



31st May 2020

Pentecost Sunday

Tamworth City Uniting Church

Maybe you'd like to wear something **red** for Pentecost today!

Rev Betty Stroud has prepared this week's worship resources.

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

Nicolette is in the office as usual, although closed to the public.

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

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



Our webpage has worship resources, order of service and the notice sheet each week. There is also a recorded message from Betty on the Worship Resources page at <https://ucatamworthcity.wordpress.com/> along with a link to the Moderator's message.

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

- We've been enjoying some lovely morning teas on Zoom at 10am each week. Lots of different people come and go over the morning, it's lovely to see all the smiling faces.
- **We will have a virtual 'morning tea' at 10am on Sunday morning.**
- Note that there will be a Church Council meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, 9 June at 7pm. If you need assistance getting onto Zoom, please contact the office.
- Rev Betty will be taking two week's leave at the end of June (5-28). Peter Battle and Barry Gillett will be preparing worship resources on those who Sundays. Hoping they'll do a video as well!
- The latest news from Synod is that we should not yet be holding any services of worship in our buildings. Encouraging online services and recorded worship as preferable. Bible Study, Church Council and leadership teams should continue to meet online. Hall hire should be avoided. Risks include singing together, multiple people touching objects/in the same room, close proximity of people. Health and well-being must be our first priority. We ask your patience and support and eagerly look forward to the day we can gather together once again.
- We extend our deepest sympathy to John McBride and family following the death of his wife, Enid, last week.

Sharing

Annabel has sent in some funny Church Bulletin Typo's! (I'm sure they never happen...)

- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on encouraging your individual commitment to prayer and service.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

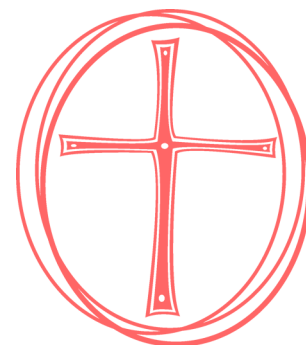
Keep the people of Botswana and Zimbabwe in your prayers this week.

NENW Presbytery

Keep in your prayers work being carried out to have worship connections with congregations during the COVID-19 virus restrictions. There are lots of exciting things happening out there!

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

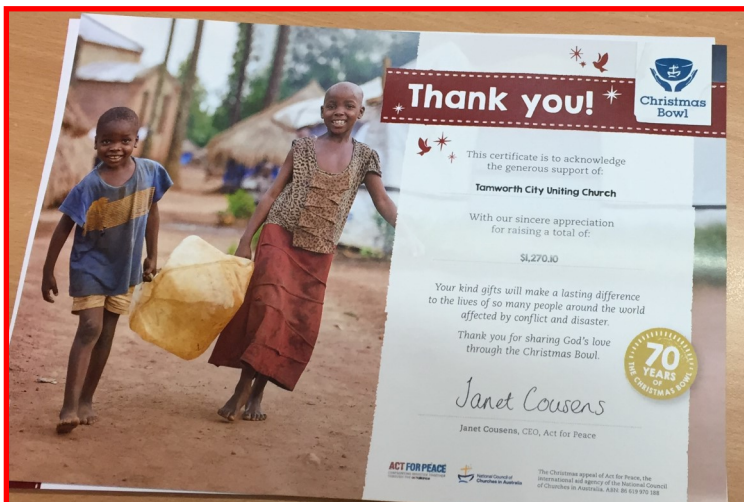
Sun	31	Pentecost Sunday Psalm 104:24-34, 35b*	Fri	5	Ephesians 4:1-6, 17-32
Mon	1	Genesis 1:1-25	Sat	6	Psalm 8*
Tue	2	Genesis 1:26-2:4a	Sun	7	Trinity Sunday Matthew 28:16-20*
Wed	3	2 Corinthians 13:1-10	<i>* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings</i>		
Thu	4	2 Corinthians 13:11-13*			

Can you tell me a story? Start with "I remember when ..."



A Theme to get you started:

1. Winter comforts: What are the best comforts of winter? Food, clothes, activities?
2. Old Time Radio: Which radio ads do they remember best? Palmolive, Coty. How about radio plays? Avengers, Benny Goodman, Buck Rogers, Dad and Dave?



