



# REACHING OUT

Sunday January 16, 2022

Weekly News for Wodonga West and Rural Uniting Churches

**9:00am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church.**

*Anglican Tradition, led by Rev Christine Page*

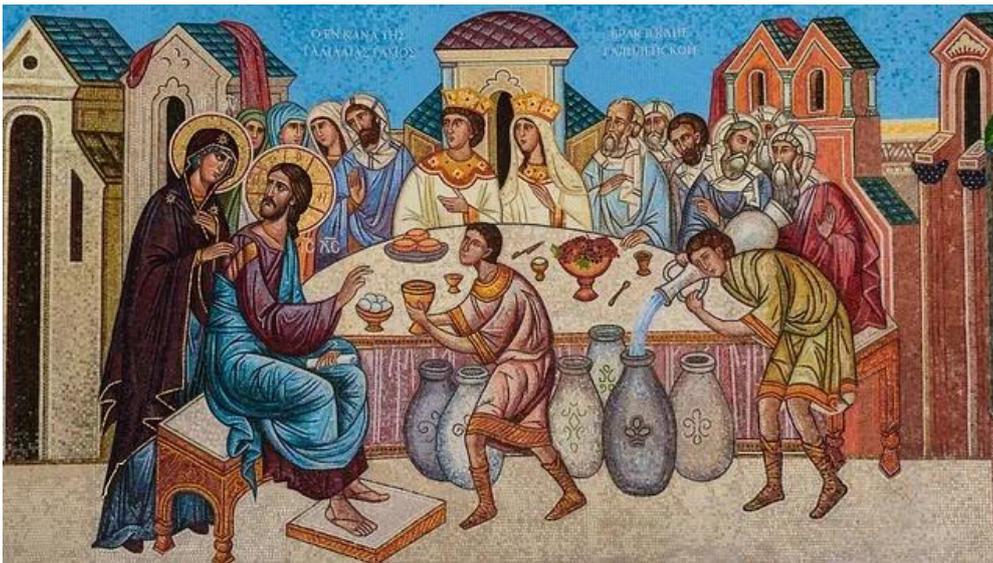
**No Service at Kergunyah Uniting Church.**

Masks are required inside the building for all persons over aged 8. Many thanks to everyone for following the COVID requirements when attending worship and other activities at Emmanuel. There may well be changes in the near future and we'll continue to do our best to keep us as safe as possible. We still should check in via a QR Code or with the tablet. COVID is well and truly in the community and we must each take care for our own protection but also for that of others. If you do feel unwell, please stay at home, but do keep in touch with us. We must look after each other.

## Epiphany 2 Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

### The Wedding at Cana



On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**John 2:1-11**

## **Lay Fear Aside - A Reflection**

### **Rev Leonie Findlay**

#### **PRAYER**

Lord we are struggling to understand or make sense of the world around us.

Many are sick and increasing numbers are dying.

Lord we are anxious and confused.

#### **HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Your word encourages us to lay fear aside; to live in the knowledge that we are your chosen people and that we are precious in your sight.

Lord help us live in the knowledge that no matter how challenging the journey you are with us.

#### **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

**AMEN**

#### **SOME THOUGHTS**

It would seem that we are all being increasingly caught up in a whirlwind of struggle uncertainty and fear

Each day dawns with thoughts of what might or might not happen.

Around every corner we seem to be confronted by increasingly difficult challenges.

Clear guidance which flows through us like a gentle steam seems unreachable amidst the inner and outer chaos. What is the source of such disquiet? How are we to interpret the events of the present?

Must we simply endure these storms of anxiety as if each of us must process our share of physical, mental and emotional overload. The answer to such questions comes through loudly in the words of the prophet

Isaiah (43:1-4) where God says,

*'Fear not for I have redeemed you,*

*I have called you by name you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.*

*When you walk through the fire you will not be burned.*

*For I am the Lord your God.....*

*You are precious and honoured in my sight.'*

This message stands in sharp contrast to many of our experiences.

Jesus shows, both in his teachings and in his life, that even in the midst of sorrow and disappointment we can find peace and dare I say joy. Yes, there are rivers to cross and fires that threaten but the God who calls us precious and surrounds us with love walks with us.

