



REACHING OUT

Sunday January 14, 2024

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

Uniting tradition led by Rev Rhonda Kissick

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday January 14

Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1: 43-51

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael



The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'

Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

John 1: 43-51

Bible Readings for Sunday January 21

Epiphany 3

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 62: 5-12; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

Rev Leonie Update

Leonie continues to be in the Albury Base Hospital and is making some progress. Medication issues are being resolved which is quite helpful. The cause of the semi-blackouts resulting in falls is still being investigated. Brain CT scans show no change and further investigation is planned to rule out other possible issues, such as lung and stomach. She had visits from two of her daughters this week which were valued. She understands what people are saying, but the brain swelling has disrupted her ability to do some things. If the scans do not come up with something soon, she will move to rehabilitation. Both she and Ross are thankful for the prayers of all and ask that they be continued. LouAnne

Presbytery of North East Victoria
Chairperson's Letter of Encouragement
January 2024

Dear friends,

I wonder, if like me, you have been pondering the state of the world as we turn from the Christmas season to the known-unknown of a new year. As I have thought about what is happening, I am more convinced than ever of the need, where we live, for there to be little outposts of the kingdom of God offering an alternative way, insisting that there is an alternative way of living in the world.

At the moment, I recognise how hard it is for each of us to be that outpost of the kingdom, so I was grateful yesterday to be introduced to the idea of "Refrigerator Theology" which goes something like this: when we cook, we should not focus on what we do not have, but instead open the fridge to see what is there. Obviously, this is not "theology", but it does help focus the mind, to ask the question: Who and what have we to work with as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Who and What?

I don't think I would be far from the mark in saying many congregations of the Presbytery are way ahead in the practice of "Refrigerator Theology." Instead of worrying about what you do not have you have opened the fridge door and poked about to see what is there and leadership has emerged, different ways of being a community of faithful people have been embraced.

At the next meeting of Presbytery on February 17 at Wangaratta, we are opening the fridge. We will have significant input from Mat Harry who will be introducing a workshop called "If Jesus wrote a Mission Plan." This year, the Presbytery will be encouraging congregations to engage with Mat, learning to make new connections, or to build on connections you already have, inviting people to share welcoming, sheltering, encouraging life-giving community - one that can indeed be called a little outpost of the Kingdom of God. Plan to take part and to encourage your congregation to invite Mat to your place during this year. If you know Mat, you will know that this will be an exciting time.

Now I want to invite you to prayer. We are praying people. I have felt the strength of your prayers these past years. Prayer gives us strength and direction, it makes us more resilient, so my invitation is for you to continue in prayer and to add to your prayers these specific events and the unfolding work of the Presbytery.

I hope that you sense, that despite all the bad news that we hear, I am feeling bright with the promise of this new year and wish you God's absolute blessing in it,

Gereldine

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 **Benalla, Devenish, Goorambat, Swanpool** commencing Sunday January 14.

Lectionary Comment – John 1: 43-51

On the previous day, Andrew and Peter, both disciples of John the Baptist, have become Jesus' disciples. The Baptist has said to them: "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" (v. 36) They have asked Jesus: "Where are you staying?" (v. 38, where do you dwell?); he has answered "Come and see" (v. 39): a command that means, in this gospel, come and believe. It was Andrew who found Peter. Philip finds Nathanael (probably Bartholomew of the other gospels), and tells him that the three have found the one to whom the Old Testament points, i.e. Jesus, the Messiah (v. 45). Nathanael's response (v. 46) is probably a local proverb: the people of Nazareth were despised. Philip says "Come and see", as Jesus did to Andrew and Peter. An "Israelite" (v. 47) embraced the legal and prophetic books; Nathanael is a "truly an Israelite" because, unlike other Jews, he goes further: he accepts Christ. Jacob, the father of the nation, practised deceit before meeting God, but in Nathanael "there is no deceit". In v. 49, Nathanael acknowledges Christ for who he is – in Jewish terms, because of the minor miracle of Jesus observing him under a fig tree on a previous occasion, before they met. Jesus tells him that he will see a much greater miracle: like the one Jacob saw in his dream at Bethel (Genesis 28:10-17), but with the Son of Man, Jesus, being the vehicle of communication. In today's psalm, God knows our doings; here Jesus knows Nathanael.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

January 14

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: Ted Stabb

Prayers: Carol Harris

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey

Usher: Ted Stabb

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

January 21

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: Betty Bjorksten

Prayers: LouAnne Stabb

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Ted Stabb

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

Coming Events

Wed January 10, 8:30 am

10:30 am

Mon January 29, 10:30am

Sun February 25, 10:30am

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel

Community Shop Reopens

Emmanuel Congregation AGM after Worship

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.

AGM of Emmanuel Congregation

The Annual General Meeting of the Emmanuel Church will be held on Sunday February 25, 2024, commencing at 10:30am after worship. The AGM Report is now being prepared and reports from respective coordinators of church activities are now being accepted. **Reports can be submitted to Harold Cover by Monday February 12** (hcover@bigpond.com) to allow time to complete editing and publishing prior to the AGM. Nominations will be called for in coming weeks for Member of Church Council, Treasurer, Uniting Church Elder and Uniting Church representative to Presbytery. Please give prayerful consideration to an invitation to be nominated.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen



Primary schools in southern Yemen re-opened in October 2020 following months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo: UNICEF Yemen/2020/Mahmoud Al-Falsatiny

We are thankful for:

- the ancient cultures and religions that have been sustained in this area for millennia
- those who continue to pursue peace in the midst of ethnic strife and terrorism
- the faithfulness of Muslims in expressing their faith and working with others
- Christians who practice their faith even when they are a small, often discriminated minority.

We pray for:

- women and others in these countries who are deprived of basic freedoms and human dignity
- those who misuse or exploit religious identity for extremist political ends
- the wise use of the benefits of oil and other natural resources for the sake of all
- the emergence of stable democratic societies based on the rule of law, social justice, and respect for religious and other freedoms.



The Friendship Book produced by D.C. Thomson, contains this gem of a reading from the English poet, critic, and essayist, Leigh Hunt.

Born in London, 1784, he wrote poetry as a contemporary of Keats, Shelley and Byron, including the following:

"Few people, rich or poor, make the most of what they possess. In their anxiety to increase the amount of the means for

future enjoyment they are too apt to lose sight of the capability of them for present.

Above all, they overlook the thousand helps to enjoyment which lie about them, free to everybody, and obtainable by the very willingness to be pleased."

He wasn't saying don't plan for the future. He was suggesting we make more of the here and now.

Reflection:

Paul's letter to the Philippians was written while in prison, and troubled by other Christian workers towards himself.

"I know what it is to be in need and what it is to have more than enough. I have learnt this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little. I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me."

Philippians 4:12-13

www.victas.uca.org.au/resources | Photo by freepik.com | January 2024