



REACHING OUT

Sunday November 5, 2023

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church
Anglican and Uniting tradition led by Fr Jacques Jeffries
No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday November 5 Pentecost 23

Joshua 3: 7-17; Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12

Jesus Denounces Scribes and Pharisees



Matthew 23, 1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to

be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23: 1-12

Bible Readings for Sunday November 12 Pentecost 24

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78: 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Matthew 23: 1-12

Praying For One Another 2023

In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.

Many Congregations are in the habit of deliberately praying 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. We invite our congregations to pray whenever they meet.

For the Uniting Church in the Presbytery of North East Victoria, this week we pray for the **Strath Creek** and **Nagambie Connect Faith Communities**, commencing Sunday November 5.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord, we rarely risk our lives for the sake of others. Stepping out of the boat as Peter did is a risk we rarely contemplate. Yet we see the example you set for us as the suffering servant and we are challenged to follow your lead.

Lord, help us to be willing to count the cost. To take up our cross and follow you.

Challenge us Lord, to be less concerned with our own security and be more concerned with the kingdom. Lord work within us to bring about the change required to enable us to reflect your ways within ourselves and others.

This we pray in the name of Christ.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

Scripture is the record of God in his great grace reaching out to us who, in our weakness, are powerless to save ourselves and restore lost communion with him.

For us, like Jesus, suffering and helplessness are risks involved in the pursuing of a vision of God's love and justice. However, we do not have to rely on our own strength. Rather we should make, 'I can do all things through Christ', a rule of our lives. To cultivate a dependence on God will mean far greater resources are available to us than our own.

Since we all experience weakness at some stage in our lives, even the weakness of dying, is an opportunity for God to work in our lives.

The process of growing old need not hold so many fears for us if we accept the presence of Christ's strong shoulders. God takes weak, scared, struggling and ineffective people and accomplishes his mighty work with such inadequate tools.

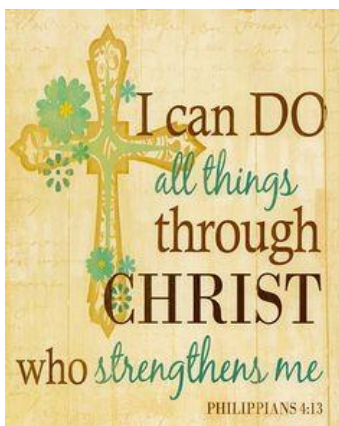
We can take comfort in the knowledge that it is upon human weakness, not human strength, that God chooses to build His kingdom. He can use us, not merely in spite of our ordinariness and helplessness, but because of them.

When we were poor, lost and separated from God, we were able to appropriate His grace to cover our sin. It is therefore no surprise to find that His strength is available for his people in any kind of weakness. Our confidence in the ever-present strength of God is based upon the initial work of God in Christ when the Strong One took our weakness and our sin upon himself.

The amazing grace of God is demonstrated in the fact that while we ourselves are overwhelmed by our own weakness and limitations, we can still be so transparent that the Spirit of God, the divine counsellor can shine through us and bring light to others.

SELAH

BENEDICTION



Go forth in the strength which God can supply. May God's grace which is brought to completion in your weakness, go with you throughout this day.

AMEN

Lectionary Comment – Matthew 23: 1-12

Jesus has just silenced his principal critics, the Sadducees and the Pharisees, by showing their lack of understanding of parts of the Old Testament. He now speaks “to the crowds and to his disciples”. (Most “scribes”, v. 2, were Pharisees. They made copies of the Mosaic law; they taught and applied it and the aural tradition that had grown up around it, considering the latter to be as binding as the Law.)

Jesus tells his audience (v. 2): the Pharisees have authority to teach the Law, in (what was considered) an unbroken chain back to Moses (“Moses’ seat”), so honour their teachings, but beware of their practices! They are great ones for teaching a severe (rather than humane) interpretation of the Law (“heavy burdens”, v. 4) and not following it themselves! They are vain and hypocritical (v. 5): they exert effort to appear pious. (“Phylacteries” are small boxes containing biblical texts, worn on the arm or the forehead; “fringes” are prescribed in Numbers and Deuteronomy as a way of remembering to live by the commandments. The longer the fringes, the more pious the wearer appears to be.) Vv. 6-7 give four examples of vanity. (“Rabbi” means master and later became a title for a synagogue leader.) Then vv. 8-10: Christians are not to use honorific titles. Jesus is our one “teacher” and instructor for we are his lifelong disciples; others teach us only for a time. God the “Father” is our father. Vv. 11-12 emphasize the importance of humility and service to others.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

November 5

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck
Reader: Ted Stabb
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

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

November 12

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

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

Coming Events

Tue November 7 7:30pm
Wed November 8 9:00am
10:30am
Fri November 11 9:30am

Emmanuel Council meet on Zoom
Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Craft Goup at Emmanuel

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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

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.

Let Christmas wishes support those in need.



1 Australiana Wreaths (Mixed Pack 1)

Flowering Gum Wreath sentiment: Season's Greetings and best wishes for the coming year.
Protea Wreath sentiment: Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and an especially happy New Year.



2 Holly (Mixed Pack 2)

Green Holly sentiment: Warmest wishes for a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.
Red Holly sentiment: May the festive season bring only happiness and joy to you and your loved ones.

Each pack of 10 cards is only \$11



3 Joy

Sentiment: Joy to you at Christmas and happiness in the coming year.



4 Nativity

Sentiment: Sentiment: May you be blessed during the season of goodwill and may the new year bring peace and joy.
Bible Verse: 'For to us a child is born' Isaiah 9:6.



5 Peace Dove

Sentiment: May peace, love and prosperity follow you always.

Your purchase helps people in crisis this Christmas.
Please visit unitingvictas.org.au/Christmas-cards or call **1800 668 426**
To order your Christmas Cards

Uniting