In his dying Christ revealed a completely new way of living.

Embracing pain he demonstrated that new life and redemption can be born through suffering.

Jesus calls our pains 'labour pains'. He says: 'A woman in childbirth suffers because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child, she forgets the suffering in her joy that a human being has been born into the world.' (John 16:21)

The cross has become the most powerful symbol of this new vision.

The cross is a symbol of death and life, of suffering and joy, of defeat and victory.

#### **SELAH**

#### **GRACE**

Lord grant us the graces of clarity, wisdom and courage in the light of the many changes, obstacles and illusions that fill our days.

May we be directed through the chaos rather than into it.

For change brings endings as well as beginnings, deaths as well as births.

May we not hold onto all that must be dissolved to enable a new way.

**AMEN**

## Lectionary Comment - John 2:1-11

John uses symbolism extensively in his telling of the good news. He says in 20:31: “these [signs] are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name”. Our reading looks forward to Jesus’ resurrection and glorification (“on the third day”, v. 1), the Last Supper, and the messianic banquet expected at the end of time, when Christ comes again. The “mother of Jesus” appears for the first time in the gospel; the last time is when she stands at the foot of the cross. On both occasions, Jesus addresses her as “Woman” (v. 4), a title roughly equivalent to Madam today: Jesus is guided in his ministry only by the Father’s will (“my hour ...”). Mary’s words in v. 5 suggest that she believes in Jesus, as she does at the foot of the cross. Jesus has the water jars filled completely (“to the brim”, v. 7) with water. In Judaism, the “rites of purification” (v. 6, washing before and after eating) were ceremonial, but in totally transforming water into wine, Jesus replaces the old (Judaism) with the new; wine is a symbol originating in Christ. In Isaiah, marriage between God and his people symbolizes the fulfilment of God’s purpose for his people; here the abundance of good wine symbolizes the joy accompanying the arrival of the end of the era (as foretold in several prophetic books). John presents “signs” (v. 11) as aids to people in reaching his objectives (20:31). Jesus shows that God is present in his very nature (“his glory”).

*Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton*

## Praying For One Another 2022

### 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 next group (or groups) of congregations on the list, according to date.

For the Uniting Church in the Presbytery of North East Victoria, this week we pray for the congegations of **Violet Town and Strathbogie** commencing January 16.

## Worship resources

**Worship Resources** - should you not be able to join with others at church for worship.

Click on the link below to find UCA resources for a wide variety of live streamed or recorded worship services. <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/weekly-worship/>

## Your Weekly Offering



Giving envelopes for those who use them should be available this Sunday. If there are others who would like printed enveloped for 2022, please contact David Robinson (0407 835 432) or LouAnne (0419 644 769). If you wish to use direct deposit, account details are: BSB 033-264, account 960276, account name Emmanuel Congregation. Please note ‘offering’ on your deposit. Thank you, everyone, for maintaining your offering. LouAnne

## Emmanuel Roster

### January 16

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck  
Reader: Carol Clutterbuck  
Prayers: Carol Harris  
Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Ted Stabb  
COVID Marshall/ Usher: Ted Stabb  
Pianist: Betty Bjorksten  
Morning Tea: Carol Clutterbuck/ Shirley Horsfall

### January 23

Elder on Duty: Karen Robinson  
Reader: Scott Felstead  
Prayers: David Robinson  
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
COVID Marshall/ Usher: Ted Stabb  
Organist: LouAnne Stabb  
Morning Tea: Shirley Horsfall (help, anyone?)

**February – April 2022 roster** - We will need to prepare the next roster very soon. If you are normally rostered for duties at Emmanuel could you please notify Ted (0417 141 335 or email) of dates that you will not be available. We prepare rosters in hopes that things don't change. However, these days we can't count of too many things staying the same, so rostered duties can be changed should personal situations change. It helps to have a roster to start with though.

