



4 October 2020

Tamworth City Uniting Church

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Other Useful Local Contacts:

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*To continue to support our ministry financially by setting up a direct deposit into our accounts using phone or internet banking:
Account Name: Tamworth City Uniting Church
BSB: 634 634
Account No.: 100026126
Reference: Offering*

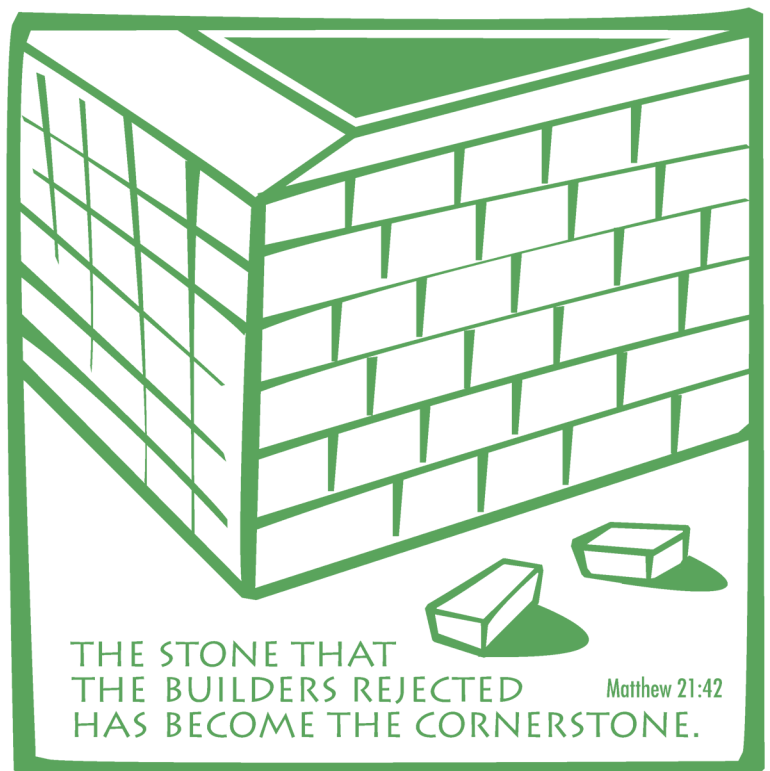
Welcome back to limited Face to Face Worship!!

Rev Betty Stroud has prepared this week's worship resources.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Don't forget to register each for worship.

Take care.



This Week's Notes

News Items

- Did you remember to put your clock forward? We lost an hour.
- **BYO picnic in Jubilee Hall after worship TODAY.** Reminder that we will need to stay 1.5m from anyone not from our own household. 40 only.
- New Offering Envelopes are available at the office.
- Stay up to date with Synod <https://nswact.uca.org.au/covid19saferoadmap/> or https://www.vision6.com.au/v/47004/1790343/email.html?k=FMox4Q_re95ZXshMG7UsJ6j7USEPlqzAj2dsCBJshZc
- and Assembly <https://mailchi.mp/nat/2020week34?e=fcbdd91ff4> updates and newsletters.
- Special birthday wishes to Hazel McKellar this week.

Returning to Worship

Things will look and feel different at church when you return (to comply with current restrictions and to keep you safe):



- Worship will commence at 9:30am,
- The pews are in a different location,
- Hand sanitizing station as you enter and leave,
- You will need to wear a mask,
- Couples and families may sit together, everyone else will be seated 1.5m apart, (total 45 people)
- You will need to register with the office to attend each week (4, 11, 18 and 25 October),
- If you are unwell or have visited a Covid-Hotspot you will not be able to attend worship,
- You will be instructed on the process for departing by Rev Betty/Lay Leader immediately prior to leaving, particularly in regard to social distancing and waiting,
- There will be no singing., humming or dancing,
- An offering plate will be left at the entry table for envelopes and cash. Handing after the service with gloves.
- There will be no morning tea after worship (if you want to go somewhere else or have someone over to your place that is ok),
- You will be encouraged to leave the site as soon as possible after worship.
- No Sunday School in October.
- Social distancing is the hardest thing to do!
- There will be one person on the door (making the role and counting 45), one sound desk operator, one preacher (lapel mic), one elder (lectern mic), one reader (pulpit mic), one organist.
- There will be markers outside the church to indicate 1.5m social distancing.
- On the 4th we'd like to have a BYO picnic in Jubilee Hall (limited to 40 people). Everyone will need to keep 1.5m distancing (families may sit together). Bring along a thermos and a sandwich.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 4 October: 2am Daylight savings begins (put you clocks forward 1 hour), 9:30am Worship & HC— 45 people only/BYO bread and drink and register with the office, Message from Rev Betty Stroud online, NO Zoom morning tea we'll have a BYO picnic in Jubilee Hall after worship instead! 40 only!

Monday, 5 Oct: Labour Day Public Holiday, 5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Tuesday, 6 Oct: 9am-2pm Office Tue-Fri, 9:30am Locomotive Line Dancing in Jubilee Hall, 10am Adult Fellowship in St Andrew's Room.

Wednesday, 7 Oct: 10am Morning Tea (All welcome), 2:30pm Zoom Bible Study, 6pm Meditation in the Church.

Thursday, 8 Oct: 10am Stepping Stones Playgroup in the park.

Sunday, 11 October: 9:30am Worship—45 people only, register with the office, Message from Rev Betty Stroud online, 12noon Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Monday, 12 Oct: School Term 4 commences, 9:30am Kairos Sewing in Jubilee Hall, 10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room, 5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Tuesday, 13 Oct: 7pm Church Council meeting in the Church.

Thursday, 15 Oct: 10am Stepping Stones Playgroup in Dunn Hall.

