



REACHING OUT

Sunday January 28, 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 28

Epiphany 4

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

The Man with an Unclean Spirit



They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out,

'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mark 1: 21-28

Bible Readings for Sunday February 4

Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40: 21-31; Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Rev Leonie

Leonie has had very good news today. She is to be transferred to the Wodonga Hospital rehabilitation centre as I write this on Thursday, the 25th in the afternoon. There she will be able to have treatment and activities which will encourage and support recovery.

Earlier in the week, though, she and Ross have been going out for morning tea to the café just inside the Albury hospital main entrance. She is able to walk a bit further now so she could enjoy the coffee shop atmosphere and interesting foods with a lovely little garden adjacent. She will be so happy when the move is completed, though. Both she and Ross are thankful for the prayers of all and ask that they be continued. There still is a long road ahead.

LouAnne



SUFFERING PRODUCES ENDURANCE

Rev Leonie Findlay

(published January 29, 2023)

PRAYER

Eternal God, creator of the world. Holy Spirit comforter and healer.

Whatever our situation we come to you because you desire to meet with us.

In sickness or in health, we come to you confident in the knowledge that you are the provider of all good things.

For this, we praise and worship you.

For this, we give you thanks.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

Having a theology of suffering matters because it helps us remember who God is and where He is in the midst of our suffering. In so doing we are able to trust in a God who knows what we need for the refinement of our character and the strengthening of our faith.

God gives us courage and joy in the midst of our trials of suffering.

The ability to experience joy being a daily choice that we alone can make.

God allows suffering into the lives of those who are His to grow them closer to Him.

The Christ who suffered as one of us, understands our pain, our fears and our hurts.

He has compassion for His children as we try to cope with our troubled minds, harmful memories and damaged emotions that still cripple us today.

The same Jesus who came to seek and to save the lost, also came to bind up the broken hearted, to heal and to give us a life which is full and free.

The same saviour who died for our sins, also bore our griefs and sorrows.

He is willing to bring healing to the whole person.

He waits for us to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the hurts that we have repressed and to face willingly past painful experiences that we have tried so hard to forget.

Somewhere between our sins and our physical ailments lies that part of our lives where we find many of our real failings as human beings, our emotional weakness and problems. Since Jesus is the same today, yesterday and forever, he is able to go back into our lives and heal the traumatic episodes.

If we let Him, the Holy Spirit, who reveals all things, is able to bring to our awareness the situations that need healing.

God is not hurried along in the timestream of this universe any more than an author is hurried along in the imaginary time of his own novel.

As God does His work of healing in our lives, we can feel His healing love washing over us.

Cleansing and restoring those areas that have been sites of deep suffering.

For this we praise God with all our hearts.

SELAH

BENEDICTION



Stand tall in the knowledge that by God's mercy we have been restored.

May the compassion of the Father, the sensitive tenderness of the

Holy Spirit, and the warm guiding hand of Jesus be with us now and forever.

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 congregation of **Broadford** commencing Sunday January 28.

Lectionary Comment – Mark 1: 21-28

Mark has just told us about the calling of Peter ("Simon", v. 16), Andrew, and the sons of Zebedee. Our passage tells us of the recognition of Jesus' authority, both in word and deed. He and his disciples go to Capernaum, a prosperous town on the Sea of Galilee. A synagogue was where Jews met to gain a fuller understanding of their tradition through study and worship. (At the time, it was probably not a building set apart for study and worship.) Anyone with sufficient knowledge could teach. The "scribes" (v. 22) were specialists in the interpretation and application of Mosaic law to daily life. They frequently quoted scripture and tradition, but Jesus (on this occasion) does not: he speaks directly, confident of his "authority", of his very essence. The Greek word is like the one in the Nicene Creed which is translated as being or substance.

The "man with an unclean spirit" (v. 23) was, in our terms, possessed: he was under the influence of evil forces. In Jewish terms, he was under Satan's direction, separated from God. The devil, speaking through this man (v. 24), asks what Jesus is doing meddling in the domain of evil; he recognizes who Jesus is and that his coming spells the end of the devil's power. He understands the significance of the coming Kingdom. Wonder-workers of the day healed using ritual or magic, but Jesus exorcises simply through verbal command (v. 25), so clearly he is divine. V. 27, on the lips of the crowd, acknowledges Jesus' "authority" in word and deed.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

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

February 4

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb
Reader: Jenny Mathieson
Prayers: Carol Harris
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey
Usher: Ted Stabb
Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

Coming Events

Mon January 29, 10:30am	Community Shop Reopens
Wed January 31, 8:30 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Tue February 6, 7:30pm	Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom
Sun February 25, 10:30am	Emmanuel Congregation AGM after Worship

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay
(currently unavailable)

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies
(currently unavailable – on holidays)

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.



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

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia



The dunes of Erg Chebbi is one of Morocco's two Saharan seas of sand dunes, formed by the wind. The dunes of Erg Chebbi reach a height of up to 150 meters in places and altogether it spans an area of 50 kilometers from north to south and up to 5–10 kilometers from east to west lining the Algerian border.

Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

We are thankful for:

- How the early Christian church developed here.
- The biodiversity of plants, animals and the natural terrain.
- How Berber, Arab and European cultures have blended.
- How these countries have remained and stood against the invasion of cultural and military forces from elsewhere.

We pray for:

- all the people of these countries: Muslims, the tiny remnant of Christians, those of other faiths who continuing bearing witness to their faiths and for all people of good will.
- an end to political violence.
- an end to how dominating powers have fought over these lands and their resources through the years.
- for those suffering exploitation and mistreatment as they travel through these countries..

Tradewind Tea and Coffee

The organisation strives to provide growers with a fair return for their produce and Emmanuel has supported it for many years. If you would like to order, please go to the website above and choose your products. Alternatively, I can assist you with the website.



Tradewind's website:

<https://www.tradewinds.org.au/>

Tradewind Products:

<https://www.tradewinds.org.au/page/shop-all/> Go to this page to make your selection.

I will order on behalf of everyone and we get a discount in products and postage if the total order is more than \$150. Payment is not required until delivery.

Carolyn Renfrey. cmrenfrey@gmail.com