



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.

26 July, 2026 Pentecost 9

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!



Welcome to Worship!
Today, we will be
reflecting on Matthew
13: 31-33, 44-52

This week's text consists of several images of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are reminded of its similarity to a mustard seed, to yeast, to hidden treasure, to fine pearls and to a net cast into the sea which brings in all sorts of fish.

In the first two parables, Jesus spoke of certain victory of the Kingdom of Heaven despite its many hardships and obstacles. In these two parables, the theme is the amazing growth of the kingdom, despite its humble beginnings. The message of these two parables is remarkably simple. The kingdom starts small but like a tiny seed or a little bit of yeast, the kingdom expands to a magnificent size. Think of the tiny baby in a manger with the might of the Roman Empire. Think of the disciples and the huge task ahead of them to spread the good news of the Gospel. The parables offer hope and great outcomes from small beginnings. The parables were not just meant for the disciples but should continue to encourage Christians in this modern yet challenging times. The church's mission in the world today is overwhelming, especially with few resources, but Jesus promised that with God's power, everything was possible. The 'Parable of the Hidden Treasure' and the 'Parable of the Pearl' are both parables of discovery, joy and action. The merchant was actively looking for pearls, while the other man just stumbled into treasure in a field. Both recognised the overwhelming value of their discoveries and sold everything so they might buy it. They were like the disciples who left everything to follow Jesus.

The point of both parables is that the kingdom is like this: when people truly encounter it and realise what it is, it enters their hearts, seizes their imagination, and overwhelms them with its precious value. No price is too great, nothing that they own rival its value. The two parables bear witness to the many ways the Spirit brings God close to our lives. However, it happens and whenever it occurs, it is the event of a lifetime. We will be transformed beyond our imagination when we obtain the treasure of the kingdom of heaven. In the parable of the net, Jesus encouraged the church to adopt an open approach to evangelism. Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like a fisherman's net. When the fisherman casts it into the sea, he doesn't have any idea what kind of fish will be caught. The fisherman does not have any concerns about what kinds of fish will be caught. His net is cast deep and wide. The sorting out of the good fish from

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

26 July: Raymond Surujpal

2 Aug: Rev Bruce Watson

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: Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, 45b, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Next week: Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 9.30am Bible Study

Wednesday: 9.30am Property Group;

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;
5.45pm Choir Practice

Friday: 6.30pm Youth Group

Rosters 26 July (2 Aug)

Greetings: Margaret Dent (Deb Cochran)

Audiovisual: Faith & Chelsea (Noel Savory)

Morning Tea: Jan Bradley & Julie Hamilton
(Amelia Ropeti-Kilifi & Miriama Taatiti)

Music: Angela Murnane (Asanka Pakura)

Prayers: Virginia Surujpal (Node Madu)

Reader: Node Madu (Paul Cochran)

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

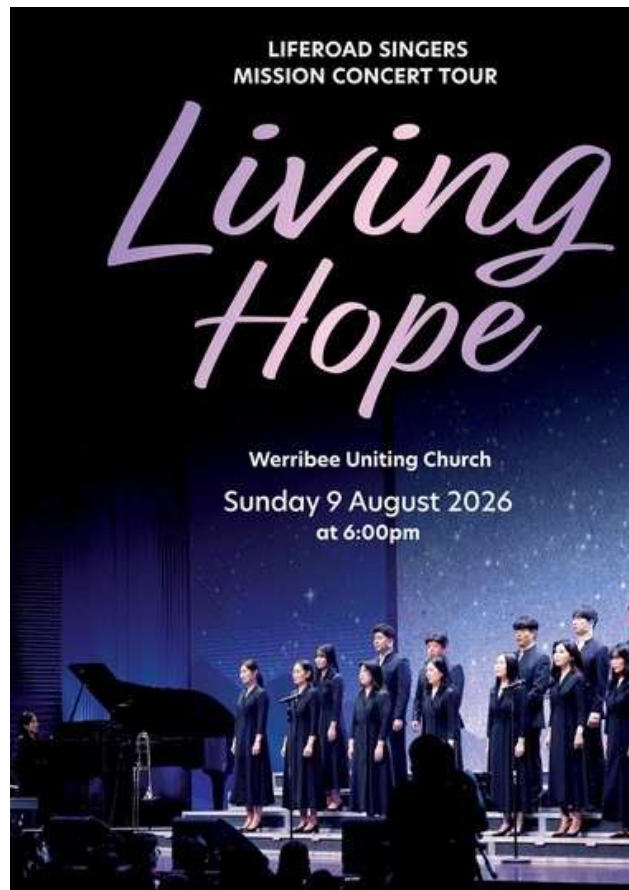
the bad ones is done later. So, it is with the church. Every day, the doors are thrown open. The programs are open to all. Into the church come people who are deeply serious about the things of God or people who are looking for a pretty place to get married. Only God knows who the best catch of the day will be. Judgement belongs to God! Amen. Blessings
Raymond Surujpal

