



12th April 2020, *Easter Sunday* **Tamworth City Uniting Church**

Contact Details:

- **IIM Minister:** Rev Betty Stroud 0419 687 181
dottedog@bigpond.com
- **Office:** 144 Marius St, PO Box 501, Tamworth 2340 Ph 02 6766 5311, Email tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com, Hrs 9am-2pm Tue-Fri Website www.ucatamworthcity.wordpress.com

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
- **UNITING Rainbow Cottage** 6766 7655 Sharn Mason

We are thinking of everyone as we continue to worship together apart.

Rev Betty Stroud has prepared this week's order of service for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Nicolette will be working in the office as usual, although closed to the public. Stay up to date with safe health practices.

Take care. God be with you all.



At this time it is important to maintain contact with each other. The telephone call is a great way to do this. Make a cuppa and give someone a call.

Family are special at Easter! Give them a call.

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 Number:	100026126
Reference:	Offering

If you don't have facilities to phone or internet bank we encourage you to put aside your weekly offering in an envelope to give to the church at a convenience time. Leave in the box on the verandah at the office or during office hours. Thank you.

This Week's Notes

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Jan Eddison and family following the death of Bob during the week. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Good News Items

- It was great to have 'morning tea' with Betty last Sunday, via Zoom meetings. About 13 people came on board. It was lovely to see all the smiling faces, Norm & Jeanette Dezius were 'at the beach', I was 'at church'. If you'd like to join in, please make sure the office has your email address so you can get an invitation. Download Zoom prior to the get together. Zoom have upgraded their site and meetings require an embedded login invitation now. **We will have 'morning tea' at 10am on Easter Sunday.**
- There's so many more people getting their notice sheet and order of service by email now, you are all learning new tricks, no matter how young you are. Let me know if you'd like yours emailed too.
- The new webpage is up and running with the notice sheet, order of service and recorded message from Betty available each week on the Worship Resources page. This week we'll have Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Log in at <https://ucatamworthcity.wordpress.com/>
- It's been lovely to hear from so many of you with phone calls and messages being shared regularly.



Feedback Wanted

To help with my worship preparation it would be great to get some feedback as to whether you are finding what's being provided is helpful for you at this time.

Can you let me know either by email (dottydog@bigpond.com) or phone (0419687181) if you'd like things in a different format, extra articles for reflection etc. or just keep the status quo. Blessings and peace, Betty .

Study Groups

Rev Betty is hoping to get some study groups together via Zoom meetings. If you'd like to join, please contact Betty via phone or email.

Web Resources

There are so many web resources for study, reflection and updates.

The Easter Message from the Moderator, Rev Simon Hansford, is available at <https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/locating-hope-in-the-midst-of-crisis/>

Tips for coping with coronavirus anxiety:

Learn the facts—visit Australian Govt websites.

Keep things in perspective—remember actual numbers have been low so far.

Take reasonable precautions—wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, stay at home.

Practise self-care—maintain good social connections, communicating with family and friends, making time for activities and hobbies you enjoy, keeping up a health lifestyle, eating a balanced diet, exercising, sleeping well, practice relaxation, meditation and mindfulness.

Seek additional support when needed—if you feel unwell, stressed or anxious contact your medical professional.

Tamworth Southside Congregation

Are, like us, not able to meet together. They are looking at an online Easter Service being available from their webpage at <https://tsuc.org.au/> offering different ways to bring weekly devotions and a message through an emailed notice sheet including a devotion and message, bible readings and a list of resources online. We keep our friends in Christ close in prayer at this time.

Peel Valley Congregation

For the moment are not gathering together as a congregation. They are keeping in touch with their regular newsletter and phone calls to brighten and cheer each other. We keep them in our prayers also at this time. Peel Valley's webpage <http://www.ucapeelvalley.org.au/>

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on activities of the Worship, Evangelism, Property & Finance & Admin committees. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines in your prayers this week.

NENW Presbytery

Keep in your prayers work being carried out to have virtual meetings on Zoom and worship connections during the COVID-19 virus restrictions in the coming months.

Prayer Chain

If you have a concern that you would particularly like prayer support for, please contact Judith Archbold 6766 6716



Lectionary Readings

Sun 12 John 20:1-18* (Easter Sunday)

Mon 13 Exodus 15:1-13

Tue 14 2 Samuel 22:1-7, 47-51

Wed 15 Acts 2:14a, 22-32*

Thu 16 1 Peter 1:1-12*

Fri 17 John 20:19-23*

Sat 18 John 20:24-31*

Sun 19 Psalm 16*

* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings



Sacredise Reflections

Thought for the Week

The focus of this week, of course, is on the resurrection of Jesus. This central event of our faith is at the heart of what we believe as Christians - that life, and not death, has the last word. But, sometimes the way we believe in the resurrection robs it of its power. When we make resurrection a past event that happened only once in history to just one person, it may be an interesting occurrence, but it won't change anyone's life. When we make the resurrection about nothing more than a way to escape this world and reach life after death, we shut ourselves off from any chance that it could impact our lives here and now.

But, this is not how the first believers saw the resurrection of Jesus. As they learned to understand what this amazing event meant, they realised that resurrection was for everyone and for everything. There is nothing in all creation that is not to be resurrected into a new, imperishable life. The first believers also realised that we participate in the process of resurrection even now. As we learn to live the Jesus way, we experience God's resurrection life and we carry that life with us so that it touches those with whom we interact.

This week we explore what it means to believe in, and to live, the resurrection of Jesus.

Reading Matthew 28:1-10

Reflection

In the world of the New Testament, women were second class citizens. They were not considered reliable witnesses, and so they could not testify in a court of law. Yet, at the resurrection, it was the women who were the first witnesses, and they were instructed to pass the news on to the men. This is just one of the ways the resurrection turns the world upside down. When God's life breaks into our world, all the systems of discrimination and division that we have created come tumbling down. Suddenly we recognise that God's life is within us all, and that we are all welcomed into God's saving grace.

The image of the angel rolling the stone away and then sitting on it is a moving, and rather humorous, way of showing how futile human attempts are to keep God contained. The religious leaders, fearful that the disciples would steal the body away, had ensured that the tomb was well sealed and guarded. But, God's life could not be contained in this way, and it broke out easily. Then, as if to confirm what they had heard from the angel, Jesus met the women on their way to tell their brothers the news. Not only is God's life unconstrained, it appears in the most unexpected ways and places, and often through the most unexpected people.

Are there any ways, in your life, that you try to contain God's life, or keep it for yourself and your group? How can you open yourself to experience God's unconstrained presence today?

Practice for Today

When we fill our lives with our own words – even if they're words of faith and praise – we can sometimes fall into patterns of thinking and seeing that keep us from experiencing God in new and surprising ways. But, when we make time to listen and open ourselves to the unexpected, we usually discover that God is far bigger than we thought. On this resurrection day, make some time for silent listening and allow God to reveal God's presence and life to you through the unexpected.

Breath-Prayer for Today

As I wait and listen, O God, so you reveal your life to me in new ways.

