



25 October 2020

Tamworth City Uniting Church

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Other Useful Local Contacts:

- **Southside Office:** Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101, South Tamworth 2340, Email tsuoffice@gmail.com, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- **Southside Lay Preachers:** David Bissett 0400 186 723; Rob Wood 0447 425 411; John Nash 0428 333 358
- **Young Family Worker:** Jillian Cumberland 0402 341 684 Email: jillian.steppingstones.uca@hotmail.com
- **Peel Valley:** Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- **UNITING St Andrew's Village** 1800 864 846 Chaplain Rev Henry Swindon 0466 445 632
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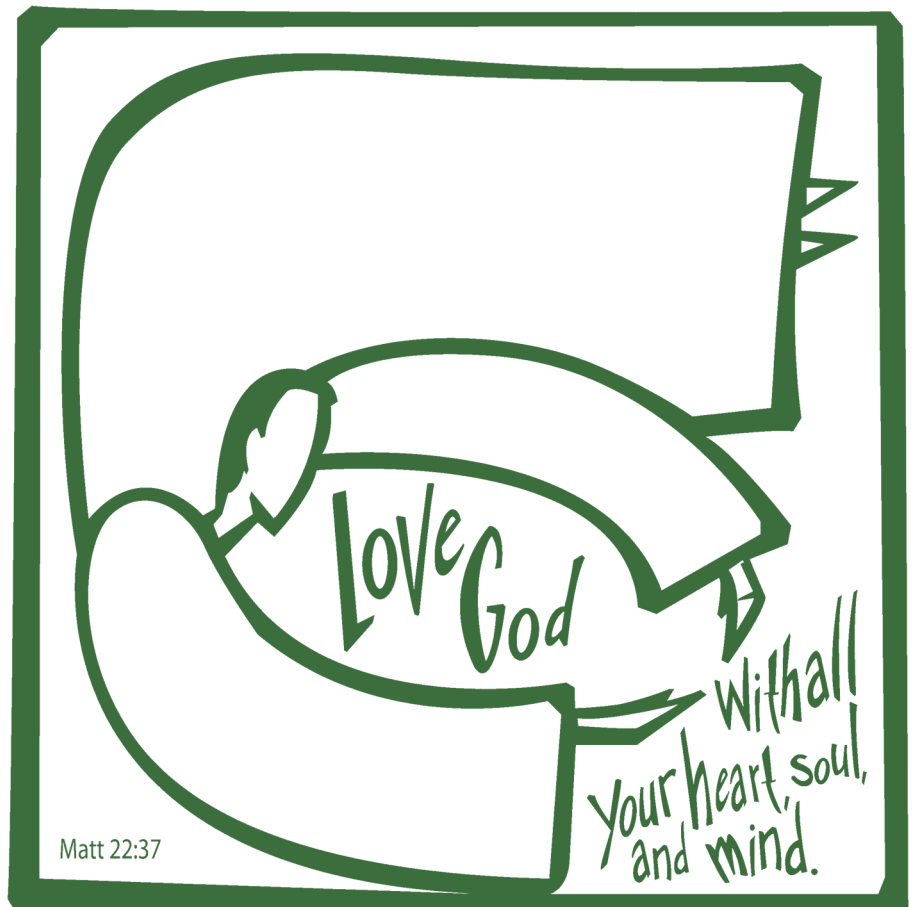
*To continue to support our ministry financially by setting up a direct deposit into our accounts using phone or internet banking:
Account Name: Tamworth City Uniting Church
BSB: 634 634
Account No.: 100026126
Reference: Offering*

Welcome to limited Face to Face Worship!!

Mr Peter Battle has prepared this week's worship resources.

Don't forget to register each week for worship.

Take care everyone.



This Week's Notes

News Items

- Rev Betty will be away for just over two weeks from Monday 19th. Returning on 5 November. Enjoy your break Betty.
- Stay up to date with Synod Covid Safety <https://nswact.uca.org.au/covid19saferoadmap/> or Synod Newsletter https://www.vision6.com.au/v/47004/1795953/email.html?k=zizma_CxwSRJ2RObNHnzSiiTJAeIR5yWkex8cYSCP0U
- and Assembly <https://mailchi.mp/nat/2020week37?e=fcbdd91ff4> updates and newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 25 October: 9:30am Worship with Peter Battle (register with the office by Friday morning), Elder Judith Archbold, Door Helen Fergus, Sound John McClelland.

Monday, 26 Oct: HSC continues this week, 9:30am Kairos Sewing in Jubilee Hall, 10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room, 5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Tuesday, 27 Oct: 9am-2pm Office Tue-Fri, 9:30am Locomotive Line Dancing in Jubilee Hall.

Wednesday, 28 Oct: Organ Tuning in the Church, 10am Morning Tea (used to be Sorting), 6pm Meditation in the Church.

Thursday, 29 Oct: 10am Stepping Stones Playgroup in Dunn Hall.

Friday, 30 Oct: World Community Day, 12noon Postal Votes Close.

