



REACHING OUT

Sunday April 13, 2025

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday April 13

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2: 5-11; Luke 19: 28-40

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem



After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt,

they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

Luke 19: 28-40

Bible Readings for Sunday April 20

Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43 or Isaiah 65: 17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20: 1-18 or Luke 24: 1-12

Praying For One Another 2025

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 the **Northern Rivers Cluster: Rochester, Elmore and Bamawm**, beginning Sunday, April 13.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

God of love we come to you with a very heavy heart.
Creator God, you made all things and the works of your hands were good.
You made man and woman in your image entrusting your creation into their hands.
God of mercy hear my prayer.
What have we done with all we have been given?

Forgive us for our neglect and negligence.
Forgive our selfishness and greed,
Father, open our eyes to the wonders of your love and the beauty of the world you have given us.
Open our ears to the cries of the needy and our hearts and hands to give generously sparing nothing.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

AMEN

REFLECTION

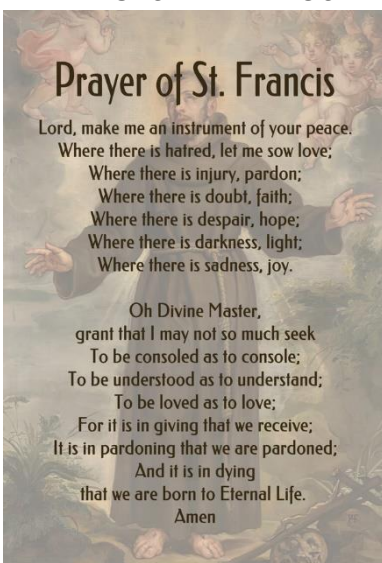
'I can't breathe', a cry that has reverberated around the world.
A cry from an individual begging for the grace of mercy.
A grace denied, a life taken and a fire ignited.
That which was a smouldering flame has become a raging fire, breaking national, cultural, political and religious boundaries.

The knee of the law robbing the underprivileged and oppressed of life itself.
The neck which governs communication and speech, which facilitates the communication of inner truth, severed.
A life is taken while the world watches in horror.
What is our response what can we do? How are we to respond?

God of love and compassion draw us deeper into your heart.
Show us how to recognise and respond to the suffering of our brothers and sisters.
May we accept the gift of your suffering as your passion for the redemption of each and every one of us. Grant us hearts of love and compassion for those whose lives are scared and broken.
Open our hearts to the pain of those who travel this road of life with us.
Make us instruments of your love

SELAH

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS



Lord make me an instrument of your peace
Where is hatred let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy

O Divine master, grant that I may
Not so much to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life

AMEN

Coming Events

Wed April 16, 8:30am

10:30am

Fri April 18, 9:00am

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship

Good Friday Worship Service

Food Relief Assistance

Donated items of nonperishable food items such as pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, any type of soup or pasta sauce can be placed in the basket at the rear of the church on Sunday. The items are passed on to the Felltimber Community Centre on Wednesday. Cash donations can be left at the Felltimber Community Centre.

Emmanuel Roster

April 13 Palm Sunday

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris

Reader: Rod Clutterbuck

Prayers: Carol Harris

Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Ted Stabb

Organist: LouAnne Stabb

April 18 Good Friday

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck

Reader: Carol Harris

Prayers: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Ted Stabb

Usher: Not required

Organist: LouAnne Stabb

April 20 Easter Day

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb

Reader: Rod Clutterbuck

Prayers: LouAnne Stabb

Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Rod Clutterbuck

Organist: LouAnne Stabb

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 Sagers on 0427 761 044

Address:

PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689

Reaching Out:

Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com

or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 stabb@inet.net.au by Wednesday.

Rev. Leonie Findlay

Over the past few years Rev. Leonie has provided Emmanuel with UCA ministry for Sunday morning worship. We are so grateful for her generous and loving care throughout this time. We know, too, that Leonie has bravely and stubbornly faced several health challenges, which she has managed to overcome with grace and determination. However, in recent times the physical problems have become more difficult for her and thus she has decided that now is the time for her to finish her time at Emmanuel. Her last service with us will be on Good Friday. Of course, we are sad that she won't be leading worship with us into the future, but we are greatly thankful for what she has given us in her time amongst us. Friendships and connections made with our people will continue in one way or another and we pray for God's gracious and generous care of her into the future.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY



The flowers in the garden are perhaps a bit tired at present, but it would be lovely to have our worship place decked out with whatever we can find for celebrating this most important time in the church calendar. Do have a look in your garden and bring some along if you can. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT - APRIL 2025

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you would allow me to share with you a personal struggle. It is a struggle that, in part, has been resolved, but not completely. My dilemma has been around an understanding of the church. Why does it exist? What is it made for? From my previous letters you will know that I have a well-developed idea that the church is the gathered people of God and that our purpose (to use a phrase I have made well-worn) is to be little outposts of the kingdom of God - signs of heaven. You will have heard me say that together we are called to honour God and to live the given-away life in service of each other and of those around us. My struggle has been around seeing the church become an end -in-itself, and the efforts and finances of us all being directed towards its survival. I can see no more sure, or deserved way, for a church to end up on the scrap heap of history, so I want to invite you to join me in my struggle in order that we may continue to find our true identity in Christ.

I was comforted this morning by reading, once again, the story of Mary as she washed and anointed Jesus' feet. It is a story of restrained passion and intimacy that touches the heart. It is love poured out, for a life poured out. It points us to Jesus' passion and to the invitation it contains for us to join him in his struggle, highlighted for us in Luke's telling of the last supper.

In Luke, as Jesus and his friends gather in the upper room and share what they know, or at least fear will be a last meal together, Jesus takes up the traditional "cup of suffering" and giving it to his disciples saying, "Divide this amongst you," and we, all of us, are invited into a life of shared suffering. We are invited to understand our own suffering, to enter, so far as we are able, into the suffering of others and in so doing to make meaning of life. Can there be anywhere a stronger, clearer, definition of love than this: to give one's life. Not always to death, but always to give one's life. Strangely, as we take the cup of suffering and drink from it, life, the life of God, rises in us. The Christ life grows in us. It is a joyous resurrection life.

What it points me to, and what I hope it points you towards, is that we do not live for ourselves. Church is not the end point of our endeavours. We have a purpose. As Easter approaches, we are reminded that we are gathered to help each other live the life of Christ - the suffering servant. We are called to embrace his life, to take it into ourselves. In this way Jesus lives on in us as we serve and to care for each other, and as we enter the suffering of those around us in the broader community. We are asked to open our eyes, to see truly, to comfort, defend and strengthen. The institution of the church is there to aid this purpose.

I am yours in the love of Christ,
Gereldine

Prayer of the Week World Council of Churches Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania



Residents of near and far gathered in a small village of Bărbătești in Romania to celebrate the consecration of a new Orthodox church, a significant sign of hope in the region recently confronted with economic emigration. Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

We give thanks for:

- the blending of Christian traditions and practices, from the West and East
- the faithful witness of churches amid political changes
- those working for more democratic governance in these countries
- those who welcome newcomers and provide for them and others in need.

We pray for:

- better relationships among different ethnic groups and traditions
- respect for the rights of children, women, the young and the elderly, so they can receive adequate education, jobs and health care
- economic developments that serve all people
- ending practices that harm the air, soil and forests, and installing instead measures to protect the environment.