



REACHING OUT

Sunday March 3

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

Anglican tradition led by Rev Cathy Carden

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday March 3

Lent 3

Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25; John 2: 13-22

Jesus Cleanses the Temple



The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things

out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 2: 13-22

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

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 **Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah, and Myrtleford-Whorouly** commencing Sunday March 3.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord, we live in a world where self, the I, me, and mine, govern many, if not most of our decisions.

Yet, we hear your challenge to all who would follow you, to take up their cross and follow you.

Lord, even though we hear you so often we resist or ignore the challenge.

Forgive us Lord.

Grant us the humility and grace to follow you in obedience and truth.

Lord, we give you thanks for the promise that as we follow you, no matter how challenging it may prove to be, you will be our companion along the way.

In your name we pray

Amen

SOME THOUGHTS

Many would suggest that the Lenten season is a time of 'giving away or laying aside.'

However, scripture tells us that it is a time of taking up.

In Mark 8: 34- 38 Jesus says to those following him, that to be a true follower they were required to "take up their cross and follow Him."

To those who heard Jesus and those who have heard him ever since, this is truly a shocking challenge. In our present experience the cross has been sterilised. It is no longer a symbol of rejection, humiliation, suffering and death.

Rather it is an ornament worn around the neck or decorating an altar.

Many times, it stands proudly on the spire of a church.

At the time Jesus walked this earth the cross was a form of suffering and execution, used primarily for the worst of the worst criminals, those who society totally rejected and wished dead.

As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem and ultimate death, he had an occasion to challenge those who heard him with the reality of what being a follower or disciple would mean.

While we can't speak for all those who followed him, it would seem that it was only after his death, resurrection and the visitation of the Holy Spirit that his disciples truly understood what the cross meant.

Indeed, many of them experienced such a death. But what about you and I?

For each of us the challenge of the cross will be different and even individual.

Whatever it may be, it will have one thing in common.

The cross is costly. To pick up and carry our cross requires the gift of grace, that only God can give. The gift we need is costly, costly grace.

Knowing this why do we look for grace that is cheap?

Many want to experience an ongoing encounter with God while not being prepared to pay any price.

Yes, Jesus paid the price, and we can live in that freedom.

However, there is still a requirement that we lift and carry our cross.

SELAH

A BLESSING

May the Christ who died for us enable us to carry our cross as he carried his.

May the Christ who died for us help us to die to self so that we may live for him and those around us.

May the Christ who walks with us show us how to walk with others.

In Jesus name.

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 2: 13-22

Perhaps John contrasts “the Passover of the Jews” with the sacrifice of our “pascal lamb, Christ” (1 Corinthians 5:7). Jesus, as did many Jews, goes “up to Jerusalem” for the feast. In the forecourt of the Temple, he finds merchants selling animals and birds for sacrifices, and money changers exchanging coins bearing idolatrous images for coins used to pay the temple tax. Jesus throws both traders and animals out of the temple precincts, insisting that commercial activities (especially shady ones) have no place here (v. 16). (V. 19 may show that Jesus also speaks against the regulation of the Jewish sacrificial system by the religious authorities: it oppressed most people and enriched the traders and money changers.) Note that Jesus claims that God is his Father and sees the Temple as worthy of respect. The disciples recall Psalm 69:9 – here a prophecy that Jesus’ “zeal” (v. 17) will lead to his death. The religious leaders (“Jews”, v. 18) ask Jesus what authority he has for his (violent) action; his reply (v. 19) is puzzling and perhaps evasive, challenging them to replace temple worship with belief in him. Lacking faith, they take it literally (and misunderstand), but John tells us that Jesus is saying that, by his resurrection (“three days”) he will become a new spiritual temple, replacing the Temple. The disciples only understand this after the first Easter. It helps them to believe in Jesus and his message of good news.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

March 3

Elder on Duty: David Robinson
Reader: Betty Bjorksten
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Ted Stabb
Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

March 10

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb
Reader: LouAnne Stabb
Prayers: Carol Harris
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TV Screen: Harold Cover
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Coming Events

Tue March 5, 2:30pm	Lenten Studies at Emmanuel
	Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom
Wed March 6, 8:30 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri March 8, 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.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales



Busy street life in central Oxford, England, United Kingdom, 23 March 2023.

Photo: Albin Hillert/LWF

Give thanks for:

- the many distinct cultures in these islands and how literature, music, dance, and other traditions rooted here, have enriched people around the world
- the economic and other aid that consistently have come from the area to those in the world who are most in need
- the many who have emigrated to other parts of the world, and in turn, the immigrants from these lands who are now turning the United Kingdom and Ireland into increasingly multi-ethnic, multireligious societies
- the positive contributions Great Britain has made in world history and that church leaders have played in the ecumenical and interfaith movements.

Pray for:

- the healing of scars and memories that linger after times of colonization
- overcoming barriers so that all might experience welcome as these countries become more genuinely multi-ethnic and multi-faith
- resolving differences and political tensions over how Great Britain should relate to the rest of Europe
- dealing with the challenges of increasing secularism and the emergence of new ways of expressing religion and spirituality.

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.

