



Werribee Uniting Church

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and we gather.

13 September, 2026 Pentecost 16



Reflection

13 September 2026

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

Welcome to Worship!

Today, we will be reflecting on Mathew 18: 21-35

The main message of this passage is that Jesus teaches that forgiveness is a way of life. We forgive because we ourselves have been forgiven an immeasurable debt. Peter comes to Jesus with a question: "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus replies with a number that explodes the limits of human patience: "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus then tells a parable that tells us what true forgiveness is about. Jesus describes a servant who owes his king ten thousand talents—an impossible sum. In today's terms, it's billions of dollars. The point is clear: the debt is not just large; it is unpayable. This is Jesus' way of showing us the truth about our own condition. Before God, we are not people who need a small adjustment or a bit of moral improvement. We are people who need mercy. We stand before God with empty hands, unable to repay what we owe. And yet the king does the unthinkable: he cancels the debt. He doesn't restructure it. He doesn't reduce it. He wipes it away entirely.

This is the gospel. God does not negotiate our salvation. He gives it freely. The forgiven servant walks out of the palace a free man. But instead of letting mercy reshape his heart, he hunts down a fellow servant who owes him a tiny amount—a few months' wages. He grabs him by the throat. He demands repayment. The tragedy is that he has forgotten who he is. He is a forgiven man acting like an unforgiven one. The king's judgment on the unforgiving servant is severe. Jesus is not simply commanding forgiveness; He is offering freedom. Unforgiveness chains us to the past. It keeps us reliving old wounds. It turns us inward, bitter, and small. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting. It does not mean pretending the hurt didn't happen. It does not mean trusting someone who has proven untrustworthy. Forgiveness means releasing the

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

13 Sept: Raymond Surujpal (HC)

20 Sept: Justice Task Group

Samoan service

3rd Sunday, 12pm, in the Church: All welcome.

Pastoral Care: Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor, pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184.

Bible readings

This week: Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114

Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

Next week: Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 9.30am Bible Discussion

Wednesday: 9.30am Property Group;
7pm Church Council

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;
5.45pm Choir Practice

Friday: Sew 'n Sow

Rosters 13 Sept (20 Sept)

Greetings: Deb Cochran (Margaret Dent)

Audiovisual: Noel Savory (Faith & Chelsea)

Morning Tea: Elaine Belcher & Julie Rees
(Fale Aiga & Rowena Aiga)

Music: Gina Lee (Wendy Barnes)

Prayers: Judy Vincent (Vivien Bleakley)

Reader: Paul Cochran (Bev Lambie)

Werribee UC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/>

Church office

Open 9.30am to 12 noon. Phone 97411084

Email office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

PO Box 2156, Werribee, Vic 3030

WUC Newsletter

Please send information for inclusion to the church office by Wed on 97411084 or email office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

right to revenge. It means handing the case over to God. It means choosing mercy because mercy has been chosen for us. Amen. **Blessings** **Raymond Surujpal**

Image above taken from 'Online Pictures' (Artist unknown)

Sunday 6 Sept Service

"On behalf of the church council I would like to thank those who took part in leading worship last Sunday.

Our current church council will always step up to lead worship should the situation arise and I trust that future church council members will continue to do the same.

It is tough and a bit frustrating, that there is a lack of ordained ministers and lay people to meet the current needs of church fellowship and worship. We did get support from Presbytery for our service on Sunday, and we did what we were able to do, so we could have a worship time together. And we will do it again if we have to.

I trust that you, the congregation is happy to have this arrangement for a time of worship on a Sunday morning, rather than not having any worship time together at all.

Perhaps Placements Committee in Synod this month can provide us with a name so we can start the process of calling a minister." Ken

Chairs

The chairs below are available free to anyone who may have use of them. If they are of no use to anyone, they will be sent to land fill.

Please contact Geoff Gook or Ken Storey.



RESTORATION OF THE REAR WALL.

The property committee is still working through the proposal they got from last week's meeting with the builder and Property Services representative, hopefully they will be able to make a recommendation to the next church council's meeting.

The proposal is to fix the drainage system at the rear of the hall then move onto making the ramp available for use.

We have yet to get a schedule of works setting dates and time of construction.

The next meeting of our Project Control Group will be on the 23/9/27. We hope we can get all this on the go asap.

Cheers, Ken.

O.S.L.O.

Occasional Sunday Lunches Out.

We will be visiting Lara Hotel 10 Hicks Street for lunch at 12md on Sunday 27th September.

There is only a limited senior's menu, the roast of the day and fish and chips.

Everyone is welcome. Please contact Elaine on 0435998013 or Lorna on 0419101766 for bookings or cancellations.



Raymond Surujpal is with Rev Charissa Suli, President Of UCA (L)

And Brooke Prentis, Aboriginal Christian Leader of the Wakka Wakka

People during the National Lay Preachers' Conference (September 4-6)

at CTM, Parkville, hosted by the VicTas LP Association.

The theme of the conference was 'Weaving Christ's Love as a Lay Preacher'. There were approximately 50 Lay Preachers from all over Australia in the conference. Speakers included Rev Charissa Suli, Emeritus Professor Rev Bill Loader, Rev Prof Glen O'Brien, Rev Salesi Faupula, Moderator of VicTas, Rev David Dong, eLM Multicultural Ministries Coordinator, VicTas, plus many others.