



REACHING OUT

Sunday January 21, 2024

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

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

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

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Jesus Calls the First Disciples



As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who

were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 1: 14-20

Bible Readings for Sunday January 28

Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13; Mark 1: 21-28

Rev Leonie

Leonie has had a few good days where she is showing good signs of improvement. She's walking with a walker and Ross says that she's looking better. She's taking an increased interest in food as well as Netflix, and her speech is improving. As soon as a place is available, she will be moved to a rehabilitation unit in Wodonga. It is very encouraging to learn of these signs of healing. Both she and Ross are thankful for the prayers of all and ask that they be continued. LouAnne



AS WE WORSHIP: SO WE WILL SERVE

Rev Leonie Findlay

(published January 15, 2023)

PRAYER

Most Holy God, maker of heaven and earth, we acknowledge that you alone are worthy of worship. May your Holy Spirit make our worship more meaningful. Lift us out of our selfish ways. Lift us up until like Isaiah, we see You, **'seated on a throne, high and exalted.'**

Then like Isaiah, may we exclaim, **'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty.**

The whole earth is full of His glory.'

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

From ancient times people have sought another being before whom to bow in honour.

There has been a constant searching for an object to worship.

The Jews knew they were before the Almighty when they worshipped.

They knew He was aware of exactly what was happening at such times.

If we wish to worship in sincerity and truth, we need to recognise exactly who God is.

Once His role is clear, ours becomes clear. If we fail to understand these things, while we may appear to worship our actions lack sincerity.

For our public worship to be in order, our private worship must be meaningful.

In worship we retell and act out a story. The story has to do with what God has done for us and what our response is to his work in us.

True worship is an enactment of the event that gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

It aligns the believer with the Christ event and with the community of the faithful throughout history.

Therefore, when worship is enacted in faith, the believer experiences again the refreshment of his or her relationship to God and spontaneously experiences the joy of salvation.

There are times in worship when instead of complaining that God has hidden himself, we should give him thanks for having revealed himself so fully.

Worship is the loving response of the creature to his creator. Christian worship is God centred.

God took the initiative in worship by creating man for fellowship with himself. A sovereign ruler God confronts us. He comes to us as the only one worthy of worship, and because he is worthy, He stands in judgement over us and makes demands upon us. As we respond in worship God allows us to experience new manifestations of His goodness and love.

As we worship God, our task is to focus our personal worship away from self and on Christ as the one who has revealed God to us, and through whom we are able to celebrate His glory.

Our prayer is that God will make us wise in worship so that we may shun anything which will distract us and turn our thoughts away from God.

SELAH

BENEDICTION

Gracious God, help us take with us a sense of your powerful presence, knowing that wherever we go, you will be there ahead of us. That whenever we need your strength it will be available to us through the tremendous power of your mighty Spirit.

AMEN



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 **Bright and Porepunkah** commencing Sunday January 21.

Lectionary Comment – Mark 1: 14-20

Mark has just told us, briefly, about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Now he returns to Galilee. His message begins with "the time is fulfilled" (v. 15): the time appointed by God, the decisive time for God's action, has arrived. "The kingdom of God has come near": the final era of history is imminent. Numerous sayings of Jesus support Paul's view that the end is near, but Jesus did say that no human knows when he will come again, and that he will not come when expected (13:32-36). He also said that "the kingdom of God is among you" (Luke 17:21), and that the kingdom has begun. Jews believed that when they individually and collectively admitted the error of their ways and returned to God's way ("repent", v. 15), the Messiah would come. We too are called to adopt God's way, to "believe in the good news". The whole of Mark is an expansion of this verse.

In vv. 16-20, the first four disciples are called: they immediately leave their previous occupations, and follow Jesus. Jesus expresses his command in their terms (v. 17). (Immediacy of response is a mark of this gospel.) These disciples owned nets (v. 19) and had employees ("hired men", v. 20), so they were people of rank. They gave up security and family ("left their father", v. 20) to devote themselves to Christ's mission.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

January 21

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: Betty Bjorksten

Prayers: LouAnne Stabb

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Harold Cover

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

January 28

Elder on Duty: David Robinson

Reader: Carol Harris

Prayers: Karen Robinson

Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Ted Stabb

Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

Coming Events

Wed January 24, 8:30 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Mon January 29, 10:30am	Community Shop Reopens
Sun February 25, 10:30am	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 Sagers 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

Cyprus, Greece, Türkiye



15 May 2022, Paralimni, Cyprus: Blessed bread is distributed after Sunday service is celebrated in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint George, Church of Cyprus, in Paralimni.

Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

We are thankful for:

- the 2,000-year presence and witness of the church in Asia Minor (now Türkiye, Cyprus, and Greece) – the region in which St Paul and other apostles first planted the seeds of the Christian faith – and for how Greek culture influenced the early church
- the Church Fathers who came from this area, along with many men and women who were Christian martyrs, and where seven ecumenical councils were convened
- the pioneering work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in quest of Christian unity and for protection of the environment
- those who have reached out to assist people who have fled to, and through, these lands

We pray for:

- the healing of memories and wounds inflicted by early 20th century genocides of Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian communities, and for current tensions in these lands
- enhanced respect for all minority groups and their claims,
- those who work for justice and reconciliation
- the people who struggle because of economic and political crises in these countries
- more stable democratic governments that further the good of all.

A Message from Rev Richard Johnston

(Formerly Uniting Church Minister at Emmanuel 20 years ago. Now in Belfast, Ireland)

From an email sent to Don and Hazel Barrett

On 12 Jan 2024, at 5:14 am, Richard Johnston <richard.johnston@irishmethodist.org> wrote:

Hi Don and Hazel,

Thanks for getting in touch with us again this past Christmas. How time passes! It is a sad thing when familiar faces are no longer with us. Please pass on our greetings to any who are still there from our time at Emmanuel.

We remain in Northern Ireland and enjoy every chance we get to catch up with our girls who are spread over 3 countries. Bethany and Torsten are still in Leipzig, Germany and have two growing boys, Roman and Bruno, who are a joy to visit – though very full of energy! Samantha and Morris are in Naas, just out of Dublin, with their two children, Asher and Arya. We get to see them fairly often which we really enjoy. Zoe and Daniel are in London where Zoe is a Physiotherapist with the National Health Service and Daniel is a First Officer with Virgin Atlantic.

We trust you are both still in good health, at least as good as passing time allows.

All the best,

Richard

Rev Richard C Johnston

Dip. Miss., BTheol, MA (Consultancy, Mission & Ministry)