



10th May 2020, 4th Sunday after Easter 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 continue to worship together, apart. Rev Betty Stroud has prepared this week's order of service.

Zoom morning tea is at 10am, look out for your email link.

Nicolette will be working in the office as usual, although closed to the public. Happy Mother's Day to our mums. Stay up to date with safe health practices. Take care. God be with you all.



Our 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 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. Make a cuppa and give someone 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



Good News Items

- Happy Mother's Day to all our mums.
- It was great to have 'morning tea' with Betty again on Sunday, via Zoom meetings. I think we had over 26 on board this time. It's great to see your smiling faces.
- 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 and you will enter via a virtual waiting room.
- **We will have a virtual 'morning tea' at 10am on Sunday morning.**
- I continue to have supportive emails and calls. Keep looking after each other.

Study Groups

Rev Betty got the Study groups on 'Meeting Mathew' underway last week. A hard copy of the studies is available if you'd like to follow on at home, email or phone me in the office.

Sharing Information

Lots of people sharing family news of great-grandchildren on the way or arriving—Congratulations!!

Mother's Day TODAY. What plans do you have to get together with your family? Do you do phone calls, facetime, zoom, what's app? So many ways to keep in touch these days. Maybe a card in the mail or some flowers.

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

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

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda in your prayers this week.

NENW Presbytery

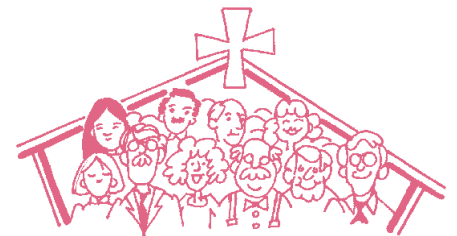
Keep in your prayers work being carried out to have virtual meetings on Zoom and worship connections during the COVID-19 virus restrictions in the coming months.

Prayer Chain

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

Church Council Executive

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



Lectionary Readings

Sun	10	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16*	Fri	15	1 Peter 3:13-22*
Mon	11	Acts 8:14-25	Sat	16	John 14:15-21*
Tue	12	Acts 17:22-31*	Sun	17	Psalm 66:8-20*
Wed	13	Revelation 11:15-19			
Thu	14	1 Peter 3:1-12			

* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings

COVID 19 WON'T DERAIL THE SYNOD CLIMATE STRATEGY

Find out how you can raise your voice as part of the May 15 Climate Strike.

A strange new world

All of us are doing our best to adapt to this new world, one that has emerged so quickly and with little warning. It is disorienting for all and for some a real threat to well being, whether through physical distancing, enforced isolation, unemployment, or the risk of illness and even death. Through all this we try to maintain some semblance of normality – doing the shopping, caring for family, working- if we can, meeting (virtually) as a church, talking with friends.

Concern about climate continues

While COVID-19 still dominates the news, other issues have not disappeared, nor have our concerns about them. As memory of our summer bushfires recedes (not for all), the impacts of a changing climate continue, and without action, will grow. But COVID-19 has also taught us about our capacity to work for the common good, even when it costs us. Both the pandemic and climate change provide opportunities for human solidarity. With the virus, all of us are asked to change our behaviour to protect our health and save lives, especially those of older people, who are more vulnerable. With climate change, all of us are asked to change our behaviour, to protect our wellbeing and the wellbeing of the planet, and to safeguard the future for young people and generations yet to be.

Ways we can support our young people

That solidarity with young people and their action on climate change is one of the key elements of the Synod Climate Strategy. As a church, we agreed to support young people in the School Strike 4 Climate Action. The next action will take place on Friday, May 15th. Because we can't physically gather it will take place online. For more information go to [Schools Strike 4 Climate website](#).

The School Strike 4 Climate movement has three core tasks:

1. No new coal, oil or gas projects, including the Adani mine
2. 100% renewable energy generation and exports by 2030
3. The funding of a just transition and job creation for all fossil fuel workers and communities

As well as joining the national broadcast (12 noon AEST) and/or local #climatestrike events online, our Synod is promoting some other initiatives to support and complement these actions by young people on the day. We encourage you to take part in these as you are interested and able. They include:

Holding a climate action-themed online worship service on Sunday, May 10th (the Sunday before the event). Pre-prepared videos and text liturgy to help you prepare will be available on the [UnitingEarth website](#) from May 1st.