A special Thank You! Certificate from Christmas Bowl donations, Christmas 2019 in the amount of \$1,270.10. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

The greatness of a community
Is most accurately measured
By the compassionate actions
Of its members.
CORETTA SCOTT KING

10 WAYS TO LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

- Talk about your feelings
- Keep active
- Eat well
- Take a break
- Drink sensibly
- Keep in touch
- Do something you're good at
- Accept who you are
- Ask for help
- Care for others

Mental Health Foundation
mentalhealth.org.uk



31 at Morning Tea on 24 May.

Seasons of the Spirit

Biblical Background

Acts 2:1–21; Numbers 11:24–30; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21; John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39

Prayer

Holy Spirit, who came as wind and flames of fire, fan into life the gifts and abilities of people everywhere; unite us in a creative love that includes others, celebrates differences, and brings glory to God. Amen.

Spiritual Understanding

The variety of scripture readings for this major festival of Pentecost reflect the range of activities that we associate with the Spirit of God. The Spirit is active in Creation, in forming community among culturally diverse people, and in the multi-faceted task of building a community that involves everyone with their different gifts and abilities.

Acts 2:1–21 The Acts account of the sending of the Spirit is many-layered. It connects with the Hebrew Scriptures and links the events of Pentecost with the Hebrew “Feast of Weeks,” 50 days after the Passover that commemorates the giving of the Law to Moses; now celebrated by the Christian church for the giving of the Spirit. Pentecost also came to be linked with the completion of harvest; now the Christian church celebrates the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. There is also a connection with the start of the gospel of Luke, where we read of the overshadowing of Mary by the power of the Spirit and bringing about the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:35). Here in Acts, the Spirit is instrumental in the birth of the church, the continuing Body of Christ on Earth. As well as connecting with the Law and Hebrew practice, Peter quotes from Joel, validating this Pentecost experience by relating it to an event foretold by the prophet, when God’s activity in the world would be vindicated (Joel 2:28–32a). Pentecost can also be seen as a reversal of the Tower of Babel where people were divided by language differences and the inability to understand each other (Genesis 11:1–9).

How do we interpret the details of this vibrant account of the Spirit’s coming? For any new experience, words elude us. How can we describe something new and unexpected, yet totally real and life-changing? For those who were present, the coming of the Spirit was as powerful and overwhelming as a strong wind, as purifying and all-encompassing as tongues of fire. The effects were far-reaching, bringing understanding and astonishment, reaching across barriers of culture, gender, and social standing. A Passover crowd in Jerusalem had earlier united against Jesus (Luke 23:13–25), Peter had denied him (Luke 22:54–62), and the disciples had fled (Luke 23:49). Now a crowd listens attentively as, supported by the eleven apostles, Peter stands up to explain and witness to the power of God.

Commentators continue to discuss what might have happened at Pentecost: did people really hear their own language in a society where the languages of Aramaic or Greek were understood by nearly everyone? Was it the phenomena of glossolalia? Or was it that people came together and understood the good news in a vital and Spirit-inspired way?

Numbers 11:24–30 There is no room for exclusivist attitudes or jealousy, but a call to embrace an all-inclusive outlook towards others whose circumstances may be different, but whose call to be Spirit-filled is universal.

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b reflects on the dependence of Creation on the Spirit, also connected with Sophia-Wisdom, who brings life and renewal.

In **1 Corinthians 12:3b–13** Paul reflects on the practical out-workings of the gifts of the Spirit from the perspective of the fledgling church. This letter was probably written before the accounts of Acts was committed to paper, but again stresses the diversity of gifts and backgrounds activated and united by the one Spirit.

The short lections from John’s gospel (**John 20:19–23** or **John 7:37–39**) remind us that John reflects from a different pneumatology or understanding of the Spirit. For the author of the gospel of John, the Spirit was given after Jesus was risen and glorified, but still to that group of fearful disciples hiding behind closed doors. The giving of the Spirit was associated with the forgiveness of sins and the commission to go and continue the work of God; here there is also a link with peace and joy (fruits of the Spirit).

Questions

A strong theme emerging through these readings is the uniting and life-giving work of the Spirit of God in the diversity and variety of Creation. What does this say to us about living with difference?

