



# 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.

## 10 March 2024: Lent 4

Mark's musings on *Agape* Love



A reading which came up for me recently was from 1 Corinthians 13:1–13. It concludes: “When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

Not even in the Gospels is there a more familiar passage than this. **“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels ... when I was a child, I spoke like a child ... through a mirror dimly...”**. Words this familiar are like old coins worn smooth with much handling. After a while it is hard to tell where they came from or what they are worth. Paul has been speaking about spiritual gifts—prophecy, tongues, healing, miracles and so on—and making the point that they should not be the cause of still further divisiveness, people gifted one way disparaging people gifted another.

Like I was saying last Sunday, he sees all Christians as parts of Christ's body and each part in its own way as necessary as the other. **“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you.’”** Each gift is to be cherished. **“But,”** he says then, **“earnestly desire the higher gifts”** (12:21,31) and at that point sets off into what turned out to be perhaps the most memorable words he ever wrote.

The highest gift of all is *agape*, he says. Without it even faith, almsgiving, martyrdom are mere busyness and even great wisdom doesn't amount to a hill of beans. The translators of the King James Version render the Greek word as “charity,” which in seventeenth-century usage was a happy choice—charity as the beneficence of the rich to the poor, the lucky to the unlucky, the powerful to the weak, the lovely to the unlovely.

But since to our age the word all too often suggests a cheerless and demeaning handout, modern translators have usually rendered it as **“love.”** But *agape* love is not to be confused with *eros* love. That is what Paul is at such pains to make clear here.

*Grace & peace as you live out your agape love, Mark Dunn*

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

10 March (Lent 4): Rev. Angela Tampiyappa  
17 March (Lent 5): Rev. Mark Dunn

### Bible readings

**Today:** Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21

**Next week:** Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:1–12; Hebrews 5:5–10; John 12:20–33

### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup; 7pm Boys & Girls Brigade at Dreambuilders Church

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

**Wednesday:** 10am Property Committee

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group

**Friday:** 1pm Sew'n'Sow

**Sunday:** 4pm Messy Church

### Rosters 10 March (& 17 March)

**Greetings:** Margaret B (Bev C)

**Audiovisual:** Jacob L (Jacob L)

**Morning Tea:** Jan B & Julie H  
(Judy O'K & Dorothy R)

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

**Music:** Gina L (Tracey S)

**Prayers:** Luciana A (Lauren D)

**Reader:** Armando A (Paul C)

### Werribee UC on Facebook:

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

### Church office

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am–12noon.

Phone 97411084 Email

[office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au)

### WUC Newsletter

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@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au)

**Samoan service** The Samoan language service is held every 3rd Sunday at 4pm in the church. All welcome.

## Good Friday's Way of the Cross

People of St Andrew's Catholic Parish, St Thomas' Anglican Church, St Steven's Karen congregation and our Werribee Uniting Church will participate in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning, starting at 11 am, at the piazza opposite Wolf on Watton, and proceeding to St Andrew's on Grieve St North, followed by hot cross buns and coffee.

**Our Uniting congregation will provide a small singing group, outside the Racecourse Hotel. Please join us. We'll sing some well-known Easter songs. Call Neil T. Thankyou – Neil T.**

## Training opportunity: public prayer



Have you thought about volunteering to lead the Prayers for Others and Ourselves on Sundays but have been reluctant for

whatever reason? Rev. Mark Dunn is offering a 30 minute training opportunity for those who would like to join him after worship in the church on Sunday 17 March (bring your tea/coffee). Resources are available and it would be great if we had more people willing to give it a go. Book through the church office (97411084 or [office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au)).

## Uniting Wyndham food donations

At our first UCAF meeting on Wednesday 7 February, the group requested the re commencement of the Uniting Food Basket. A member from the UCAF will place the basket in the front entry of the church each Sunday morning and all donations will then be taken to Uniting Wyndham mid-week. *Please note that all donations will need to be non-perishable.* Many thanks in anticipation, Margaret G (assistant Secretary Werribee UCAF)

## Forthcoming baptisms

Coming Up: March 24th ~ 9.30 am Baptisms: Julian Douglas S, Abraham Kuol M, Penelope (Poppy) Louise S & Lillian (Lily) Grace S.

## O.S.L.O.

Sunday 24th March at 12md we will be going to one of our favourite venues The Lara Hotel 10 Hicks Rd. Lara. Everyone welcome. Contact by 21st Elaine or Lorna for bookings.

## Christmas Bowl/Sammy Stamp news

Sandra Savory reported at Justice Task group that Christmas Bowl Act for Peace giving in 2023 amounted to \$3,407.60 from our combined congregations in Wyndham.

AND, Rev Mark Dunn reported that Sammy Stamp, which collects used stamps and old stamp collections,

raised \$40,000 for international church projects last year 2023.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday 14 April. We are calling for nominations for the positions of Congregation Secretary and Congregation Chairperson for 2024. If you wish to nominate someone please speak to me at church or send me an email so I can give you a nomination form. (Bev L, Acting Congregation Secretary)

## 3030 Beach Patrol

We are pleased to be joining with Wyndham Harbour **today**, to clean the area around the breakwater & also the northern beaches as far as Crawford's Road. We will meet at the Wyndham Harbour carpark near the playground at 11:30am.

## Relay for Life

The relay for life is coming up on Saturday 23 March 10am–10pm! We have a team who participate the Relay for Life for all the people we know who have fought cancer, live with cancer and have cared for someone. Anyone from our congregation is welcome to join and participate 😊 Each Sunday in March, we invite members of the congregation to add names of people who they remember or who they know are fighting cancer to a large mural that we will display at the Relay for Life event; our team will do a lap of remembrance during the event for each name. Any donations go to the Cancer Council. If you are interested in making a donation or in being a part of our team, please contact me (Lauren D) via Facebook.



*Congratulations to our new Church Council team!*