



REACHING OUT

Sunday March 24

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 24

Palm Sunday

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Mark 11: 1-11 or John 12: 12-16

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem



When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here

immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Mark 11:1-11

Bible Readings for Sunday March 31

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

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 congregation of **Kyabram** commencing Sunday March 24

TRANSFORMATION AND LIFE

A Reflection-Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

O Lord we look around in nature and see the stages of life, the metamorphosis that occurs in your creation. Seeing this Lord why are we so afraid of growth and change in our lives? Why do we hang on to cherished and old beliefs that are not appropriate to the development of faith?

Help us to remember the struggle that the growing seed has, to establish and sustain its life in a hostile environment.

Lord, we affirm that your Spirit can transform us and through the struggle of change and growth, bring us to a place of maturity in Jesus. Help us not to resist the movement of our lives as we live in you. Enable us to see that your grace is sufficient for our every need and our ongoing metamorphosis. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

Whether our point of entry into a Christian faith is through nurture or a sudden conversion experience, Jesus indicates in the Gospels that the life of the disciple is one of transformation and ongoing growth and development. The parables of the mustard seed and the growing seed have the concept of growing as their central theme. It is growth which involves metamorphosis: stages through which a living organism passes.

Perhaps we can all point to an event in our lives which became a turning point, a moment of metamorphosis or change that has had a lasting effect on our lives.

There is another way in which we can think about metamorphosis, not only as a sudden change, but as a gradual development from one stage to another.

Carl Jung, the ground-breaking psychologist, in a number of his books talks about the concept of the stages of life. The first half of our lives he compares to the morning and the second half to the afternoon of life. During the first or morning stage our energies are concerned with establishing ourselves. Whereas in the second stage of life, we are more concerned with finding meaning and the purpose in living.

These stages of life can be moments of metamorphosis.

If we could see beneath the surface of a life, we would see many people within the church, who are suffering spiritually from 'arrested development'. They never reach spiritual maturity. They never do all the good things they were meant to do. This is due to the fact at some point in their lives they refused to go further...at some point in their lives they refused to take the step which would have opened up for them a new and vital development.

They are stunted souls.

Only recently has modern psychology, after a century or more of concentration on mental abnormalities, started to study healthy integrated human beings. And soon it discovered in the history of these quiet normal people what became known as 'peak experiences' that had never been forgotten moments. In these moments, ordinary mortals had felt a breakthrough of reality and in a flash, life in its inexpressible fulness had opened. And they were overwhelmed with an unforgettable wonder.

SELAH

A BENEDICTION



May you walk in the beauty of God's grace today Because His grace is:
Before you, behind you, above you, around you and within you.

AMEN

Coming Events

Wed March 27, 8:30 am

10:30 am

Fri March 29, 9:30am

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel

Craft Group – no meeting on this date

Emmanuel Roster

March 24

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

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

March 31

Elder on Duty: TBC
Reader: Jenny Mathieson
Prayers: Worship Leader
Early Word: Nil/Worship Leader

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Harold Cover
Organist: Betty Bjorksten

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.

Worship assistants Good Friday and Easter

Looking at the roster for Easter Sunday, you will notice that most of our regular helpers will not be around over Easter. If you are going to be attending the Good Friday or Easter services you may be asked to help out. We thank you for your involvement in advance.

Flowers for Easter Sunday

It is customary to not have flowers in the church during the reflective time of Lent. However, the flowers do come out for Easter Sunday. If you have fresh flowers in your garden at Easter, which may be a big ask after our crazy summer, do bring some on Easter morning to adorn our worship space.

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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Church Security

If you are appear to be the last person to leave the church building after worship on Sunday, please check:

1. Unless you have keys, check that all external doors have been preset to lock (check the outside handle).
2. All windows have been wound in.
3. Use the remote control for the airconditioner (found on a bracket near the room door), point it at the unit, press OFF and wait to observe the AC blades close.
4. Check that no one is in the toilets or Community Shop.

If completely satisfied that every thing is closed up and turned off, press the ON button on the alarm pad as you leave.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia



11 March 2022, Vyšné Nemecké, Slovakia: A boy blows bubbles after arriving at the Vyšné Nemecké border crossing between Slovakia and Ukraine. The Vyšné Nemecké border crossing connects Slovakia with the city of Uzhgorod in Ukraine. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on 24 February 2022, hundreds of thousands of refugees have crossed the border to Slovakia in search of refuge and shelter from war and an increasingly desperate humanitarian situation. The border crossing at Vyšné Nemecké saw up to some 10,000 refugees cross each day, with faith-based and humanitarian organisations providing immediate support to people as they come into Slovakia. Support onsite includes simple shelter and beds for resting, information services, coordination of onward travel into Slovakia and finding temporary accommodation there, medical and psychosocial support, food, drinks, toys for the children, hygiene items and other necessities.

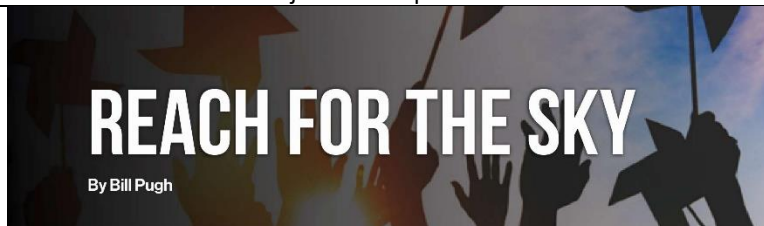
Photo: Albin Hillert/LWF

We are thankful for

- the faithful witness of Christians here through the centuries, especially in times of occupation and persecution
- the peaceful resolution of disputes
- the distinctive cultural contributions and resources in these lands
- the religious freedom and ecumenical cooperation that is growing.

We pray for:

- greater respect for the Roma people and others who are marginalized and who lack adequate livelihoods in these lands
- welcoming and engaging those of other faiths and ethnicities
- growth in spiritual as well as physical health
- democratic governance that advances God's justice and peace for all.



A film and a book tell the story of Douglas Bader, the daring pilot who lost both legs in a terrible accident.

With artificial legs attached, he took to the skies in WWII and was a renowned fighter ace, who was shot down over enemy lines, imprisoned and made numerous attempts to escape.

It's a story of indomitable courage, determined to reach for the sky. The heavens have always been a challenge to those who take to the air. Space travel has loomed as an exciting possibility. How far can we go into space?

Is there life on a distant planet? Now we are challenged to board a space craft and travel in orbit.

Millions of dollars are being poured into space projects.

It is all very exciting and challenging, but in all this there is a note of caution. Do we have any right to spend millions on these projects while millions starve on our planet? Is it irresponsible to look above when our own life on earth is not in order?

Reflection:

Psalm 8 invites us to 'consider the heavens'. To glory in the sky above, all the handiwork of the Creator, and to reflect on our place in the scheme of things on earth. On earth we have dominion, stewardship over God's handiwork, with all animals, birds and fish for our provision and care. To be shared with all human kind. All to his praise. But in our abundance we need a sense of perspective to consider those who have less.

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