Sunday, 1 November: All Saints Day 9:30am Worship with Barry Gillett (register with the office by Friday morning) Elder Elaine Fairall, Door Margaret Cupitt, Sound Malcolm Miles, note that we will celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, 8 November with Rev Betty Stroud. 10:30am Congregational Meeting (register with the office) single item of business Church Council Restructure proposal. Postal Votes to be in by Friday, 30 October by 12noon.

Tuesday, 3 Nov: 10am Adult Fellowship in the Park; 7:30pm Zoom Bible Study.

Wednesday, 4 Nov: 11am Tamworth Collaborative Leadership Group at Southside, 2:30pm Zoom Bible Study, 4pm Worship Committee in St Andrew's Room.

Thursday, 5 Nov: Rev Betty will return after her time of leave.

Friday, 6 Nov: 10am Craft group in Dunn Hall.

Saturday, 7 Nov: Christmas Appeal Trivia Fundraiser—Zoom Fun 2:30pm. Get a group together and join the fun \$10/head, register with the office asap.

Sunday, 8 November: 9:30am Worship & HC with Rev Betty Stroud (register with the office by Friday morning) Elder Margaret Cupitt, Door Dot Miles, Sound Judy Phillips. Bring your own Communion Elements.

Wednesday, 11 Nov: Remembrance Day, last day of HSC.

Friday, 13 Nov: 12noon Op Shop Celebration Lunch in Jubilee Hall, Annual reports Due

Saturday, 14 Nov: NENW Presbytery meeting at Gunnedah (Covid Safe Face to Face).

Sunday, 15 November: 9:30am Worship with Rev Betty Stroud (register with the office by Friday midday) Elder Margot Hobson, Door Betty Johnston, Sound J Philips.

Congregational Meeting

The Church Council have approved restructuring the Church Council and Mission Groups. This proposal will be taken to a Congregational Meeting on 1 November following worship (with current restrictions we can have 45 people in attendance). The outline of the changes was circulated last week. Postal votes will be accepted up to 12noon on Friday, 30 October if you are not attending the meeting. If you wish to seek clarification please contact the office.

Climate Change Action

Independent Member for the Australian Parliament – Zali Steggall, OAM MP is introducing a Private Members' Bill to the House of Representatives. Ms Steggall says: 'The impacts of Climate Change represent the greatest threat to our national security, our economy, our health and our environment. But if we implement an effective plan now, we can create a safe and prosperous future for ourselves and our children.'



The Climate Change Act she is proposing advocates a a national climate policy, ending all climate wars, and ensuring a safe and prosperous future for us all and especially our children.

The Tamworth Action Group for Climate Change is aiming to get 1000 signatures by 9th November to show our local MP – Mr Barnaby Joyce, that climate action is a concern for regional Australians

If you want to find out more about the proposed act and to sign the petition, go to:

<https://climateactnow.com.au>

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, hand sanitizing station as you enter and leave, you will need to wear a mask while entering and leaving worship,
- 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,
- 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. 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.

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.

HSC Prayers

Pray every day for the Yr12 students commencing their HSC exams on 20 October through to 11 November. It has been a challenging year.

Our prayer for you is:

that God will give you a mind that recalls

accurately; a hand that writes steadily and clearly and a spirit that remains calm at all times.

May you know God's hand upon you during each of your exams and through the next stage of your life.



Stepping Stones Playgroup Update

Stepping Stones Playgroup has now started back as we enter into Term 4. I have worked hard over the school holiday break to contact all previous families that have attended playgroup as to boost numbers this term. We have experienced a slow start in regards to numbers as we came out of isolation, although I can feel that this is going to change judging by the turnout we had last week. We had an almost full house (according to COVID Safe numbers) on Thursday.

So I had a great day organised for the first week back, as you can see from the photos. We had sack races, egg and spoon races and a bean bag balancing challenge. Although we really didn't focus on the race part, participation was all that was encouraged. Most kids had never heard of these games before, mostly because they are quite young, so that was an experience for them. We had a great day which will set the tone for the rest of the term I'm sure.

Jillian



UnitingWorld—Everything in Common

Gifts that fight poverty and build hope. 2020 Booklets now available. Collect one from the back table. Gifts of all shapes and sizes from \$10 chickens, seeds or magic beans to \$50 goats or pigs. You choose a gift which represents a donation to communities supported by UnitingWorld, our partners provide local resources such as farm animals, access to clean water and teacher training, a family is given a chance to build an income, beat disease and keep their kids in school, you can smile knowing you and your loved ones have helped bring hope for a better future. See the website at www.everythingincommon.com.au

Christmas Appeal Fundraiser

Tamworth City Uniting Church are again coordinating the local UnitingCare Target Christmas Appeal. The Covid-19 pandemic has made significant changes to the way we can work with our local community. This year we intend to have people register with us and then we will provide a voucher (in lieu of food and gifts). To help us support our venture we are holding a Trivia Afternoon on Saturday, 7 November at 2:30pm via Zoom. Get a group together at your place and register with the Tamworth City Office (6766 5311). Registration is \$10/head. Enjoy some nibbles and fun afternoon together to help support our mission outreach project. Maybe you know someone who is in need? Contact the office to register them. Identification will need to be shown when collecting vouchers on 18 December.