### Morning Tea Roster

We've been able to have morning tea in a more 'normal' manner these past few weeks. Carol Clutterbuck and Shirley Horsfall have been coming every Sunday to ensure that all is ready for our time of refreshment and conversation. We'd like to have a few more people to give them some help. We'll be making a new roster soon, so it would be great to have some additional people to share the task. Please get in touch with LouAnne (0419 644 769) or Carol C. (02 6024 5896) if you're able to assist perhaps one Sunday a month. Thank you

### Bible Readings for Sunday January 23 Epiphany 3

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

### Coming Events

Wed. 19 Jan	8:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance – summer time recommendation
Mon. 31 Jan	10:30 am	Community Shop Opens for 2022
Wed. 2 Feb	7:30 pm	Emmanuel Council meeting by Zoom
Fri. 4 Feb	9:30 am	Friday Craft Group resumes
Sun. 27 Feb	10:30 am	AGM Congregation at Emmanuel after Worship

### Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay  
0419 990 358  
[lfindlay03@bigpond.com](mailto:lfindlay03@bigpond.com)

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies  
02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069  
[stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:hcover@bigpond.com)  
or LouAnne Stabb 02 6059 2244 [stabb@inet.net.au](mailto:stabb@inet.net.au) by Wednesday.  
Website: <http://www.emmanuel.unitingchurch.org.au/index/htm>



### Emmanuel Church Life

During January we will feature some articles about the various activities that are undertaken by church folk to sustain the life and work of Emmanuel.

**Church Cleaning** No, the vacuum cleaner has not become a robot. We do dream that it could happen. However, there is a team of four who push the vacuum around and see that the dusting/wiping of surfaces is carefully done each week to ensure that our worship centre is as clean as possible for worship on Sunday. These four appear early on Wednesday mornings and energetically get the job done in time for the grounds and maintenance group to take over. All gifts are blessed.

## Prayer of the Week

### World Council of Churches

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen



Primary schools in southern Yemen re-opened in October 2020 following months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo: UNICEF Yemen/2020/Mahmoud Al-Falsatiny.

#### We pray for:

- women and others in these countries who are deprived of basic freedoms and human dignity
  - those who misuse or exploit religious identity for extremist political ends
  - the wise use of the benefits of oil and other natural resources for the sake of all
- the emergence of stable democratic societies based on the rule of law, social justice, and respect for religious and other freedoms.



## THE MESSAGE FROM A TRAIN HORN

By Bill Pugh

We live not far from a train line on the way into the city. We can hear the train horns warning cars and people as they approach the crossings.

At night, when there is little traffic or noise, we hear the sound as the train approaches each crossing and finally disappears and we can sleep on.

Since COVID-19 emerged, to me the sound appears to be mournful. The train is missing people to take them to the city and do its job. But recently, early in the morning, everything changed and the horn was loud and clear.

#### Reflection:

Jesus performed a wonderful miracle on a man who was deaf and mute. The disciples who heard him speak plainly, and understood every word, said of Jesus: "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." Read the story (Mark 7:31-37). Give thanks for your hearing blessings, and pray for those who help others hear.

The train was saying to us: "The lockdown is over, get up and go to work, let's be Melbourne again."

Being able to hear is such a gift. When it fades we lose contact. Thank God for audiologists, helping us to hear, healing our sense of sound.

Hearing aids are such a blessing and bring us back to hearing, reopening our ears to the wonderful sounds of nature. Keeping us in touch with each other.

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by freepik.com | January 2022

### GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts, major donations & trusts – help the work of the Church today

Gifts can take many forms, including cash, shares, real or things such as valuable paintings. Some people choose to establish a trust which commences during their lifetime, others choose to establish a testamentary gift (bequest) in their will, others as a memorial to a loved one.

Want to know more?

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:

[www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)

## An Invitation from St. Stephen's Wodonga



**# Change  
The Heart**

*Hear The Call*

**Tuesday, 25 January 2022**

You are invited by one of our most Senior Aboriginal Christian Leaders, Aunty Jean Phillips, to gather together to pray in unison to #ChangeTheHeart on the evening before January 26. Tune in to this unique, national service led by Aboriginal Christian Leaders simulcast on television, online, and on radio.

St Stephens Uniting Church WODONGA will be inviting supporters to the Fellowship Room 25th January 2022 at 7:30pm to share the National Service by Aboriginal Christian Leaders simulcast online. We request mask-wearing protocols to this service and a light supper will be provided.

**[commongrace.org.au/change\\_the\\_heart](https://commongrace.org.au/change_the_heart)**

COMMON GRACE

