant vacation. Joy on the other hand, is as notoriously unpredictable as the one who bequeaths it.

The fruit of the Spirit is joy. Joy is the byproduct of possessing the Spirit and being possessed by it.

It is the conscious possession of power, adequate to carry us through every trial and every situation.

In this life we will never be free of sorrow. But then we will never be free of joy.

Joy is a power that will dry all tears, lift all burdens, and satisfy all needs.

SELAH



BENEDICTION

May the Holy Spirit, through whose power the fruit of joy grows in our lives, give us such motivation and strength to be obedient and faithful servants, that we will be constantly surprised by Joy.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

April 21

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

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

April 28

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb
Reader: Betty Bjorksten
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word Carol Clutterbuck

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

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

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia



The 14th century Holy Trinity Church, also known as Gergeti Trinity Church, located on a hilltop near the dormant stratovolcano of Mount Kazbek and the Gergeti Glacier in Kazbegi (Stepantsminda), Georgia.

Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

We are thankful for

- the long history of Christianity in these lands
- Christians and Muslims who have witnessed to their faith during long years of repression and persecution
- positive developments these countries have undergone since the end of the Soviet era
- those who pursue peace and reconciliation in the face of old suspicions and animosities.

We pray for:

- greater respect for the human rights of all the peoples living in these countries
- just changes for those living in situations of poverty and discrimination
- the healing of past wrongs and distorted memories of what has occurred
- a prophetic witness of the churches in relation to new challenges
- the Georgian Orthodox Church, that it may rediscover a rich relationship with the family of churches worldwide.

Shalom

2024 SHALOM WOMEN'S CHOIR CONCERT



Wodonga

Friday 3rd May 2024, 7:00 pm
St. Stephen's Uniting Church
(177 Beechworth Road Wodonga, VIC)

Albury

Saturday 4th May 2024, 7:00 pm
St. David's Uniting Church
(593 Olive St. Albury, NSW)

ENTRANCE DONATION
\$20 Adult
Children under 16 free

Donations will be used to support people in need, locally.

Shalom Women's Choir began in 1996.

They are a group of migrant Christian women from South Korean who live in New Zealand, who have a heart to reach out the old, the sick and underprivileged with music and gospel.

Their name Shalom meaning peace in Hebrew, speaks for the love and peace they hope to bring to the world around them through their music.

Shalom's major work involves visits to churches, hospitals, rest homes, prisons, and facilities for disabled people all around New Zealand.

Their trip to Australia this year is the third concert, following the ones in Sydney in May 2012 and Adelaide 2019. After their performances on the border, they will be performing in Melbourne on 5th May, 2024.