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.

8 November, 2026 Penticost 24 Reflection



REFLECTION on Mathew 25: 1 - 13

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

Welcome to Worship!

Now that Halloween and Melbourne Cup have come and gone, it's not hard to tell that we are getting closer to the end of the church year. In fact, in a little more than four weeks' time we will be celebrating the First Sunday in Advent. Christmas decorations are up and strong in many stores and shopping malls all over, and I am already humming jingle bells.

The Gospel readings for these last few weeks of the Season of Pentecost talk about what God's judgement will be like. They talk about the separating of the faithful from the unfaithful. Matthew 25:1-13, which is known as the 'Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids', emphasizes the importance of being prepared for Christ's return.

Many of us know what it is like to be prepared for something. If you live on a farm, you prepare for the winter months. If you go on a trip, you have to prepare first. Some of us even prepare for the day when we would move to a Retirement Village or a nursing home. The most important thing we can do is to prepare for Christ's return.

Matthew wrote his Gospel a half-century after the resurrection. He struggled with the issue of the delayed Second Coming. Many first-generation Christians believed that Jesus would return in their lifetimes, but by the time Matthew wrote his Gospel, many years had passed since the Resurrection, and many Christians were beginning to wonder how long it would take for Jesus to return. In this series of parables, Matthew encouraged the church to maintain its vigil, even though the people were weary of maintaining an "alert status."

In this parable, the oil represents the Holy Spirit. The foolish virgins are those who have not truly been saved.

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

8 Nov: Raymond Surujpal (Holy Communion)
15 Nov: Frontier Services

Samoan service

Last Service 29 November 2026 at 12md
Resuming 31 January 2027 All Welcome

Pastoral Care: Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor, pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184.

Bible readings

This week: : Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7, 1 Thess 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13
Next week: Jgs 4:1-7, Psalm 123, 1 Thess 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup
Tuesday: 9.30am Bible Studay
Wednesday: 9.30am Property Group;
Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;
5.45pm Choir Practice

Rosters 8 Nov (13 Nov)

Greetings: Margaret Gook (Margaret Dent)
Audiovisual: Jacob Lewis (Noel Savory)
Morning Tea: Judy Khor & Margaret Dent (Elaine Belcher & Julie Rees)
Music: Gina Lee (Wendy Barnes)
Prayers: Judy Vincent (Lauina Levave)
Reader: Julie Rees (Agnes Levave-Meteisea)

Werribee UC on Facebook:

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

Church office

Open 9.30am to 11.30am. 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

Believers can't just impart the Holy Spirit (i.e. share the oil) to unbelievers. Each person must receive salvation for himself or herself before it's too late. God's judgment is unequivocal and irreversible. The bride in this parable is the church. In fact, the church is referred to in Scripture as "the bride of Christ." Just like a bride and groom have to be ready for the wedding, the church as the bride of Christ has to be ready for him when he comes. As Christians we are part of the church, so we have to be ready for his return. We have to keep our lamps fed with the oil of the Holy Spirit. We must see that we are continually growing in the love of God and service to others.

What does it mean for us to keep our lamps fed? Being prepared—having oil—means working faithfully for the Lord. It means practicing good stewardship—good ecological practices—careful management of time and money—generosity to those in need—proclamation of the Word—the possibilities go on and on. In this parable, Jesus also makes it clear that there is a time for repentance and a time when repentance will be too late.

We are called to be faithful to God and obey him. Being faithful is the meaning of waiting for the Lord to come. There will be no second chances when Christ returns. We must always be prepared for the Lord to return, because he could return at any time. We do not know the exact date and time when he will return, but we do know that Christ has promised great joy to those who are prepared for his return and grave consequences for those who are not prepared. Amen.

Blessings Raymond Surujpal

Image above is taken from Online Pictures (Artist unknown)

Holy Communion for 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 date is 13th December.

Mary Dixon visits the zoo.

Recently church members & zoo volunteers Deb & Paul Cochran had the privilege of escorting the wonderful Mary Dixon on a guided tour of the Werribee Open Range Zoo. The zoo covers a large area and older members of our congregation may be reluctant to visit due to the walking involved however, as Mary will attest, the zoo can provide personal transportation options for visitors with mobility issues. We explored the African Trail using a pre-booked golf cart driven by one of our knowledgeable guides Rick. The long walk out to the spectacular Elephant habitat was made easy by using the people transporters provided free to visitors. Finally the spectacular savanna tour was via our large fleet of purpose built buses. Mary was fascinated by all the wonderful animals she met but also was equally impressed by the plants cared for by the zoo's horticultural team. A wonderful day with a very special member of our church community. Paul & Deb Cochran

Christmas Workshops 2026

The Workshops will be held at the church after school on Tuesdays December 1, 8 and 15.

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.

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

Frontier Services.

On Sunday 15 November worship will be lead James Nevein from Frontier Services.

In 1912, Rev John Flynn founded Australian Inland Mission (AIM) with a vision to bring practical care and spiritual support to people living in the vast, isolated heart of Australia. In 1977, AIM merged with other services of the Uniting Church to form Frontier Services.

Today, Frontier Services supports remote Australians through its network of Bush Chaplains and the Outback Links volunteer program – offering friendship, practical help and hope where it's need most.

There will be a retiring offering at the conclusion of the service to help support the work of Frontier Services.

Church Council.

Electra Street Booking Details

Friday 27 November 2026

