



# REACHING OUT

Sunday January 23, 2022

Weekly News for Wodonga West and Rural Uniting Churches

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

*Uniting Tradition, led by Rev Leonie Findlay*

**11:15am 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. Should you receive a positive test result and have been in the Emmanuel building for worship or otherwise, you are required to notify the secretary (Ted Stabb 0417 141 335). If you do feel unwell, please stay at home, but do keep in touch with us. Many thanks for your co-operation.

## Epiphany 3 Readings

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

### The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry



Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

### The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

**Luke 4:14-21**

# Let Heaven and Nature Speak

## Rev Leonie Findlay

### PRAYER

Creator God when the earth was created you acknowledged it was good. Indeed, you considered your handiwork to be very good. However, we are living in a time where your creation is struggling.

Because of the way we have misused, neglected, and abused the precious gift entrusted into our keeping, the earth is crying out. Rising temperatures, fires, floods, rising sea levels and so much more all reflect a natural world out of balance. The natural world, the work of your hands, is crying out.

### LORD FORGIVE US

Creator God In spite of our destructive ways and the consequences of such behaviour we are amazed by the fact that you don't abandon us. In fact, you still love and persist with us.

### LORD WE THANK YOU

God help us turn from our selfish ways. May we appreciate and respect the work of your hands with ever grateful hearts.

### AMEN

### SOME THOUGHTS

*While it is true that God is a hidden presence, we have only to let nature speak to us about the God who is everywhere.*  
(Henri Nouwen in the Genesee Diary)

Jesus was deeply connected to the earth on which he walked. He observed the forces of nature, learned from them, taught about them and revealed that the God of creation is the same God who sent him to preach good news to the poor, sight to the blind and freedom to the prisoners. The parables Jesus taught were grounded in nature.

The natural world is not just the background to our lives. It is the living gift that teaches us about the ways and will of the creator. If we were to slow down and be more observant, we could appreciate the fact that God's presence is woven into every aspect of the natural world around us. Letting nature speak opens up a new way of discerning the Divine presence. All of nature conceals great secrets that cannot be revealed if we do not listen carefully and patiently to God's hidden language. Our difficult and now urgent task is to realise that nature is not a possession to be conquered but a gift to be received with respect and gratitude. When a tree is nothing but a potential chair, it ceases to tell us much about growth. When a river is only a dumping ground for industrial waste, it can no longer speak to us about movement. When a flower is nothing more than a plastic decoration, it has little to say about the simple beauty of life.

Nature desires for us to discern the great story of God's love to which it points. The plant and animal life teach us about birth, death and growth. Rather than abuse and neglect they require gentle and appropriate care, patience and understanding.

*'When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,  
The moon and the stars that you have established;  
What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
Mortals that you care for them.....*

*O Lord, our Sovereign,*

*How majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*(Psalm 8 : 3, 4, 9)*

### SELAH

### BENEDICTION

Dear Lord you are the word of God through whom all creation came into being.

You can be found in all your creation.

We thank you for the beauty of all that is.

### AMEN

## Lectionary Comment - Luke 4:14-21

Jesus has been tempted by the devil in the wilderness (vv. 1-13) to misuse his power for his personal benefit, for worldly domination, and for protection from God's plan fulfilled on the cross. Now he returns to Galilee. Jesus customarily attends synagogue services to worship and present his message; it is there that Luke tells us who Jesus is: he stands in continuity with God's promises of old. Jesus is a great teacher; he has great authority in telling people about God and his plan. Jesus begins with one part of the scroll (Isaiah 61), then rewinds to another: vv. 18-19 emphasize his mission to those who are "poor" in any way, be it financially, in spirit, in health. In "the year of the Lord's favour", the jubilee year, debts were forgiven and slaves were set free. Jesus applies these verses to himself: he performs the works of the Messiah then expected. He then sits to interpret the readings: he says that God's plan is now being completed ("fulfilled", v. 21).

