



# ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 31st May 2020

Volume 26 Issue 18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of my favourite sounds is that of the train's horn, followed by the clatter of the metal wheels on the track. I love trains. I love travelling on trains and I love the sight and sound of them, especially the older diesel and steam locomotives. Luckily, I live near the train line, so I often wake to the sound of the early Bairnsdale train blowing its horn as it travels through the railway crossings on its way into Sale. I am looking forward to getting on to a train soon, and being able to journey up to Melbourne and catch up with friends, have a meal and maybe see a film. All these things should be possible soon.

As a church community, too, we are on a journey back towards being able to meet and worship as church communities. It seems that the restrictions will soon be loosened up enough for us to be able to gather, albeit with new requirements and restrictions. Church Council is meeting this week to start mapping out how this might happen. Please pray for them as they undertake this and the other work necessary for the good management and ordering of our church communities. This work is often demanding, and they need our encouragement and support. And please pray also for our Presbytery, our Synod and Assembly as they, too, work through these difficult days. And encourage one another, share what is good, and pray for each other. Blessings, Sandra

P.S. For those on the internet, you will see (and hear) in this week's worship some of the wonderful virtual choirs that have sprung up in this time of isolation. Good things can arise out of bad, through the work of the Spirit.

**Contact details for Rev. Sandra Houghton are:** [sandrah@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:sandrah@vic.australis.com.au) **ph 0428 649 243**



## Intentional Interim Ministry appointment for Traralgon and district

The JNC is happy to report that Rev. Kerry Pierce has accepted the call and will become our Intentional Interim Minister. Kerry and her husband Rob will be moving in to the Manse in Traralgon. We anticipate that Kerry will commence this role on 1 July 2020, for a period of up to 2 years. As previously shared, an IIM role is different from a normal ministry placement, and it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the way we do things, and to explore possibilities for future ministry and mission activities.

As IIM, Kerry's key responsibilities include:

- Equipping the congregation and church council to focus on providing worship and pastoral care, and continuing to address the conflictual behaviour with the congregation.
- Facilitating effective communication channels between all church committees, and the three worship places.
- Helping us to effectively evaluate and report on our activities, and to pinpoint and address specific concerns and underlying issues.
- Helping us explore possibilities for the future. Through conversation, consultation and observation with the church council and individuals, and in conjunction with presbytery, propose options and recommendations for the future ministry placement within the Lyrebird team with a primary focus on Traralgon UCA.

More details will be shared when they are known.

Sue Scarlett Church Council Chairperson



Traralgon District Uniting Church

Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



**Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home**  
**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 31st MAY 2020 PENTECOST**

**SONGS:** [10,000 reasons – Matt Redmann](#)  
[All over the world - traditional](#)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God says: I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
The Spirit has come, Alleluia!

Christ says: I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever.  
The Spirit has come, Alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, gentle as a dove, burning as fire, powerful as the wind.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**SONG:** [Spirit of the living God](#)

**FIRST READING:** Acts 2:1-21

**PRAYER: When the day of Pentecost came**

*When the day of Pentecost came there was a noise ... like a strong wind blowing.*

Wind to blow away the cobwebs of our tradition. Wind to freshen our faces and awaken us to the challenges of today. Wind to fill our sails and send us on a voyage of spiritual discovery.

Wind of the Spirit, blow strongly through the Church and enliven us with the breath of God.

*They saw ... tongues of fire ...*

Fire to burn away the rubbish in our lives.  
Fire for spiritual heat to 'strangely warm' our hearts.  
Fire to light a beacon of hope for the peoples in our communities.  
Fire of the Spirit, blaze away in the Church and set us on fire for the Gospel.

*They heard the believers speaking in their own languages.*

Speaking in a way that people can understand.  
Speaking to real needs, having something to say on real issues.  
Speaking so our neighbours want to listen.  
Words of the Spirit, speak to us and through us, that we may preach the living Word.

*But others said: 'These people are drunk!'*

Perhaps they were:

Drunk on the new wine of the Kingdom of God.

