



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.

25 October, 2026 Pentecost 22

Reflection



Matthew 22: 34-46

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ! Welcome to Worship!

In our text, the Pharisees gathered together and, one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" They weren't looking for inspiration — they were looking for a trap. But Jesus' answer didn't just silence them; it gave us the foundation for all Christian living. Jesus replies: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hangs all the law and the prophets."

Jesus is saying that everything, every law, every moral principle, every act of obedience, hangs on love. Jesus is telling us that we must love God completely. In other words, with our heart, which includes our emotions, desires, and affections. Loving God means He is the centre of our passion. Secondly, with our soul which includes our spiritual life, our identity. Loving God means surrendering our whole being to Him. Thirdly, with our mind which includes our thoughts, decisions, and reasoning. Loving God means aligning our thinking with His truth. This is not partial love. It's not Sunday-only love. It's whole-life devotion, a love that shapes every choice, every relationship, every ambition. This pronouncement of the greatest commandment is mentioned in all three of the Synoptic Gospels — Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In the Gospel of Luke, someone in the crowd calls out in response to Jesus' declaration and asks, "But who is my neighbor?" and Jesus responds with the story of the Good Samaritan. The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that true neighbourly love transcends social, cultural, and

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

25 Oct: Raymond Surujpal

1 Nov: Mr Taumafai Komiti

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 Deut 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17,
1 Thess 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46

Next week: Jos 3:7-17, Psalm 207:1-7, 33-37
1 Thess 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

What's on this week

Monday: Playgroup

Tuesday: 9.30am Bible Discussion

Wednesday: 9.30am Property Group;
2pm Seniors Afternoon tea.

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;
5.45pm Choir Practice

Rosters 25 Oct (1 Nov)

Greetings: Margaret Dent (Tulua Seulupe)

Audiovisual: Noel Savory (Mahonrie Aiga)

Morning Tea: Sandra Savory & Margaret Gook
(Leitu Faalogo)

Music: Gina Lee (Wendy Barnes)

Prayers: Lauina Levave Emily Metusela)

Reader: Maru Sititi (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

religious boundaries, calling for compassion and action toward anyone in need.

But what is love? The love Jesus speaks of here is almost beyond our comprehension. It is the love of all humankind. It is a love that seeks the good of every living thing. It is vast and unconditional. It does not play favourites. It is not a love of only us, and not them. But how can we love a person or a group that seeks violence against us? How can we love those who take advantage of our kindness? How do we love without pouring out so much of ourselves that we have nothing left to give? For many of us, love is a risky and fearful proposition.

Well, the good news is, we're allowed to have boundaries. We are allowed to love with safeguards in place that protect us from harm.

It is important to remember that Jesus' love is not just an example to follow, but the greatest love possible, the love which saves us from sin and death (Rom. 5:8). This distinguishes Christianity from any other religion that claims the virtue of love. The Christian religion is about God's love first and the giving of that love through the Cross of Christ. As we receive this love from Jesus by faith the same love becomes a power in our lives. Amen.

Blessings Raymond Surujpal

Image above: Taken from Online Pictures. Artist unknown

Holy Communion for November and December

Church Council advises that for the months of November and December the

celebration of Holy Communion will take place on the second Sunday.

The dates are 8th November and 13th December.

Christmas Workshops 2026

In December this year, a series of three 90 minute Christmas Workshops for Primary School aged children will be held.

The programs include the sharing of the Christmas story, using fun, creative storytelling, music and craft activities.

The Workshops will be held at the church after school on Tuesdays December 1, 8 and 15. A cost of \$10 per child is asked.

Registration of children is required. To register, please email the church office on

(office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au) with your contact details (phone, email) and names/ages of

children. As numbers may need to be limited, please register early so as not to be disappointed. (Cont)

We also need the help of volunteers to assist with preparation and the running of the program on the days.

If interested in volunteering, please see/contact Vicky Withers on 0415 381 203 or Lauren Withers on 0437 008 328.

Please pray for a successful Christmas workshop series.

Electra Street Williamstown

The Williamstown Electra St Congregation is celebrating their 150th Anniversary late in November.

Williamstown Uniting Church
Electra Street

150TH ANNIVERSARY *Celebration*

Gather Your Family, Friends, and Neighbours to Celebrate 150 Years of Faith, Community & Looking Towards the Future!

Save the Dates
27th, 28th & 29th Nov 2026
<https://williamstown.ucavictas.org.au>

Celebrations

Friday 27th Nov 7pm – 9:30pm
Opening of Event with a Song & Music

Saturday 28th Nov
Children's Activities **10am – Noon**
History Tours & Talks **10am – 2.30pm**

Sunday 29th Nov 10am – 1pm
Service of Acknowledgment
Special guest Rev Charissa Suli,
Uniting Church President.
Followed by an International Lunch