



REACHING OUT

Sunday April 28 – Easter 5

9:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

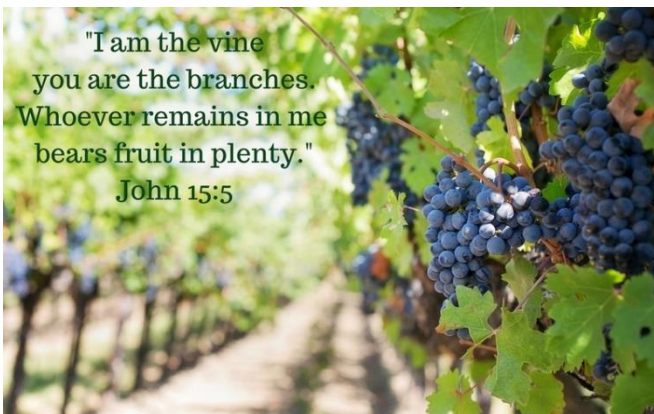
No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for April 28

Easter 5

Acts 8: 26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31; 1 John 4: 7-21; John 15: 1-8

Jesus the True Vine



"I am the vine
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me
bears fruit in plenty."
John 15:5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples

John 15: 1-8

Bible Readings for May 5

Easter 6

Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 15: 9-17

Praying For One Another 2024

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 **Accredited and Recognised Lay Preachers in the Presbytery** commencing Sunday April 28.

Coming Events

Wed May 1, 9:00 am

10:30 am

Fri May 3, 9:30am

7:00pm

Sat May 4, 7:00pm

Tues May 7, 7:30pm

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel

Craft Group

Shalom Women's Choir Concert, St. Stephen's Church

Shalom Women's Choir Concert, St David's Church, Albury

Emmanuel Council meets on Zom

HUMILITY AND VULNERABILITY

A Reflection-Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord, we recognise that in spite of our desire to be open and trusting of you and others, we still find ourselves wanting control. Even though we try to live our lives trusting you and your purposes for our lives we still want to be master of our own destiny.

Still, we know Lord, that you walk with us ready to take our hand and lead us. Even if we struggle to let go.

Lord, help us to hang on to you and take hold of all that you have for us; the blessings as well as the challenges.

Lord, help us to walk humbly before you, demonstrating a life of gratitude and vulnerability. In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN.

SOME THOUGHTS

With the ready access to social media, life as we know it has become increasingly unreal and self-focused. The desire for the perfect partner, family, home, job and so much more, has resulted in the rapid spread of discontent. Just as we hide from ourselves and others we are also tempted to hide from God.

Fortunately, such attempts prove to be futile, and we realise that ultimately no matter how hard we try to hide; God is always aware of our imperfections and brokenness.

It is also essential that we give others the opportunity to be seen in their brokenness.

So that they, with us, may experience the transformative mystery of grace.

Such utterly free and gratuitous love is the only love that validates, transforms, and changes us at the deepest levels of consciousness. It is what we all desire and what we are all created for.

Once we allow this for ourselves, we will almost naturally become the conduit of the same for others. To accept being loved and appreciated for no reason and by no criteria whatsoever is the key that unlocks everything in us. Unfortunately, we are often too afraid to open our clenched fists. Who will we be when we have nothing left to hold on to? Who will we be when we stand before you with empty hands?

Please help us to gradually open our hands and to discover that we are not what we own, but what you want to give us. And what you want to give us is Love, unconditional, everlasting love.

In every moment of our growth as a Christian, pride is always our greatest enemy and humility is always our greatest friend. Pride is our enemy and destroys us from the inside out.

Humility is probably the greatest virtue needed in the world today.

John Chrysostom once said, *'humility is the root, mother, nurse and bond of all virtue – what all other virtues are built on. We must view humility as one of the most essential things that characterizes true Christianity.'*

SELAH



BENEDICTION

Humility is not something we can claim. What really tells a person that they are humble is when they can repent of their own self-righteousness and rely on the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

Emmanuel Roster

April 28

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb
Reader: Betty Bjorksten
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

May 5

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod 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 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@inet.net.au by Wednesday.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



*Ethnic Uzbek refugees from Afghanistan in the Shamshatoo refugee camp near Peshawar, Pakistan.
Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth*

We are thankful for

- the magnificent expanse of mountains, grasslands and deserts in these Central Asian countries
- the rich natural resources
- the incredible ethnic diversity
- cultural traditions and practices that have been preserved for centuries amid the challenges of modernization
- Christians who, although they are a tiny minority, have courage to witness to the gospel and find the strength to live according to God's word
- those who in spite of danger dedicate their lives to serving others.

We pray for:

- the people in these lands who suffer from poverty and repressive rule
- an end to clashes related to tribalism, traditionalism, and modernization
- the land, air and water that have been damaged by human abuse
- good relations between Muslims and Christians
- an end to oppression and violence.

Shalom

2024 SHALOM WOMEN'S CHOIR CONCERT



Wodonga

Friday 3rd May 2024, 7:00 pm
St. Stephen's Uniting Church
(177 Beechworth Road Wodonga, VIC)

Albury

Saturday 4th May 2024, 7:00 pm
St. David's Uniting Church
(593 Olive St. Albury, NSW)

ENTRANCE DONATION
\$20 Adult
Children under 16 free

Donations will be used to support people in need, locally.

Shalom Women's Choir began in 1996.

They are a group of migrant Christian women from South Korean who live in New Zealand, who have a heart to reach out the old, the sick and underprivileged with music and gospel.

Their name Shalom meaning peace in Hebrew, speaks for the love and peace they hope to bring to the world around them through their music.

Shalom's major work involves visits to churches, hospitals, rest homes, prisons, and facilities for disabled people all around New Zealand.

Their trip to Australia this year is the third concert, following the ones in Sydney in May 2012 and Adelaide 2019. After their performances on the border, they will be performing in Melbourne on 5th May, 2024.