



REACHING OUT

Sunday November 19, 2023

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 November 19

Pentecost 25

Judges 4: 1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30

The Parable of the Talents



For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received

the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25: 14-30

THE WAITING GAME

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Father, thank you for the hope you give us in Jesus. A hope that leaves us impatiently waiting for your blessing. Lord, we long for those close to us to experience the joy and peace which comes as a consequence of being in relationship with you. And we become impatient and judgemental when they fail to respond. We forget Lord, how patient you have been with us. Watching and waiting through our times of dullness, rebellion and loss. Times when we demonstrate our lack of understanding concerning the ways you want us to live. Lord, because you love us you accept us just as we are. In so doing Lord, give us the grace to love and accept those around us. In Jesus name we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

Between our work and the fruit of it, there is always a distance, the time of waiting. While we all know this, we find it hard to bear. Yet waiting is built into the structure of living. Expectation of good is a joy that we could not have without waiting. Crises of courtship, birth, promotion and all other consequences of life, make demands upon our patience. We appreciate the good that has come to us the more, when it comes, not by plain sailing, but through heavy sea and over the edge of the falls. At the same time, we do not like being kept waiting. We notice in the scriptures that there is a premium set upon waiting for God. Waiting is a form of faithfulness, of endurance. It is the other side of seeking him. Jesus works steadily and patiently in the time God has given to him. Jesus has time for people, time for God. Waiting is hallowed by God, who encourages and blesses our waiting, patience, and endurance.

Scripture is clear concerning the importance of waiting.

“Wait for the Lord. Be strong and let your heart take courage, yes wait for the Lord.”

(Psalm 27 : 14) “Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.” (Isaiah 64:4)

It is often said that the better the gift we pray for, the more time is necessary for its arrival. To give us the spiritual gift we desire, God may have to begin far back in our spirit. Knowing the weakness and imperfection of our souls burdened by attachments, we pray earnestly and humbly for the grace without which we can never hope to conquer our impatience, irritability, aggressiveness and self-righteous impulses to judge and punish others.

To walk with Christ is to follow patiently after Him.

BENEDICTION



We go today, Lord, singing and making melody to you in our heart, ready to do and to suffer all that you ask of us, in Jesus Christ. We seek and wait for you in all things.

AMEN

Refugee support

It would be wonderful if we could have a generous gift to pass on to Grace Mukozi before Christmas, to assist those from her original community now refugees in Uganda. Please place your donations in an envelope at the back of the church on Sunday mornings or in a direct deposit to the church account – details being: BSB 033-264, account 960276, account name Emmanuel Congregation. Just note ‘Grace’ or ‘refugee support’. Every bit we can give will help to make their lives safer and better. Thank you, everyone, for your giving, for this, and for the general work of our church. LouAnne

Lectionary Comment – Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus continues to tell parables about the kingdom of heaven. In the previous parables, he has told us that we need to be prepared for the Second Coming at all times. Today's parable is set in the realm of finance. A master, before leaving on a journey, entrusts his slaves with his money, "each according to his ability" (v. 15). (A talent was about 15 years' wages for a labourer, a large sum of money.) Two servants invest the money and earn more (vv. 16, 17); the third simply buries it (v. 18). When the master returns (v. 19), he praises the investors; they, he says, will be made responsible for "many things" (vv. 21, 23), and will "enter into the joy of your master". But the third slave, admitting that he was afraid of his master's wrath (v. 24), simply returns the original sum (v. 25). The master chastises him for his wickedness and laziness. This slave loses what he has been given (v. 28) and is condemned to "outer darkness" (v. 30). This would have caused a stir in Jesus' day, for a rabbinic maxim commends burial of money as a way of protecting it.

But this parable is about the kingdom of heaven, so what is the lesson it teaches? "Weeping and gnashing of teeth" (v. 30) is a stock phrase for condemnation of the wicked at the Last Day. The master stands for God and the servants for various kinds of people. Yes, God both rewards generously and is a stern judge. He expects us to be good stewards of his gifts. We will be commended and rewarded for faithfully carrying out his mission. Failure to use what he gives us will result in punishment – by separation from him, the essence of goodness. We are expected to make his gifts grow. He is free to distribute them as he sees fit (vv. 28-29).

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

November 19

Elder on Duty: David Robinson
Reader: Harold Cover
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: Carol Harris

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

November 26

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb
Reader: David Robinson
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey
Usher: David Robinson
Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

Coming Events

Wed November 22 8:30am
10:30am
Fri November 24 9:30am
Sun December 3 5:00pm

Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Craft Goup at Emmanuel
At Emmanuel, combined Emmanuel, St. Stephen's, Kergunyah & St. John's Advent worship followed with barbecue tea.

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 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.

A TIME TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE COMING OF JESUS.....



CELEBRATE THE SEASON & MAKE ROOM FOR GOD

Come to EMMANUEL CHURCH,

39 Emerald Ave,

West Wodonga

On Sunday December 3rd at 5.00pm.

Worship, singing and creativity for the whole family. Get to know others that worship in the different spaces each week.

This will be followed by sharing in a provided picnic BBQ
in the grounds.

ALL WELCOME

The advent event has been sponsored and organised by members of Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church, St John's Anglican Church, St Stephen's Uniting Church and Kergunyah Uniting Church.

Bible Readings for Sunday November 26

Christ The King

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Matthew 25: 31-46

Praying For One Another 2023

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 **Albury North - Trinity**, commencing Sunday November 19.

Wanted - Healthy Pot Plants St. Stephens Uniting Church

- Do you have healthy good quality pot plants excess to your needs?
- How about bringing them along to the St. Stephen's Wodonga Market Plant Stall at 5.00pm on Friday 1st December where we will find them a loving new home.



Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines



Women winnow peanuts at the United Methodist Church in Banaybanay, a town on the southern Philippines island of Mindanao. They will turn the peanuts into peanut butter they'll sell to raise money for their group's activities. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on earth

We are thankful for:

- the vital witness of churches in this region
- the diversity of ethnicities, cultures and religious beliefs, and especially those in Indonesia who have built bridges between them
- those who have resisted bravely and worked for human rights, justice, peace and reconciliation, especially the National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- those who protest exploitative mining, deforestation and other environmental damage.

We pray for:

- governments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste, that they will eradicate corruption, establish justice and peace, and work effectively for the wellbeing of all their people
- victims of violence, torture, drug and human trafficking, and human rights violations, that those responsible might be held accountable
- all those affected by earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters, and for the rebuilding of communities afterwards
- ecumenical and interfaith cooperation to bring justice, peace and sustainability to these lands.