Sharing personal messages of support for climate action on May 15th. We are asking all Uniting Church members to film and share a 30 second (or less) video finishing the sentence 'I support a safe climate future for all, because....'. Please post this video on May 15th on all your social media channels, with the hashtags #uniting4climate and #climatestrike and tagging your Members of Parliament. For more information and to see examples, please go to [unitingearth.org.au](#)

- If you aren't into social media and Facebook, please write your 'I support a safe climate future for all, because....' message to your Member of Parliament by email or post.

There is also a multi-faith service being organised by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (more information at [on their website](#)) and an ecumenical service organised by Common Grace, with participation by Uniting Church leaders, (more information [on their website](#)) on the morning of May 15th.

So we encourage you to take part in the School Strike4Climate events on May 15 and the lead-up activities and resources before the day.

If you have any questions or would like more information about any of these initiatives please contact us. Look out for more information on these events through this Synod e-news and other channels.

Dee Davidian (ddavidian@uniting.org) and Jon O'Brien (jobrien@uniting.org) on behalf of the Climate Actions Task Group (one of the five task groups of the Synod Climate Strategy).



Sacredise Reflections

Thought for the Week

Thought for the Week: One of Jesus' most radical claims was that he revealed God to us. We cannot be followers of Jesus without wholeheartedly accepting that this claim was, and is, true. In this season of resurrection, the fact that death could not quench the life of Jesus is evidence that what he said about himself was trustworthy and to be believed. This means that, if we want to discover what God is like, we only have to look at Jesus, and we will learn all we need to know.

But, there is another side to this important truth. If Jesus reveals God to us, any beliefs we hold about God that are not consistent with the values, character and purposes of Jesus, are incorrect. If we see Jesus forgiving and including, but we believe that God is exclusive and judgemental, we have a contradictory view of God. If we see Jesus refusing to use violence to manifest God's Reign, but we believe that God punishes people through natural disasters, accidents or disease, we have a contradictory view of God. Not only does Jesus claim that he reveals God to us, he is also saying that God is like Jesus. This is the heart of our faith.

This week we meditate on how God is revealed in Jesus, and on the kind of God that Jesus shows us.

Reading John 14:1-14

Reflection

When the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus was clear that God is revealed and encountered in him. This means that, in order to get to "where Jesus was going" - the place where God's will and presence are known and experienced completely - we only need to be in deep and intimate relationship with Jesus. In John 17 Jesus confirms this when he prays that eternal life is to know God and Jesus Christ whom God sent. The word to "know" here refers to intimate connection. In the middle of this teaching Jesus speaks some well known words that have been used to justify Christian arrogance and exclusivity for centuries. He says that he is "the way, the truth, and the life" and that "no one comes to God except through him". This is actually one of the most inclusive statements in the Bible! Jesus is saying that, however we may seek for God, in the end we will discover that he has been working in us all along. Jesus is not trying to keep some people out. He's welcoming all God-seekers in. Then he goes on to say that anything we ask in his name - which means in accordance with his values and purposes - will be done. And, when God's people are praying in this Christ-centred, inclusive way, the impact will be greater even than that of Jesus' own life! How can you embrace Christ's inclusive love today? And how you can allow this love to shape your prayers in Jesus' name?



Practice for Today

Jesus' name is not a magic word that gives us whatever we desire. It is a touchstone that shapes our values, our purpose, our behaviour, and our desires. When we pray in Jesus' name, we are submitting ourselves to Jesus' way, and seeking to pray in alignment with Jesus' mission. Then, our prayers are done, because they are the same as Jesus' own prayers. Furthermore, when we pray like this, we begin to live in alignment with what we pray, and our lives begin to touch others with Christ's inclusive love. Today, pray in Jesus' name like this.

Breath-Prayer for Today

As I pray in your name, Jesus, so my prayers and my life align with your values and purposes. This week our focus is on learning to share resurrection life with one another.

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