



REACHING OUT

Sunday March 10

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 March 10

Lent 4

Numbers 21: 4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2: 1-10; John 3: 14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever



believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in

the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

John 3: 14-21

Bible Readings for Sunday March 17

Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51: 1-12 or Psalm 119: 9-16; Hebrews 5: 5-10; John 12: 20-33

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 **Euroa and Terip-Ruffy** commencing Sunday March 10.

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.

THE GIFT OF LOSING IT ALL

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Liberate us Lord from our self- centredness. Help us to see the futility of trying to establish ourselves as being worthy before you.

Help us to see others as people to love, rather than people with whom to compete, envy or criticise. Grant to us the freedom which comes from knowing that you come to us in our frailty and brokenness.

When we turn from the path which you have called us to walk, confront us with our poverty. and the futility of our striving.

Lord, we come to you confessing our waywardness, seeking your forgiveness and strength to follow you along the path you call us to follow.

In Jesus' name we pray.

AMEN.

SOME THOUGHTS

The desire to procure and accumulate assets is one of the fundamental impulses of the human experience. Fulfillment and satisfaction are sought by progressively increasing our ability to control and manipulate our environment.

Success comes to those who learn quickly how to stack the cards in their favour.

This acquisition of power is manifest in a variety of ways in different cultures, Individuals and groups.

In his proclamation of the kingdom of God, Jesus exposed the futility and deception of seeking fulfillment in this way. **'What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life.'**

Jesus lived in total reliance upon God, demonstrating the freedom which comes from recognising our ultimate dependence upon the one who made us in his image. To live in total abandonment to God and His kingdom is to begin to experience authentic human life – life as it is meant to be.

Privation was the lot of the disciples in every sphere of their lives. They had no security, no possessions to call their own. Not even a piece of earth to call their home. For Jesus' sake they lost everything. In following him they lost even their own selves and everything that could make them rich. In poverty of spirit, we learn to accept ourselves as someone who doesn't even belong to themselves. To surrender oneself and become poor, in biblical theology, is to be with God. To find one's hidden nature in God. To become one as Christ did is to practise poverty of spirit, to obediently accept our innate poverty as human beings.

Authentic abandonment, or poverty in spirit, realises that God is not 'out there'. God is with us, inviting us to work actively as co-creators. Totally dedicating our lives to accomplish the divine plan in that part of history entrusted to us by the span of our lives.

This invitation requests merely the giving of ourselves.

Realising our own need and powerlessness, we respond in God's power to care about other powerless brothers and sisters whom we see in need. As God has seen us in need and not left us helpless, so we are to respond in care to those we see in need.

SELAH

BENEDICTION



Go forward in life with confidence in one thing alone – the blessedness which comes to those who abandon themselves to the presence of God.

Accept the gift of spiritual poverty as a gift from God and rejoice in the freedom of going without.

AMEN



Lenten Studies

-still time to join!

At St. Stephen's

Meeting Jesus at the table, Wednesday mornings, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. led by Judy Bedford.

On Zoom

Grounded: Finding God in the World – a Spiritual revolution; Thursdays 8:00 – 9:30 pm; led by Ian Bedford. Zoom link available from Ian or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84918137081>

At St. John's

Safety net discipleship, Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. (follows worship); study book \$15 available at Parish Office.

At Emmanuel

God's Own Country, First Nations voices speak to the Church, Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm.

Lectionary Comment – John 3: 14-21

Nicodemus, a Jewish leader, has come to Jesus, (because he has recognized that Jesus is “from God”, v. 2), to ask: “How can anyone be born [again] after having grown old?” (v. 4) Jesus has answered: to be part of God’s plan launched through him, one needs to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be baptised into Christ (v. 5). God’s Spirit works in ways that humans cannot fully understand; Jesus is the only source of knowledge about heaven: he has been there. Nicodemus fails to understand even what Jesus tells him in earthly terms, by analogy. Jesus continues with an analogy (v. 14). Moses' bronze serpent preserved from death those who (through this symbol) trusted in God. In a similar way, thanks to God’s great gift of “his only Son” (v. 16, “the Son of Man”, v. 14), whoever believes in Christ will have “eternal life” (v. 15), participation in God’s life, life in the age to come. Jesus took on human form to save all who will listen (however sinful), not to condemn anyone, but those who willfully refuse to believe are, through the act of rejecting him, condemning themselves (v. 18). When Christ came, there are those who preferred “darkness” (v. 19), “evil”: they avoided the light, the truth, lest their wickedness be exposed. But there are others who “do what is true” (v. 21): they seek out truth, i.e. God, and act accordingly as they follow his ways. Others see their example.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

March 10

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Carol Harris
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

March 17

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Ted Stabb
Pianist: Betty Bjorksten

Coming Events

Tue March 12, 2:30pm	Lenten Studies at Emmanuel
Wed March 13, 8:30 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri March 15, 9:30am	Craft Group meet at Emmanuel

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay
(currently unavailable)

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.

Easter Services at Emmanuel

Friday March 29, 9:00am Good Friday Service in Uniting Tradition

Sunday March 31, 9:00am Easter Day Service in Anglican Tradition

Easter Service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Friday March 29, 11:15am Good Friday Service in Uniting Tradition

For other Easter Services such as Maundy Thursday and Saturday Easter Vigil check with St. Stephen's Uniting Church or St John's Anglican Church.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden



Zion Church in Ilulissat is Greenlands oldest.

Photo: Claus Grue/WCC

We are thankful for

- the spectacular beauty of the changing landscape of forests, lakes, mountains and glaciers
- churches that are advocating and implementing measures to redress climate change that is dramatic here and throughout the world
- those who have opened their doors and hearts to people migrating to these lands
- the support for justice, peace and interfaith work that comes from these countries

We pray for:

- the poor and marginalized who struggle in these rich countries
- personal and investment practices that support environmental sustainability
- growing openness to becoming more multi-ethnic, multi-faith societies
- those who are affluent that they will contribute to making the world and their societies more just for all.
- a Church that is prepared to be a voice in the struggle for indigenous people rights.