Image above: Mustard seeds (Taken from On-line pictures)

LifeRoad Singers

Join us on 9 August 2026 at 6pm to hear the LifeRoad Singers.

The Life Road Singers, formed in 2010, are a self-supporting ensemble of classical music professionals dedicated to praise concerts and overseas touring ministries.



Rev. Esteban Lievano for Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday July 19th, 2026,

Werribee Uniting Church welcomed Rev. Esteban Lievano, alongside his wife Kemerly and son Salomon, for Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday. Co-leading the service with Rev. Bruce Watson, Rev. Lievano spoke on Community Organising &

the Uniting Church, aligning with the Assembly theme One Body, Many Members — Living Faith and Life Cross-Culturally.

He shared a three-step cycle for community engagement:

Listening Campaign: Engaging directly to hear local needs.

Research & Investigation: Examining root causes.

Community Action: Partnering with alliances for change.

The session closed with Ephesians 2:1–4, reminding the congregation to "in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" as the foundation for all community work.



Multiple Sclerosis Funding

Dear Church Family

My daughter, Tracy, was just diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Since that time I have learned that the government is planning to remove MS drugs from the PBS. There is a petition against this move which I urge you to sign.

https://www.change.org/p/keep-life-changing-ms-treatments-on-the-pbs?source_location=movement_page

Thank you so much, God Bless, Vivien Bleakley.



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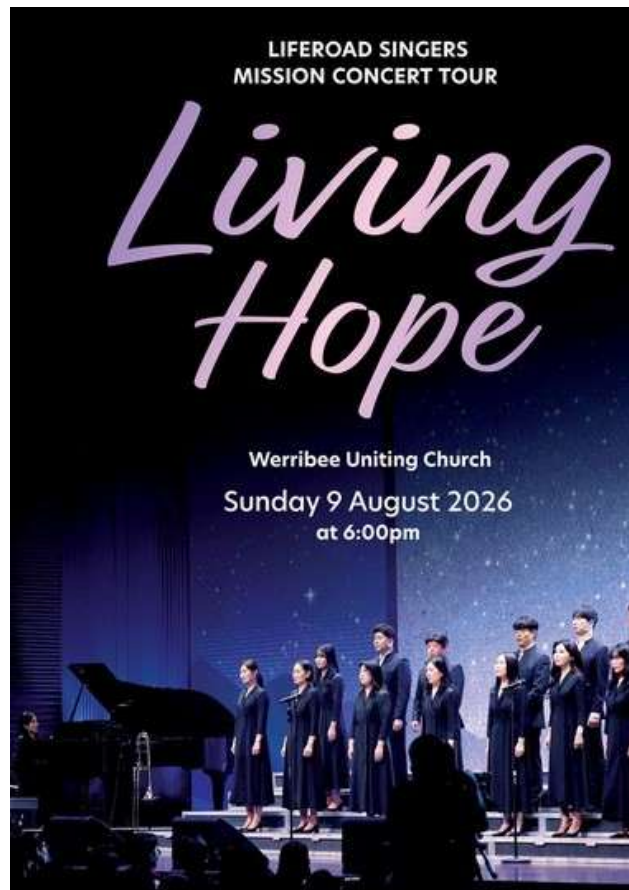
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