



19 July 2020

Tamworth City Uniting Church

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Other Useful Local Contacts:

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- **Southside Lay Preachers:** David Bissett 0400 186 723; Rob Wood 0447 425 411; John Nash 0428 333 358
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- **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

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

Rev Betty Stroud has prepared this week's worship resources. Zoom morning tea is at 10am, look out for your email link from Rev Betty this week. Betty will be in town until 26 July. Nicolette is in the office as usual, although closed to the public.

Please knock on the door if you need to see her.

Stay up to date with safe health practices. Take care.



This Week's Notes

News Items

- We will have a virtual 'morning tea' at 10am on Sunday morning. Watch out for an invitation from Rev Betty at about 9:50am on Sunday.
- Maybe you'd like to invite someone not on Zoom for morning tea to join us.
- A Special Church Council COVID-19 Information afternoon was held on Tuesday. There is a lot to keep in mind when approving plans to use our facilities. Every group in the church and those hiring will be required to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan to be submitted to Council for approval before recommencing. Council will meet regularly via ZOOM to assess these applications before they are forwarded to Presbytery and Synod.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 19 July: Message from Rev Betty Stroud online; 10am Zoom Morning Tea.

Tuesday, 21 July: Study Groups recommencing—contact Betty if you'd like to join in.

Thursday, 23 July: ZOOM Trivia Night—hosted by Norm Dezius, 7:30-9:30pm. Get a table together at your place and join the ZOOM Trivia fun online. Contact the office to register.

Sunday, 26 July: Message from Rev Betty Stroud online; 10am Zoom Morning Tea.

Sunday, 2 August: Message from Barry Gillett online; 10am Zoom Morning Tea.

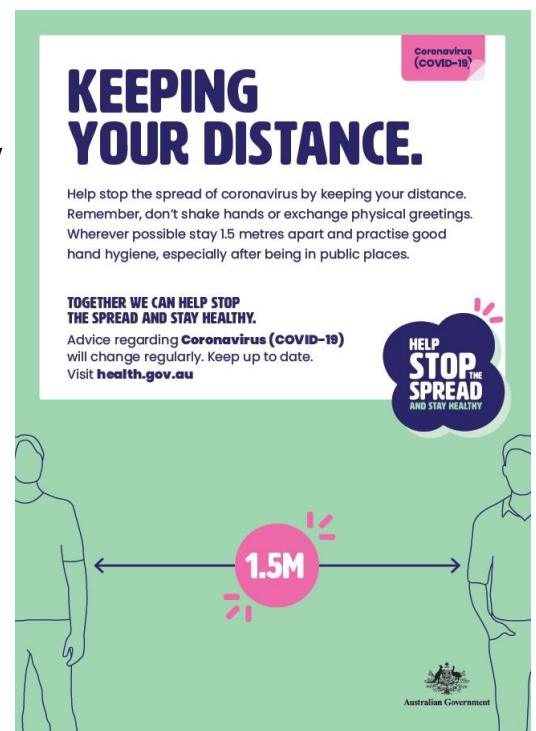
Website, Offering and Banking Details

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/>. At this time it is important to maintain contact with each other. A telephone call is a great way to do this. To continue to support our ministry financially by setting up a direct deposit into our accounts using phone or internet banking details on bottom of front page. If you don't have access to these facilities we encourage you to put aside your weekly offering in an envelope to give to the church at a convenience time or leave in the box on the verandah of the office. Thank you.

Something to laugh about—Children at Caithness School in Scotland

The children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following 25 statements are some of what they wrote. They have not been retouched or corrected and incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. *In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.*
2. *Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.*
3. *Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.*
4. *The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.*
5. *Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.*
6. *Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.*
7. *Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.*
8. *The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.*
9. *The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.*
10. *The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.*
11. *Moses died before he ever reached canada then Joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.*
12. *The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.*
13. *David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.*
14. *Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.*
15. *When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.*
16. *When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.*
17. *Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.*
18. *St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.*
19. *Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.*
20. *It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.*
21. *The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.*
22. *The epistels were the wives of the apostles.*
23. *One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.*
24. *St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marraige.*
25. *Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.*





G'day everyone!