*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 **Presbytery Ministers - Tony, Richard and Brian** commencing January 23.

## 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 envelopes 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 23

Elder on Duty: Karen Robinson

Reader: Scott Felstead

Prayers: David Robinson

Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover

COVID Marshall/ Usher: Ted Stabb

Organist: LouAnne Stabb

Morning Tea: Shirley Horsfall, Elaine Brown

### January 30

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck

Reader: Carol Clutterbuck

Prayers: Karen Robinson

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover

COVID Marshall/ Usher: Rod Clutterbuck

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 on 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 30

### Epiphany 4

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

## Coming Events

Wed. 19 Jan	8:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance – summer time recommendation
Sun 30 Jan	2:30pm	Service of Release for Rev Denise Naish at St. Stephen's, Wodonga * See details below.
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.

### Community Shop



Our store is totally staffed with varied ages and ability volunteers. The store opening hours are Monday to Friday, 10.30am to 2.30pm. Plans are for reopening on January 31, 2022. Our volunteers aren't just for a cuppa and a natter on their shift, they work to their ability to maintain the shop to create a happy shopping experience. The 'rest yourself chair' and table will be back in store for 2022. The Community Shop is grateful for the lovely volunteers, the customers, a listening ear, companionship, the donated "I wonder what an item is" maybe brings a laugh or good cry and knowing sales are helping support the Meeting Place. Please drop in

for 'fill OUR bag of summer clothes for \$5.00' (unless ticketed tagged) sale starting Monday January 31, 2022.

Karen Robinson, Community Shop Manager



## Service of Release – Rev Denise Naish

The service of release for Rev Denise Naish from her present placement at St Stephen's Uniting Church Wodonga, prior to the commencement of her retirement, will take place on Sunday January 30th, commencing at 2:30pm at St Stephen's UCA, 177 Beechworth Rd., Wodonga. The service will also be live streamed and recorded and the link will be available in the week prior to the service by contacting the Church Office, email: [admin@wodongastst.victas.uca.org.au](mailto:admin@wodongastst.victas.uca.org.au) To assist in planning it would be appreciated if you could RSVP to the Church Office by Monday Jan 24<sup>th</sup>

### Prayer of the Week World Council of Churches Cyprus, Greece, Turkey



*H.E. Metropolitan Dr Vasilios of Constantia – Ammochostos with participants of the WCC Assembly Planning Committee meeting in Cyprus in 2019.*  
*Photo: Stamatis Grozoudis/WCC*

#### We pray for:

- the healing of memories and wounds inflicted by early 20th century genocides of Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian communities, and for current tensions in these lands
  - enhanced respect for all minority groups and their claims,
  - those who work for justice and reconciliation
- the people who struggle because of economic and political crises in these countries
  - more stable democratic governments that further the good of all.



By Geoff Serpell

I received a treasured mail from a cousin about the 'mayonnaise jar'.

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day is not enough, re-member the mayonnaise jar and two coffees.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. Class began in silence as he filled the jar with golf balls. The students agreed that the glass was full.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar and the pebbles rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. Was the jar now full? Yes.

Now came a box of sand and it got poured into the jar. Was the jar now full? Yes.

#### Reflection:

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children, take time to get medical check-ups and take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the dripping tap. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set priorities because the rest is just sand.

One student asked what the coffee represented, and the professor replied: "It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."

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

The professor then produced two cups of coffee and poured them into the jar. After the laughter died down the professor said: "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life."

The golf balls are the important things including God, family, health, friends, and favourite passions. Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the things that matter like your job, house, and car while the sand is everything else: the small stuff. If you put the sand in first, there is no room for the golf balls or the pebbles. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for things that matter most.

**#ChangeTheHeart**  
*Hear The Call*

**Tuesday, 25 January 2022**

You are invited by one of our most Senior Aboriginal Christian Leaders, Auntie Jean Phillip, to gather together to pray in union 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](http://commongrace.org.au/change_the_heart)

COMMON GRACE