Friday, 16 Oct: 10am Craft Group in St Andrew's Room.

Sunday, 18 October: 9:30am Worship with Rev Betty Stroud (register with the office).

Tuesday, 20 Oct: 7pm Special Church Council Meeting in the Church.

Sunday, 25 October: 9:30am Worship with Peter Battle (register with the office).

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, 13 October, 7pm in the church. Agenda Item: Presentation by the Task Group set up to look at the restructuring of Church Council. Over the past two months this Task Group, approved by the Executive, has been looking at how we might better serve our mission by having a restructured Church Council. The group has now completed its task and has brought its proposal to the Executive which has asked it to present it to the full Church Council.

Food Pantry

Bring along something to the office anytime. A shopping list might look like this: 2x1lt UHT milk, 500g sugar, 25 tea bag box, 50g coffee, 100gm tuna/sardines, 2xcuppa coup, 2xrice/pasta pack, 250g biscuits, tin baked beans/spaghetti (ring pull), tin steak & veg (or similar), 2minute noodles, small tinned fruit, small cereal. Thank you everyone.

Website, Offering and Banking Details

Our webpage has worship resources, order of service and the notice sheet each week. There is also a recorded message from Betty or the Lay Preachers on the Worship Resources page at <https://ucatamworthcity.wordpress.com/> New offering envelopes available in the office.

At this time it is important to maintain contact with each other. A telephone call is a great way to do this.

Silver Linings

A chance to learn new skills; an opportunity to reconnect with neighbours; a chance to clean out that cupboard; time to read; are there more? Share.

Empathy...

Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon."

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on the Uniting Church in Australia, ordained ministry, and Councils of the Church. Please uphold thee in your private prayers during the week.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of the Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia your prayers this week.

NENW Presbytery

Keep in your prayers work being carried out to keep up with the changing nature of COVID-19 virus restrictions. There are lots of congregations doing some innovative ways of ministry and mission at the moment.

Lectionary Readings

Sun	4	Psalm 19*	Wed	7	Philippians 4:1-9*
Mon	5	Exodus 32:1-14*	Thu	8	Philippians 4:10-23
Tue	6	Exodus 32:15-35	Fri	9	Isaiah 25:1-9
			Sat	10	Matthew 22:1-14*
			Sun	11	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23*

* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings

Seasons of the Spirit

Words for Living

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b–14; Matthew 21:33–46

Prayer

Holy God, immerse us in the river of your word and ways and carry us on a journey of growth as a community of your people. Increase our resolve to heed your loving wisdom and to rejoice in your promise of new life as we do. Amen.

Biblical Background

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) received by Moses on Mt. Sinai as he leads the people of Israel from slavery to freedom, reveals the dynamics of living life abundantly, and shapes a community. A summary of the Law will resonate in the silence of the desert journey (Psalm 19), while Matthew and the letter to the Philippians speak of the spirit of the law as given by Jesus.

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 After escaping Egypt, where they had lived as slaves, a pillar of cloud guided the people of Israel during the day and a pillar of fire during the night. They had crossed the Sea of Reeds after the waters had parted miraculously and then closed again after they had crossed. Further, when they had no water, Moses, under direction from God, struck the rock with his staff and produced a flow of water.

As we enter this week's story, we find Moses and the people at Mount Sinai, where Moses is affirmed as God's spokesperson. Exodus 19 sets the stage for God's delivery of the Ten Commandments.

The original form and Hebrew language in Exodus 20 suggest that the commandments first may have been simply a list of ten words – murder, idolatry, adultery, and so on. These words were shorthand for a rule of life to guide the people of Israel along their journey to becoming the nation promised to Abraham.

The Ten Commandments summarize God's rules for living. In the first commandment, we are told to acknowledge God as God alone and are called to honour our relationship with God. In the commandment regarding Sabbath, we are told to match the rhythm of our lives with God's rhythm. In the remaining commandments, God's loving words lay out how to live so that our relationships with other people reflect God's relationship with us.

Protestant theologian Martin Luther (1483–1546) taught that every negative in this list implies a positive. For example, "do not kill" implies "support the living." The Ten Commandments offer a God-vision of the world.

The Ten Commandments are sometimes referred to in scripture as God's law or the Law of Moses. They form the cornerstone of Israelite society. All were called to obey these concrete expressions of God's wisdom and will, regardless of occupation or social class. In the Hebrew Scriptures, "the law" also refers to all of the cultural knowledge that one generation passes on to another. Later, the term Torah is used to refer to the Law – encompassing the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures – combined with the Talmud, commentaries on God's law.

Verses 18–20 tell how the people of Israel tremble in fear at creation's witness to holy power – "thunder and lightning, sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking." They plead with Moses to be their mediator, to relay the words of God to them and to carry their words to God. Moses accepts this role.

The psalmist of Psalm 19 extols the Creator's "ordinances": "more to be desired are they than gold... sweeter also than honey." God's loving wisdom sustains the community of creation and brings joy and purpose to all who live within it.

In Philippians 3:4b–14, Paul claims the wisdom and joy of being grounded in Christ. When Paul speaks of "confidence in the flesh," he refers to those things that give people "credit" in the world's eyes. In his accounting metaphor, Paul counts these as a loss. There can be only one item on the credit side: Christ.

Jesus' parable in Matthew 21:33–46 seems a word of sobering wisdom. Rather than accepting the challenge of such wisdom, the leaders turn on Jesus. They find no joy in God's wisdom, embodied in Jesus the Christ.

Questions

This week's readings offer a glimpse of a world where all patterns of human living are grounded in God's loving wisdom. As we continue to flourish as a community of God's people, such wisdom shapes our life together. As we journey toward fuller participation in God's purpose – as an individual and as a church – what words for living do we offer and receive?

