



# 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.

## 5 May 2024: Easter 6

### The editor's musing: Beyond ourselves

*One small voice can teach the world a song*

*Start with one small voice*

*Till another sings along*

*And you'll feel the music growing full and sure and strong*

*One small voice can teach the world a song*

When I was working as a teacher I heard this song sung by Year 3 at a concert put on by the junior years section of the school, and the words neatly picked up the whole theme of the concert ~ "Beyond Ourselves". It's a great theme for a time of despondency and dismay, and if this is not such a time with all that's happening in the Ukraine, the Sudan and Gaza, I don't know when such a time would be. If we aren't learning to look beyond themselves then the world will not be a better place through us.

The need to look beyond ourselves, beyond our own interests and well-being, seems never more important than in today's fractured and environmentally-threatened world. Thinking and acting beyond ourselves is far from a new idea, but it's new for every generation and has to be re-learned. It's not an intellectual thing, though, it's a matter of one's faith, the orientation of one's heart. Thus, it can only be learned by example, by experience, and by the discovery of the heart of the world. And we are all



its teachers.

### Hymn singing is good for your health

And on the theme of song, in the ABC's news (28/4/24) there was an interesting article about how valuable group singing can be—for general health, mental health and happiness.

"For some, the sensation feels like fireworks exploding out of their brain into the night sky. For others, there's a kind of buzz — electricity or vibration. Goosebumps cover their whole body. "A bit like a warm hug." A moment of "collective happiness", "clarity", and feeling totally grounded. Entering some kind of "flow state". This is what it's like to sing in harmony as part of a community choir.

Humans have come together in song for — at least — tens of thousands of years. Through ancient songlines and sacred hymns, in times of celebration and in grief. And if you ask any of those who dedicate a window of their everyday lives to this practice, they'll tell you just how good it feels. Many say it's a form of therapy, and that without it, they're not sure they would survive." (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-04-28/how-singing-in-choirs-can-help-brains-recover-from-burnout/103710820/>)

### TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

#### Worship services

5 May: Rev. Ian Pearse (HC)

12 May: Rev. Lyndon Broadstock

#### Bible readings

**Today:** Acts 10:44–48; Psalm 98; I John 5:1–6; John 15:9–17

**Next week:** Acts 1:15–17, 21–26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9–13; John 17:6–19

#### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 11.30am Bible Study & Lunch

**Wednesday:** 10am Property Committee

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

#### Rosters 5 May (& 12 May)

**Greetings:** Elizabeth B (Margaret B)

**Audiovisual:** Jacob L (Paul K)

**Morning Tea:** Samoan Ladies (Jan B & Julie H)

**Flowers:** Bev C (Margaret F)

**Music:** Wendy B (Gina L)

**Prayers:** Luciana A (Jan B)

**Reader:** Lauina L (Elizabeth 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 (Editor: Robert R)

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com) or Neil T

#### 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 3rd Sunday at 4pm in the church. All welcome.

**We need more help (male or female) with the morning tea roster—please! Contact the office!**

**STAN**  
SATURDAY TAKE AWAY NIGHT

*A Night for Family Fun*

**Saturday, May 11**  
Werribee Uniting Church (Foyer)  
From 6:30pm- 9:30pm

- 🍹 **Bring Your Own Drinks**
- 🍰 **Bring Dessert to Share**
- 🎲 **Bring Your Board Games and Toys**
- 🍔 **Order Delicious Takeaway**

Invite your friends to come along.  
Don't miss out!

RSVP:  
Luciana: 0478 655 957  
JOIN US ON THE SECOND  
SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH!

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."  
Matthew 18:20*

## OSLO and Tosca!

On May 26<sup>th</sup> we are going to The Brook 215 Sneydes Rd. Point Cook. They have a senior meal 2 courses for \$23 so we hope to see you all there! Everyone is welcome but please contact by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> either Elaine or Lorna for bookings.

### Opera Lovers!

I have a free ticket with car parking for some one who could drive me in and enjoys opera! "Tosca" by Puccini, a tragic story of passion and jealousy, human emotion at its most vulnerable. Margaret Court Arena for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm. Lorna H.

## Record of Contact details

There are still many who have not completed the Record of Contact Details. If you have not done so please pick up a form at the front door and return to the office, either in person or by email.

## On the move to Bacchus Marsh

Hamish P and Judy V have endeared themselves to our Werribee Uniting members; Judy gives leadership in music making and Hamish is a lawn mower Mr Fixit. This writer was taken aback when Judy and Hamish announced they have recently taken ownership of their new home in Bacchus Marsh. At worship today, they said "Don't worry, we are staying with the Werribee congregation! Although our new house is on the hill, close by the Bacchus Marsh Uniting Church, we will

continue to worship with the lovely people of Werribee." (NT)

## Visit from old friends

Members of this congregation were delighted to receive a visit from Abbas and Sakineh M on two Sundays recently. Former asylum seekers who came by boat on the dangerous journey to Australia in 2014, they are now settled in their home in Hoppers Crossing. Abbas works as a plasterer and Sakineh is a hairdresser. For a few years they were on SHEV visas. Blair D helped the family in various ways. Their children are Leila, Mahdi, Mostafa and Emily. Their oldest daughter Leila achieved remarkable success at Hoppers Crossing Secondary College; she earned a scholarship to study Law at RMIT University and is now in second year of her course. On some Sundays they are worshipping at Werribee Baptist Church. (NT)

## 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](mailto:enps@iinet.net.au)

## Women of this day!

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs." From the bosom of the devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice." Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God. In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

**Written by Julia Ward Howe in 1870 in response to the carnage of the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War of the time.**