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Children’s Ministry, Christian Education, Scripture in Schools, Sunday School, Young Families Worker (Jillian), 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 Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama your prayers this week.

NENW Presbytery

Keep in your prayers work being carried out to have worship connections with congregations during the COVID-19 virus restrictions and the transition back to physical worship. There are lots of exciting things happening out there! Working together as restrictions lift.

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.

Church Council

Keep our Church Council in your prayers as they help us work through ongoing changes during the COVID-19 precautions and restrictions.

Lectionary Readings

Sun 19 Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24*
 Mon 20 Psalm 128
 Tue 21 Genesis 29:15-30
 Wed 22 Genesis 29:31-30:24
 Thu 23 Romans 8:26-39*

Fri 24 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*
 Sat 25 Matthew 14:1-12
 Sun 26 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b*
 * Denotes Sunday lectionary readings

Seasons of the Spirit

Presence

Genesis 28:10–19a; Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24; Romans 8:12–25; Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43.

Prayer

Loving God, you are with us throughout our lives. You know our dreams and desires, our fears and failures. Help us to more fully welcome your presence into our lives and grant us the courage to be more present in the lives of others. Amen.

Biblical Background

God's presence is felt throughout all of today's readings. This presence is met with mixed reactions, from fear and awe to a gained sense of belonging and being known. The texts ask us to consider what it means to know God and to be known by God, as well as how this knowledge shapes the way we live our lives.

Genesis 28:10–19a depicts the time directly after Jacob has received the blessing of Isaac – a blessing that traditionally would have gone to his elder brother, Esau. This is the final reversal of the brothers' saga that began when they were in Rebekah's womb. Now Jacob and Esau have gone their separate ways. Alone, Jacob falls asleep and enters a liminal space through a dream where he receives a message directly from God. Mirroring the covenantal promises given to Abraham and Isaac, Jacob receives assurances of land and descendants. It continues with a promise that God will be present with Jacob and will provide for his safety, further signifying that he will carry on the Abrahamic line.

Jacob's response is one of awe and reverence for the sacred interaction that has taken place. Calling it the gate of heaven, he acknowledges that this is a liminal place where God has come in contact with Earth. As was custom in ancient Israelite culture, Jacob marks the spot with a stone pillar. He also performs an act of naming, renaming the place Bethel, or the House of God. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, we witness the importance of naming and renaming, such as Abram's name to Abraham. Naming is a signal of contact and interaction with God or among humans that has transformed the parties involved, along with the places they come in contact with.

Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 highlights the intimate knowledge that God has of a person. No thought, word, or action escapes God's knowledge because God is always present. Despite those who threaten, the psalmist seeks a life led by God.

In Romans 8:12–25, Paul demonstrates the relationality of God and God's people through the language of adoption. God offers believers a new familial structure in which they are rightful heirs to God's realm. This creates an alternate societal structure to that of the Roman Empire and its paterfamilias. This new structure also invites believers into relation with Earth. For both the children of God and Creation suffer under the present imperial powers and wait with hope-filled anticipation for freedom and redemption.

In Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43, Jesus provides another agricultural parable on the reign of God. Using the imagery of wheat and weeds. Both weeds and wheat grow together in the world and may look similar to one another, but in the end, they will be sorted and dealt with accordingly. Jesus highlights that this separation does not happen until the seeds have borne fruit. It is important to approach the text with caution, as it has the potential to harm and hurt by drawing lines between "insiders" and "outsiders." There is mystery in how God plants, nurtures, and weeds to secure a harvest of promise, and we are invited into hope-filled trust in God.

Questions

Today's texts paint images of the relationship between God and God's people. God is ever-present, all-knowing, and all revealing. What other images do you have for your relationship with God?

