



# Werribee United 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.

## 21 April 2024: Easter 4

### The wisdom of Jesus for me ...

Rev. Dr David Merritt wrote in an article for discussion the following. "The wisdom and actions of Jesus so inspired some of the people who knew him that their lives were dramatically changed. Jesus and his Way are the historic foundations of my spiritual tradition. By contrast, many of the theories (beliefs) *about* Jesus that were developed in later centuries and depended on assumptions of their time are strange and alienating. What from Jesus and his Way can guide me now I hold a contemporary world view shaped by evidence the first century did not know?"

I cannot follow the Way of Jesus fully as it was for living in a first century setting with first century knowledge. But I can act on parts of it that are inspirational for my personal and community life, my spending, and my political action.

1. I can affirm and be inspired by Jesus' vision of a different and better way to live expressed in his idea of the 'kingdom of God'. While his details were very first century, his big idea points us now to live and work for a better future not controlled by powerful people and corporations.
2. I can be inspired and guided by Jesus' inclusion of other races and religions and 'neglected' people. (The cripple, the Samaritan, the woman at the well, the taks collector, the woman caught in adultery)
3. I can be inspired by the priority attention Jesus gave to the poor and can base some of my behaviour on that. For example, by giving at least 10% of my income to agencies helping poor people in Australia and around the world, and by voting for increased overseas aid and adequate support for poor people in Australia. (The Lord's Prayer, feeding hungry people, love of neighbour)
4. I can be alerted by Jesus' criticism of religious institutions and professionals who neglected the core affirmations of religion about acceptance and love. (The priest and Levite who ignored the wounded traveller, the money changers in the temple, the religious officials who cooperated with the military oppressor to execute him)
5. I can open myself to the principle that when in doubt the best guide to how to live is generous love. (The great commandment)
6. I can be inspired by Jesus' priority for groups of people living together. (Living with a band of followers, sharing food, and teaching about daily food, feasts, dinners...)
7. I can refuse to read publicly or commend readings from the Bible that express evil or known ignorance."

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

21 April: Rev. Ian Pearse

28 April: Rev. Amanda Nicholls

### Bible readings

**Today:** Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23; I John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18

**Next Sunday:** Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 22:25–31; I John 4:7–21; John 15:1–8

### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** (No bible study until 7th May)

**Wednesday:** 10am Property Committee

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group; 5pm Health & Fitness

### Rosters 21 April (& 28 April)

**Greetings:** Bev C (Tulaua S)

**Audiovisual:** Christian R-K (Paul K)

**Morning Tea:** Margaret F & Margaret G (Marie C & Site T)

**Flowers:** Elaine B (Emily M)

**Music:** Tracey S (Wendy B)

**Prayers:** Margaret B (Lauina L)

**Reader:** Anine W (Wendy B)

### Werribee 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](mailto:office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com) or Neil Tolliday on 0402 817 673.

### Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

### To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth B)

[bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

**Samoan service** The Samoan language service is held every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 4pm in the church. All welcome.

## Werribee Uniting Church congregation's first AGM

There was a good attendance of members of the Werribee Uniting Church at our first Annual General Meeting after morning worship on Sunday April 14, 2024.



Sandra



Bev

Congregational Chairperson Sandra S and Secretary Bev L were elected and immediately stepped into their roles.

Lauina L, Treasurer spoke to her report, and explained that the funds of the two former congregations are now transferred to the new Werribee Uniting Congregation. Lauina said she will prepare a budget for the coming year and present it to a future congregational meeting.

Bev L submitted the Annual Report of the Hoppers Crossing and Crossroads congregations, formally amalgamated on Dec 3 2023 to become Werribee Uniting Church. The document including reports of the Ministers, Joint Church Council, Crossroads Property Committee, Finance, and Profit and Loss of the two congregations was received by the meeting.

Council co-chairperson Armando A spoke about the challenge of getting to know each other on the new Church Council.

Armando said "We have big tasks ahead, including (a) the use of our church buildings, with multiple priorities to be recognized, (b) maintenance and improvement of our facilities as they are used by different groups of the church and community (c) outreach to the wider community of Wyndham. We need the help of all members of the congregation. Please pray for us."

During the Q&A period which followed, in reply to a question concerning the process of forming a profile for the congregation and the process of ministerial settlement, the Rev. Linley Liersch, Presbytery Minister for Mission Strategy in the Presbytery of Port Phillip West, explained "We will transition to a mission study as the first step." With regard to a property committee of Church Council, Armando said: "terms of reference are being clarified, for this and all committees."

The meeting ended with a photo review of the year's activities at Werribee Uniting Church.

## OSLO Occasional Sunday Lunches Out.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April we will be going locally to Werribee South. 12md at "By the Bay Cafe" 50 Quay Boulevard, Wyndham Harbour. For bookings please contact Elaine or Lorna by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Everyone is welcome.

## News and notes

TO Sandra and Noel S...their first grandchild has arrived. "Patrick Reuben" was born to Ben and Kristy on 4th

April. All well and our congratulations to Sandra and Noel and family.

THANK YOU to those who are supporting "Uniting" food basket at church. This week I carried 4 bags of groceries to Uniting, and they were most appreciative. (Margaret Gook)

## Working Bee – Saturday 27 April

We need some willing workers for a working bee/garden tidy up being held at the Werribee manse, 8 Filippin Court, Werribee on Saturday 27 April from 8.00 am. BYO garden tools.

Come and share in this time as we work together.

## Combined Pentecost Service—May 19

Presbytery is planning a combined Pentecost service on Sunday 19 May at 2pm at St John's Essendon UCA. Pentecost is the birth of the church, and it is quite symbolic that we gather together on this special day. We are stronger together and you can be part of this exciting event.

Presbytery are looking for musicians—instrumentalists (not piano or organ) and singers to work together for this service and will be introducing some new music for the congregations to learn beforehand.

If you would like to be involved in this combined service please let Margaret B know.

## To contact the Rev. Ian Pearse

Mobile: 0411 771 853

Email: [enps@inet.net.au](mailto:enps@inet.net.au)

