



REACHING OUT

Friday April 18, 2025

Sunday April 20, 2025

Good Friday 9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

Easter Day 9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Friday April 18

Good Friday

Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10: 16-25 or Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9; John 18:1-19: 42

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

The Resurrection of Jesus



But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened

Luke 24: 1-12

Bible Readings for Sunday April 27

Easter 2

Acts 5: 27-32; Psalm 118: 14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelation 1: 4-18; John 20: 19-31

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 **Accredited and Recognised Lay Preachers of the Presbytery**, beginning Sunday, April 20.

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you have suffered in ways that we cannot comprehend. You died declaring God's forgiveness, and you rose on the third day, transforming death into life. Lord there are really no words which can express our gratitude to you for the gift you have given. God, the wonder is that in spite of the many times we fail to live as people of faith, your children, you still walk with us guiding and leading us along the way. Lord, walk before us in hope and inspiration. Stand with us in truth and create the wonder of new life in our hearts.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

While hanging on the cross, suffering an excruciating death Jesus uttered his final words. Words of love, forgiveness and faith.

Having been beaten, scourged, humiliated and rejected Jesus used every ounce of energy he had to say:

"FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING."

NEITHER DO THEY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

In unimaginable pain, Jesus hung between two thieves. One who mocked and cursed him. "If you are a saviour save yourself and us." The other a repentant thief who received a promise of salvation.

To this man Jesus said;

"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."

Unlike most people the thief came to Jesus just as he was. He came to the Saviour carrying his burden of sin, relying on the mercy of God.

WOMAN BEHOLD YOUR SON....BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER.

There came a time when Mary's heart would be pierced with a sword, as old Simeon had prophesied many years before. At the foot of the cross Mary, the mother of Jesus stood, a witness to the cruel death of her son. Mary was destined to drink her cup of bitterness. But God was going to comfort her, 'Mother your son and son your mother.' Words from the mouth of a dying son. Words of safety, security and great love. On that terrible cross Jesus cried out for his father. Jesus, forsaken by his father, cried out in agony and despair;

"ELI ELI LAMA SABACHTHANI. MY GOD MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME."

Being forsaken by his father was a cup that Jesus asked to be taken away. However, not my will but yours be done was his heart cry.

"I THIRST."

This was a cry that each of us could offer. In this respect Jesus was like us. His physical body also knew pain, suffering and thirst. Now He, the source of living water hangs on a cross dry mouthed and barely able to speak. Jesus the source of life and salvation paid the price for our sin.

IT IS FINISHED.

When Jesus cried out 'it is finished,' He uttered the most decisive words ever spoken. Implicit in the word Kala, 'it is finished', Jesus could rightly say; "For you, I have finished the work of reconciliation with God."

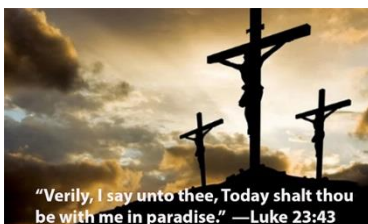
At this point God's revelation is finished.

FATHER INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.

What a disappointment for his enemies. They thought they had taken everything away from Jesus. But they forgot the one thing they couldn't take away. His Spirit! The storms may howl and his enemies may do their worst, but Christ won.

THE VICTORY IS HIS.

SELAH



BENEDICTION

Go in risen life.

Find this life rising up among us. and find this life spreading out before us.

Experience this risen life dwelling within us.

AMEN

Coming Events

Wed April 23, 9:00am

10:30am

Fri April 25, 9:00am

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship

ANZAC Day

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 should be taken directly to Felltimber Community Centre.

Emmanuel Roster

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

April 27

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris

Reader: Necia Searle

Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck

Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey

Usher: Carol Clutterbuck

Organist: Colin Harris

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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Rev. Leonie Findlay

As you know, the Good Friday worship will be the last time that she will be leading us in worship. On Good Friday it is customary that worshippers leave worship quietly and reverentially without staying around. Leonie has asked that, following our quiet recessional from the church, people may like to gather in The Meeting Place for a time of conversation with her. She will not be going on to Kergunyah so will have time to relax a bit with the members of the congregation.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY



The autumn leaves are beginning to turn and there still are beautiful flowers about. 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.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine



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
Monastery in Kyiv, Ukraine. Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

We give thanks for:

- the distinctive icons, art, literature and music that have come from this area
- the faithful witness of churches under the reign of Communism, and their revitalization since then, after decades of official atheism
- all those who help to alleviate the suffering of people due to the Russia's war against Ukraine and who try to counteract and overcome divisions
- those who work for democracy and openness in government.

We pray for:

- guidance, as these nations work to reconfigure political and economic structures
- compassion and integrity for all peoples in these nations with such diverse ethnic histories
- those who suffer from alcoholism, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and other life-threatening diseases
- the large numbers of people who now live in poverty and are unemployed
- those in Belarus and Ukraine who suffer from the continued effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster
- those who struggle for democracy and truthfulness in the media.

COUNTING THE MOMENTS

By Geoff Serpell

I was grumpy. When Mary asked why, I told her about a man who, for no obvious reason, had been rude to someone.

She asked me, "What's 60 times 60?"

I amazed myself by answering, "three thousand, six hundred".

I balked when she asked me to multiply that by 24, so she gave me a pen and paper to work it out.

"Eighty-six thousand, four hundred."

Reflection:

People or situations will cast a shadow over our time. If we can't help them shine brighter, then we should make sure those tarnished seconds don't spoil the golden ones we have left.

"Those are the seconds you have in your day," she told me. "How many did he steal from you while being unpleasant?"

I guessed about 180.

"And how many more of your precious seconds have you voluntarily donated to his unpleasantness?"

I started to count. She saw that and laughed.

"The correct answer is too many!"