



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.

17 March 2024: Lent 5

Mark's musings on 'God stirring'



We never know what the Spirit of God is doing in individual lives.

Occasionally, alongside the routine, the ordinary, the extraordinary, the affirmations and the grumbling complaints comes the unexpected—a precious gift from God. I can nearly hear

God saying: *"They won't be expecting that"!!*

Out of the blue comes a kind invitation for last Thursday from Dani, Course Facilitator, Jesuit Social Services. I was invited to share a magnificent multicultural lunch with an adult education group who have been using our Upper Room – the program is called 'The Bounce'. Over the six week course, long-term unemployed participants practice key employment skills and are inspired to set new life goals with an experienced life coach to help empower them for better future employment opportunities.

After lunch, the whole group came into our chapel for a significant conversation with me around nurturing our spiritual identity and considering how our understanding of the Divine can feed into and enhance our sense of personal well-being.

We are on a journey growing the courage for each person to participate more positively in our society. The Christ candle was used as I invited people to pray for their future. You could hear a pin drop! It was a very powerful session.

Isn't it wonderful to be in a treasured place where we can see and sense God stirring in hearts and lives?

May the peace of God disturb you, Mark Dunn

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. Thankyou – Neil T.

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

17 March (Lent 5): Rev. Mark Dunn

24 March (Palm Sunday): Rev. Mark Dunn

Bible readings

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

Next week: Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Mark 11:1–11; Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14–15:47 or Mark 15:1–39, (40–47)

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; 5pm Samoan Health & Fitness

Rosters 17 March (& 24 March)

Greetings: Bev C (Site T)

Audiovisual: Jacob L (Noel S)

Morning Tea: Judy O'K & Dorothy R (Sandra & Margaret G)

Flowers: Margaret F (Node M)

Music: Tracey S (Asanka P)

Prayers: Lauren D (Sandra S)

Reader: Paul C (Angela M)

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

WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at 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

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

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 **today** (bring your tea/coffee). Resources are available and it would be great if we had more people willing to give it a go.

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday 14th April. We are calling for nominations for the positions of Congregation Secretary and Congregation Chairperson for 2024. Nomination forms are available from Bev L (Acting Congregation Secretary)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The nominee must be a confirmed member and hold a 'Working With Children Check' and be willing to attend a Safe Church Training session.

The Chairperson's role is to chair all congregational meetings.

He/she will work with the Secretary to prepare agendas, and nomination forms.

Together they will ensure that all meetings are conducted according to the Uniting Church Regulations as outlined in the Manual for Meetings.

The secretary will write and file minutes of each meeting and ensure that all decisions made by the congregation are followed up appropriately.

The secretary is responsible for producing the Annual Report.

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

Gaza and Israel



What is Israel's intention for Gaza? Is it genocide? What do you think? 2024's Palm Sunday event for refugees, (supported by Werribee Uniting Justice Task Group) is shifted to 10.30 am, in consideration of the regular Sundays for Free Palestine rally being held at the State Library of Victoria.

On October 7 2023, the Palestinian Hamas organization attacked Israeli citizens engaged in a outdoor music festival, killing 1200 people and taking more than 250 persons hostage.

The Netanyahu government's military retaliation, with bombing and missile strikes directed at the refugee cities of Gaza, was violently overwhelming. The death toll in Gaza now exceeds 30,000 persons.

Local news media this week reported that out of respect for the suffering of Palestinians the Imams Council of Victoria declined the invitation to the Premier's Annual Iftar Dinner, which resulted in its cancellation.

This writer remembers "Geshar" (bridge) the magazine of the Victorian Council of Christians and Jews, edited in the 1990s by late Uniting minister the Rev. George Grant; a worthy contribution to inter-faith relations.

US Presbyterian minister and journalist Chris Hedges produces a regular Youtube news program called The Real News Network. Hedges worked for years covering the Middle East. Recently in an interview with Jewish broadcaster Marc Steiner, Hedges made these claims which you may question:

"Netanyahu's endgame is the destruction of the idea of a State of Palestine. Gaza as we know it will be no more. Netanyahu will finish off Gaza, then turn to the West Bank."

"Israel is conducting genocide towards the Palestinian people, as Gaza becomes a moonscape., as Israeli bombs rain on refugee camps and hospitals."

"The power of the Israel lobby bypasses the White House, so the Biden administration can't touch the continuing massive US military aid to Netanyahu's government."

What do you think? For a contradictory opinion, I recommend the Jerusalem Post's articles supporting the government of Israel.

I pray for a ceasefire and speedy return of hostages. (NT)