



Werrabee 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.

1 September 2024: Season of Creation

A time for prayer?

One of the effects of reading the newspapers or watching the news on television is a sense of despair—can things be any worse? The tragedy in the Middle East that seems unstoppable (made worse locally by attempts to benefit politically), the disasters of civil war in Africa, the war brought by the invasion of Russia in the Ukraine, the evil of gambling advertisement proliferation preying on children and adults, and the ever-present climate change natural disasters wrought by the insatiable drive for profits by fossil fuel industries and by weak governments—what is your response?

Unacknowledged despair leads to ‘turning off’ and refusing to, as Michelle Obama recently said, “take action”. One way to overcome such unacknowledged despair and to take action is to pray, because prayer leads firstly to a *recognition* and *acceptance* that *things could be better* and, hopefully, with then a *willingness to “take action”*. (RR)

Here is a prayer of intercession, written by Karel Reus, that might provide inspiration and renewed hope.

We pray for this world;
this sparkling gorgeous globe;
this jewel,
given to us to use and to manage.

We seek guidance, Lord,
to manage this great gift
according to your will,
and according to your plan.

We pray for countries big and small;
make them true homes for their people,
granting comfort and security
and work and rest.
Make all countries bountiful, welcoming and generous.

We pray for governments.
Give them perspective, Lord,
to see the wider picture,
but to see also the detail;
the little things,
that make a real and worthwhile difference
to their people.

We pray for a peace
that will allow for argument and disputation
as we seek the best way forward,
but will not allow us to resolve our differences
through use of violence.
Make us true and faithful followers
of the Prince of Peace.

Help our rulers to do what is wholesome and right,
to work for those less fortunate,

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

1 September: Rev. Ian Pearse

8 September: Rev. Bruce Watson

Bible readings

Today: Song of Solomon 2:8–13; Psalm 45:1–2,6–9; James 1:17–27; Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Next week: Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; Psalm 125; James 2:10–17; Mark 7:24–37

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 11am Bible Discussion & Lunch

Wednesday: 1pm UCAF

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;

5pm Health & Fitness;

5pm Choral Practice (chapel)

Saturday: Health & Fitness

Rosters 1 September (& 8 September)

Greetings: Sandra S (Margaret B)

Audiovisual: Noel S (Christian R-K)

Morning Tea: Tupu L (Marie C & Sita T)

Flowers: Emily M (Bev C)

Music: Wendy B (Gina L)

Prayers: Tupu L (Lauina L)

Reader: Tupu L (Elizabeth B)

Werrabee UC on Facebook:

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

Church office

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am–12noon. Phone 97411084 Email

office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

WUC Newsletter (Editor: Robert Renton)

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at robert.renton@bigpond.com or 0427 812 606.

Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth B)

bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

Samoan service The Samoan language service is held every 3rd Sunday at 4pm in the church. All welcome.

less able,
less gifted;
to work for their constituents,
for voters
but also those who have no voice,
here and in distant lands.

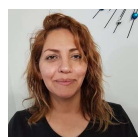
And we pray for our material world.
Help us to manage our environment,
to make us faithful and responsible stewards.
Give us the knowledge and skills to do so,
and the passion to protect your creation
for the benefit of all.

(from *Conversations with God*)

To contact the Rev. Ian Pearse

The Rev. Ian Pearse offers pastoral care to anyone in our congregation. Please ring mobile: 0411 771 853 or send an email to: enps@iinet.net.au.

Making progress



Congratulations to our asylum seeker friend Sakineh M (member of Werribee UC congregation) who further established herself by completing her TAFE hair dressing qualifications. She has now opened her hair salon called "SiSi" at their home, 14 Lantana Avenue, Hoppers Crossing. (Sakineh would love to hear from you—you can call Sakineh.)

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

UCAF is meeting, as usual, this coming Wednesday at 1pm. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Multifaith Week of Climate Action

From the 14th to the 24th of September people of all faiths around Australia will publicly call for a clear plan to get us out of this climate crisis and move boldly and rapidly away from coal and gas and towards a sustainable future. There will be media events on Tuesday September 17 at major iconic places of worship, including a worship service at St Paul's Melbourne from 10am. Many churches are unfurling banners for this week—including Werribee Uniting Church. Be involved!

Church leaders call for action

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God. The season's "Celebration" begins September 1, the Feast of Creation, and ends October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. This year we will unite around the theme "To hope and act with Creation" with the symbol "The first fruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

Ecumenical faith leaders from across the world have shared their reflections to inspire our ecumenical family in this journey forward, as Christians everywhere prepare to witness the hope and action working together with and for Creation.

As a powerful statement to the importance of this ecumenical season of prayer and action for Creation, here are the words from faith leaders of our Christian family summoning us to this special season:



"Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativise the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident. No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth that are only a few palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone (...) I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrim of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful." **(Pope Francis, Roman Catholic Church)**



"It was 35 years ago that our venerable predecessor, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, issued the very first encyclical inviting all people of goodwill to dedicate September 1 as a special day of prayer for the preservation of the natural environment (...) Today, across the planet, numerous Christian churches and faithful recognise this celebration as the World Day of Prayer for Creation or the Feast of Creation. This sense of ecumenical conviction and Christian unity is paramount not only because we have been commanded by our Lord 'that we may be one' (John 17:21), but also because we cannot and should not hope to address climate change without working closely with one another. As we have repeatedly stated, 'We are all in the same boat'. Creation care is a collective mandate and responsibility." **(Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Holy Orthodox Church)**



"Climate change and disasters are already upon us. The planet is in trouble and 'creation is groaning' as the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8. In the midst of this, we are called to be responsible stewards and citizens as we care for and sustain the earth which belongs to the Lord. This is hope in action as we pray and yearn for a better and safer world for all people and creation. We each need to do our part for creation care." **(Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay, World Council of Churches)**