



# REACHING OUT

Sunday November 3, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jefferies

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

## Bible Readings for Sunday November 3

Pentecost 24

Ruth 1: 1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 11-14; Mark 12: 28-34

### The First Commandment



One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher;

you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

**Mark 12: 28-34**

## 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

## 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 congregation of **Broadford** Sunday November 3.

## Coming Events

Tue November 5, 7:30pm

Wed November 6, 8:30 am  
10:30 am

Fri November 8, 9:30 am

Sun December 1, 5:00 pm

Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship

Craft Group

Joint Anglican & Uniting Worship at St. Stephen's followed by a shared meal

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DANCE

Rev Leonie Findlay

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, so often we fall into the trap of believing we know it all. And yet, we have so much to learn. Lord, grant us a humility and a gentle spirit so that we are ready and able to hear your word and to follow closely after you. Lord, send us humbly and hopefully into life. Use us as a means of blessing to those we meet. May we willingly and faithfully commit ourselves to the dance that is our life. The dance you have choreographed for us. The dance you are willing and ready to share with us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

**AMEN**

## SOME THOUGHTS

Enslaved Africans danced the Juba or the Hambone because they weren't allowed drums on the plantations, and they used their hands and bodies to create sound, to ground themselves in their joy, which was resistance. People tap-danced, fusing Irish dancing, British clogging, and held on to West African dance, making something new in their circumstances with old and new material, kind of like quilting. African American slaves danced after picking cotton. They brought their dance from Nigeria, Ghana and Trinidad turning it into the culture of their new place. The ancient stories of the first Australians were not merely passed from generation to generation through the spoken word but also through art and dance.

No tragedy, no sorrow, no loss could stop the dance. In and through the dance they met God and, rehearsed the freedom for which they longed. Dancing with God as a partner was an act of prophetic resistance, a defiance of bondage, a tool for liberation.

While we may experience grief, pain and racial unrest in our personal lives and nation we can have the confidence that God was and is able to do more than we could ask or imagine.

We will make it through if we keep our eyes on our partner in the dance. If we keep our ears tuned in to his calling on our lives, And, in our suffering, we hold onto the knowledge that we can dance because our partner knows every step. Indeed, he is the one who fashioned the whole dance.

We need to choreograph new theological understandings of God. What if God is not organizing the universe on our behalf after all? What if God is instead watching, listening, and waiting—waiting for our choices, our decisions, our agency to make of the world and our lives what we want? What if God is not ordering all things, but yearns for our partnership? What if God wants us to dance with others around us?

And what if God is willing to follow *our* lead? What would life be like and how would we navigate difficult and confusing times if we sought to use our own power to shape the world?

We are so grateful that our God is in, over and beyond all things.

Thanks be to God.

## THE JUBA



**SELAH**

## A BLESSING

Like a refiner's fire and fuller's soap, God cleanses our lives.

Like a glorious sunrise, God fills our darkness with light, love and joy.

**AMEN**

## Emmanuel Roster

### November 3

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

TV Screen: Harold Cover  
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck  
Organist:

### November 10

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

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](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 0419 644 769 [stabb@iinet.net.au](mailto:stabb@iinet.net.au) by Wednesday.

## Prayer of the Week

### World Council of Churches

Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu



*WCC pilgrim team visits took place in Suva and various other parts of Fiji on 16-19 January 2020, focusing on climate-induced displacement, indigenous land rights and extractive industries, gender justice, people with disabilities, interfaith dialogue, climate change, ecological justice, ocean health, and care for creation. Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC*

#### We are thankful for:

- the amazing diversity of people and cultures living on the islands of Oceania
- the magnificent natural scenery and sea life
- the strong, faithful presence of churches in these lands
- the stories and bold witness to the impact of climate change, reminding the rest of the world that we are all in the same 'boat' on this planet, 70 percent of which is covered by the ocean.

#### We pray for:

- efforts to preserve these island nations in the midst of rising seas
- those adversely affected by earthquakes, volcanoes and cyclones
- those dealing with the legacy of past nuclear weapons testing and with garbage dumping today
- good governance – especially in preserving indigenous cultures –which effectively serves those who are impoverished, hungry, lacking education or unable to make a living.

# Uniting

## Charity Christmas Cards

Our card designs are carefully chosen to reflect the joy and message of Christmas. This year we have an all new range of Christmas card designs including 2 mixed pack offerings for you to choose from.

Proceeds provide support to those doing it tough at Christmas.

Please note: Christmas cards ordered after 10th December cannot be guaranteed to arrive prior to Christmas, so please ensure you place your order early to avoid missing out.

## Send your Christmas cheer and support those in need.

Proceeds from card sales will support individuals, families and communities in crisis this Christmas.



### Australian Birds (Mixed pack) – 10 pack \$12.00

Card name: Kookaburra

Sentiment: May the festive season bring only happiness and joy to you and your loved ones

Card name: Blue Wren

Sentiment: Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and an especially Happy New Year

## Other Christmas Cards



### Christmas Stockings – 10 pack

\$12.00



### Joy to the World – 10 pack

\$12.00



### Peace Dove – 10 pack

\$12.00



### Nativity (Mixed pack) 10 pack

\$12.00

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