



REACHING OUT

Sunday November 10, 2024

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 November 10

Pentecost 25

Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

The Widow's Offering



He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to

the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

Mark 12: 38-44

Bible Readings for Sunday November 17

Pentecost 26

1 Samuel 1: 4-20; 1 Samuel 2: 1-10; Hebrews 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13: 1-8

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 congregations of **Benalla, Devenish, Goorambat and Swanpool** Sunday November 10.

Coming Events

Wed November 13, 8:30 am
10:30 am
Fri November 15, 9:30 am
Sun December 1, 5:00 pm

Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship
Craft Group
Joint Anglican & Uniting Worship at St. Stephen's followed by a shared meal

SERVANTHOOD

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we are overwhelmed and challenged when we see you on your knees, bowl and water in hand, offering to wash our feet. Such love and humility is hard to comprehend and equally difficult to accept. Lord, forgive us for our lack of understanding and our inability to freely accept that which we should imitate as your followers.

To love, is to serve, to serve, is to lay aside all pride. To humble ourselves and follow the example you have clearly given.

Lord, forgive us.

This we know and as Christians this we have committed ourselves to. And yet when confronted with the needy, the poor and isolated, far too often we pass on by.

Lord, may we not only bow before you, but with love and compassion may we bow before all those who you place along our path. May the challenges we meet on our journey refine and teach us what it is to truly embrace the life and posture of a servant.

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

There is probably no more threatening image of the Christian life. To competent, achievement oriented, modern individuals, than that of the servant. In biblical times, servants were an everyday reality for most people. There was, and of course still is, a basic economic line of demarcation as to whether a person is a servant or has enough economic resources to hire servants to do menial labour.

But the biblical word about servanthood for believers is that it is voluntarily entered into as a means of living out our faith. To be a servant is to be of service to another. It is a mark of a follower of Jesus.

Perhaps a primary conundrum for all first world Christians is the pull between the sense of personal status and the image of servanthood. The ultimate New Testament image of servanthood is the basin and towel representing one of the last acts of Jesus. After functioning with his disciples as rabbi, teacher, preacher, healer and Messiah, the last role Jesus fills with his followers is that of a servant.

And he performs the most menial task of a servant. In those days the primary gesture of hospitality was the offer of a servant who brought fresh water and a towel to wash the feet of the guest. The posture of this act is also humbling. Servants would kneel, face and eyes lowered to the task, while the guest sat. If you have ever been hot and tired, the sensation of fresh water washing over the feet is not forgotten. Lying in an Intensive Care Unit hooked up to all manner of machines, feeling hot and bothered, a nurse with a bowl of cool water to soak my feet, will never be forgotten.

The disciples were naturally aghast. Why was their master lowering himself to the posture and gesture of a servant? We have tended to elevate Jesus' divinity over his humanity and would also probably protest just as the disciples did. But everything that Jesus did was for us too. Being a Christian means learning to receive the mercy, grace and love of a servant Messiah.

And it means following him into the actual and symbolic posture of a servant. Basin and towel in hand, kneeling at the feet of weary folk who need our service of mercy and the gift of compassion.

SELAH

A BENEDICTION



Teach us your ways O Lord, and we will walk in your truth,
Give us an undivided heart
That we may fear your name. (PSALM 86:11)

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

November 10

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck
Reader: Ted Stabb
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Ted Stabb
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

November 17

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb
Reader: Carol Clutterbuck
Prayers: Carol Harris
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 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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia



*Catholic nun from Vietnam lights candles at the interfaith service at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Melbourne, Australia.
Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on earth*

We are thankful for:

- the beauty of the land and waters of Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, and the special relationship that people enjoy with the natural environment
- the identities and cultural practices that indigenous peoples long have maintained, and for their increasing political voice
- how the people have welcomed new immigrants
- how churches have witnessed and worked together ecumenically, especially amid challenges of apathy in highly secularized societies.

We pray for:

- churches to have the imagination, skills and energy to build bridges of understanding in increasingly multireligious and multicultural contexts
- those who work tirelessly on issues of justice for the poor, the marginalized and the dispossessed, especially indigenous peoples
- those seeking refuge and a new life in these countries, and those supporting and providing for them
- careful preservation of the fragile land, sea, and resources.

Presbytery of North East Victoria Chairperson's letter of Encouragement November 2024

Dear friends,

I have been pondering what it is that, as followers of Jesus, we have to offer into the broader community. Generally speaking, and in this brief correspondence I can only speak in generalities, people below a certain age have not followed us into the church. We have to ask: is our message so off; is our care so lacking; is our example so poor that our children and grandchildren have not learned to value what we value?

In a recent lecture, author Tim Winton, pointed out that the values that we espouse as followers of Jesus have been trained out of us by the worst that capitalism brings. Two generations have been raised to fight a war of all against all, rendering us competitors and consumers when we could have been citizens and allies. Part of that training, I suspect, has been to debunk the idea that we humans are spiritual beings – that we long for something other than ourselves. The idea that for our well-being, our stability as individuals and as people who occupy the same space, we need something outside ourselves to moderate the worst excesses of I all alone, I the centre of all that is. Not a new idea for us, these ideas are explored in our scriptures in the story of the first humans, Adam and Eve. In America, in the current election cycle we are seeing played out for us, the war of all against all and if we are really observant, looking past the posturing, we can see disillusionment. What have we to offer?

In his lecture Tim Winton said that movements of real human progress have always sprung from empathy, vulnerability, imagination and disruption born in adversity - we know about this. It grows, he says from Fresh language that's honest, that calls out injustice, emboldens resistance and inspires courage. In deeds that are audacious, selfless, unforeseen, even shocking – expressions of love not of vengeance. We know about this too.

In past letters I have talked about people like Francis of Assisi because I think what we need are people willing to live such a different life in response to Jesus' teaching about God that it breaks the power of those who benefit from that training we have received. Who was it said: "Follow the money?" I have been thinking too that we need less Sancho Panzas and more Don Quixotes. Less realists, willing to settle, and more dreamers willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause. More of those willing to leave all (without necessarily leaving home to do it) to follow Jesus. To live the life of love that makes and breaks.

Tim Winton was speaking about the need for us to wake to the fact that the way we are living is killing the planet on which we depend for life. Francis offers us a spirituality that leads to love and compassion and care for that part of creation that is not us, and Jesus I would hazard, is the model for Cervantes Don Quixote, at least as that character develops. In this day it is my understanding that as followers of Jesus we are called to embrace a simple life, one that consumes less, making space for others to rise. In this day it is my understanding that we are called to limit ourselves, to make space for the inanimate world to thrive, to see afresh ourselves as part of the whole creation with a responsibility for its care. In this day it is my understanding that we are called to walk slowly with one another, to hear, to understand, to know deeply and to encourage out of that love shown to us in Christ which indeed makes and breaks.

My prayer is that this will be the focus of your conversations together. What does this mean for the little group of people who gather with you as disciples of Jesus?

Gereldine

Uniting

Charity Christmas Cards

To order see: <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/christmas-cards/>