



5th April 2020,

Palm Sunday

Tamworth City Uniting Church

Contact Details:

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

We are thinking of everyone as we worship apart again this week.

Rev Betty Stroud has prepared this week's order of service.

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 is a great way to do this. Make a cuppa and give someone a call.

Who were you rostered on with this week? 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

Important News from Church Council Executive

We met with Rev Betty last Friday to reassess her arrangements in the current lockdown due to COVID-19. With everyone working from home at present it was felt that Betty should be at her home in Orange. We have amended her agreement to be working half-time instead of 3/4 time. This will remain in place until changes are set by the government. Betty will still be available on the phone or email. We are endeavouring to stay in contact with everyone either by email or post. Pastoral Partners are keeping in extra special contact with you as well. A notice sheet and worship resources will be prepared each week. News below about the possibility of a message from Betty on our new web page (hopefully this week). Take care of one another. Keeping you all in our prayers.

Daylight Savings Ends

Did you remember to give yourself a sleep in on Sunday?

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Shirley Whitten following the death of Max last Sunday. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Good News Items

We wish John McClelland well as he has now returned home.

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.

I'm working on a new web page for our church which will have a video message from Rev Betty. Hoping to have it up and running by the end of the week. (www.ucatamworthcity.wordpress.com) Hope to see you there.



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 .

Korean Reborn Church

Pastor Daniel Choi called in to the office to let me know that he is going to be leaving for Melbourne at the end of April to complete further studies. The local Korean congregation will be having services livestreamed from Sydney.

Tamworth Southside Congregation

Are, like us, not able to meet together. They are looking at 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 prayer also at this time.

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.



Holy Week Prayers

DAY ONE: Jesus clearing the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13)

Loving God, we remember the strong actions of Jesus as he cleared the Temple of those who misused it. If we have used your house for solely for our purposes; if we have used it to uphold traditions rather than hallowed it by prayer; if we have failed to welcome others to it, generous God, forgive us. Kindle in us and in all your people the desire to make all your sanctuaries the shop window of heaven. We pray in and through the name of Jesus, Amen.

DAY TWO: The Pharisees test Jesus (Matthew 21:23-45)

God, sometimes we too argue with you about the stuff that is going on within our lives and in the world. We so often see the world through our own blinkered eyes, rather than through your eyes. Help us particularly at this time as we experience new sorts of testing. By your Spirit enable us to open ourselves to your love, your grace, your justice, your truth and your peace, so that we can follow more closely the way of Jesus. Amen.

DAY THREE: Jesus anointed by a woman at Bethany (Matthew 26:6-14)

From a high, secret shelf, I take what I hid myself – perfume, precious and rare. I will give what I have to my Lord. Though the action is crude, it will show my gratitude for the truth that I’ve learnt from the one who’s heaven-sent; I will give what I have to my Lord.

It’s because of him that the likes of me believe God has time for the poor. He us shown us heaven’s door. Be it perfume and care, be it anger or despair, I will give what I have to my Lord. Amen.

DAY FOUR: The Upper Room (Matthew 26:17-35)

Understanding God, we wonder what must it have been like to share that last meal with Jesus, to hear his words ‘one of you will betray me’, and then more words, ‘You will all become deserters because o me this night.’?

Do we, like Peter profess that we would never deny him?

Forgiving God, forgive us for those times when we have denied you, when we have taken the easy way out, when we have put ourselves first rather than standing up for you and those whom you love. We pray in and through Christ’s name. Amen.



Lentevent

It's Palm Sunday and usually our BBQ & Lent Event Stall. The children have been busily working on items for sale and have done a great job. I'm stockpiling them in the office until we can be together again and sell our goodies to raise funds for UnitingWorld Overseas Mission Projects.



A notebook by the phone



A bowl for bits and pieces



A bookmark



A hanging for the doorway



A beaded bracelet



Beaded necklaces



A decorated tea light candle



A button bowl for bits and bobs



Easter egg flowers

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Children's Ministry: Christian Education, Scripture in Schools, Sunday School, Young Families Worker, Mission Outreach, Doing it for our Farmers and Rainbow Cottage. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore in your prayers this week.

NENW Presbytery

Keep in your prayers work being carried out to have virtual meetings on Zoom in the coming months.

Scripture in Schools

Suspended during the coronavirus pandemic.

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	5	Psalm 31:9-16* (Palm Sunday)	Fri	10	John 18:1-19:42 (Good Friday)
Mon	6	Jeremiah 31:1-6*	Sat	11	Acts 10:34-43*
Tue	7	Hebrews 10:16-25	Sun	12	John 20:1-18* (Easter Sunday)
Wed	8	Colossians 3:1-4*	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings		
Thu	9	John 13:1-17, 31-35 (Maundy Thursday)			