Be there for someone this Christmas!

Christmas can be a difficult time of the year for thousands of people living in Australia. For those facing financial burden, many people struggle to access daily necessities, such as food, living costs and housing.

The Target Christmas Appeal has partnered with UnitingCare Australia for the past 29 years to give customers the chance to be there for someone this Christmas. Giving to the Appeal will help reduce financial stress, allowing those who are undergoing hardship to enjoy the Christmas spirit.

The Appeal runs from the 1 November to the 18 December. Customers are encouraged to purchase a \$1 bauble found at cash registers in all Target Stores or make an online contribution.

100% of all contributions go directly to UnitingCare Australia.



Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Pastoral Partners, Elders, St Andrew's village, Fellowship Committee activities and Hospital Visitation. Please uphold thee in your private prayers during the week.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka your prayers this week.

NENW Presbytery

Keep in your prayers our upcoming meeting on 14 November. There are lots of congregations doing some innovative ways of ministry and mission at the moment.

Prayer Chain

If you have a concern that you would particularly like prayer support for, please contact Judith Archbold 6766 6716 or Ted Woodhart 6766 1804.

Lectionary Readings

Sun 25 Psalm 1

Mon 26 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37*

Tue 27 Matthew 23:1-12*

Wed 28 Jeremiah 31:31-34

Thu 29 Joshua 3:7-17*

Fri 30 1Thessalonians 2:9-13*

Sat 31 Romans 3:19-28

Sun 1 Revelation 7:9-17

* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings

Seasons of the Spirit

A Prophetic Vision's Power

Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

Prayer

Creator of life, you set before us the promise of freedom and opportunity to live in a just and compassionate relationship with one another and all of life. Thank you for the prophetic voices who remain empowered by the vision of a land of promise for all, and who call upon us to join our voice with theirs. Amen.

Biblical Background

This week's scripture passages speak to the power of love; giving us vision, bringing joy in times of struggle, shaping us as a community, and grounding our faith in a practice that confronts injustice with a bold but straightforward proposition: love.

Deuteronomy 34:1–12 If ever there was a time for Moses to experience heartbreaking disappointment, the events in this week's reading is such a time. Moses has invested his entire adult life leading the people on a long 40-year journey through the wilderness. Again and again the people lost faith, breaking covenant with each other and God, believing the certainty of imperial oppression was better than the uncertainty of this wilderness journey. In spite of their betrayals, Moses remained an unfailing advocate for the people, never relinquishing the vision of freedom that God had given him and the people. The journey, however, was enough to exhaust and deplete the most dedicated and faithful of leaders.

Now, Moses finds himself on a mountaintop, looking out at the promised land, having been told by God that this is where his journey will end. There will be for Moses no celebratory crossing of the Jordan River. There will be no tasting the ripe, juicy grapes and the sweet honey about which they had dreamed as they wandered in the wilderness, munching on the same old manna, day after day. All Moses was offered is a vision of the promised land. Yet, according to the text, the vision seems to be more than enough. You can almost hear Moses say, as Martin Luther King Jr. would say years later, just before his assassination, "I have seen the promised land, I may not get there with you, but I want you to know, that we as a people, will get to the promised land."

Moses has every reason to feel exhausted, tired, discouraged and heartbroken, but we are told: "his sight was unimpaired, and his vigour had not abated." For Moses, the vision of the promised land was never limited to the physical territory the people were about to enter. The promised land resided in the promise of freedom and justice for all people. This is something the Israelites, including the author of Deuteronomy, would forget; as the Deuteronomist goes on to recount a story of genocide and the same imperial, brutal practices toward the Canaanites as had been experienced by the Israelites in Egypt. Yet, in spite of the never-ending allure that systems of dominations can provide, neither the Israelites nor the Deuteronomist could forget the prophetic power of the vision by which Moses guided the people.

Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 is a selection of verses from the only psalm attributed to Moses, or at the very least in remembrance of Moses. With unflinching honesty, the psalm speaks of disappointment and failure, but also the steady joy that comes from trusting the liberating vision given by God.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8, Paul rejects imperial, hierarchical authority, which he says he could claim if he were inclined. Instead, Paul's gospel model is a gentle authority, like that of a mother nursing a child.

Matthew 22:34–46 reflects the tension, conflict, and contradiction between an imperial theology of hierarchy and the realm of God. The Good News theology proclaimed by Jesus centred in love of God and love of neighbour.

Questions

It is the vision of freedom and promise rather than life turning out precisely as Moses expects and desires that gives Moses hope. He could live with discouragement, frustration, and betrayal because the vision God had given them as a community was intended as a blessing for all people, and this vision never loses its force or power. It is this same vision that is the source of life and strength for the Psalmist, Paul, and Jesus as he confounds those whose lives are governed by imperial rules rather than the power of love.