High on the power of the Holy Spirit – celebrating the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit of God, inspire and excite us as we celebrate in worship, and empower the work and witness



The Property Committee would like to thank all those who have been working on the church grounds. You all know who you are. Thankyou. We greatly appreciate the time and effort you put in.



Our next Outdoor Working Bee will be held on Saturday 6th June.  
All current restrictions will be observed.

*Congratulations*

Bertha and Bob Easter celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary on the 21<sup>st</sup> May .  
Congratulations!

**PSALM: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b paraphrased**

Our God, we cannot count the living things  
that all pour out from your wisdom;  
all creatures that cover the earth are yours.

Around us is the sea, deep and wide,  
which teems with countless fish,  
and living creatures small and huge.

Out there is the restless ocean  
where the brave ships sail  
and enormous whales play..

All creatures depend on you,  
they look to you for food  
given in the right season.

As you freely give, they gather it;  
when you open your hands  
they are filled with good things.

If you hid your face, they would be dismayed,  
if you took away their breath, they would die  
and their bodies return to the dust.

If you breathed again with your Spirit,  
they would be created again,  
renewing the face of the earth.

Please let your glory, God, last forever,  
smile on your handiwork and be happy  
For if you frown, the earth will tremble,  
at your touch the mountains will smoke.

I will sing to my God as long as I live,  
I will give praise while I have being.  
May my meditations give you pleasure,  
for I delight in you, loving God

With all my being I celebrate God!  
O yes, my soul! Praise God! © B.D. Prewer 2000

**NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

**GOSPEL READING: John 7:37-39**

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

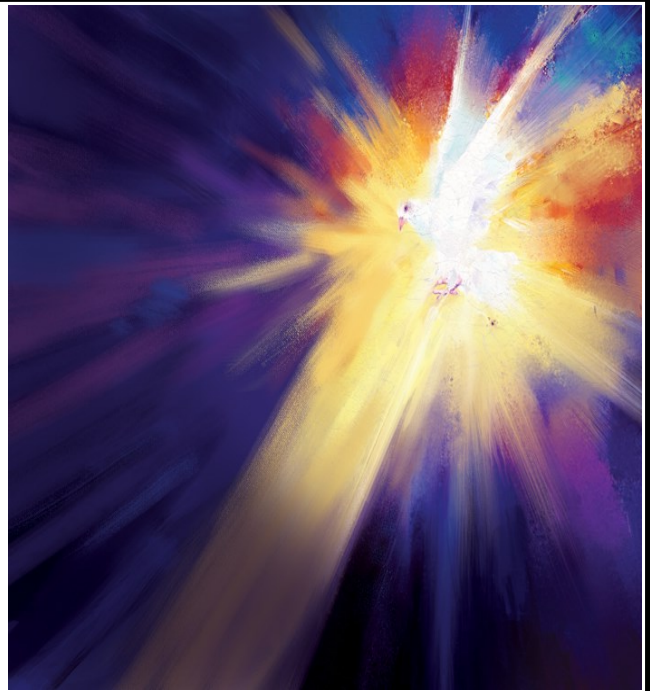
**SONG:** [Holy Spirit you are welcome here](#)

Read the [HOMILY](#) now

**HYMN:** TIS 407; [Breathe on me, breath of God](#)

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

As God offers energy and healing to us, so let us offer our gifts to God.  
We can never match your generosity to us, O God, but still we bring what we can today  
and ask you to receive it for the life of Christ in the world. Amen.



'Laurel Davey would like to thank her Church family for their cards, phone calls, thoughts and prayers expressed to her directly or through brother-in-law John or niece Glenda over the past few weeks. Although she is no longer able to take phone calls herself, she is acutely aware that she is being held and supported in prayer by many caring and loving friends.

Thank you all so much!

## PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

Holy Spirit, bearer of fire, borne upon the wind, stirrer of the water of the world,  
Your presence shakes and shatters, weaves and brings wonder into our world.

As You came to the community of believers and doubters gathered in Jerusalem, touching each one with passion and purpose, so pour Yourself out once more upon us, a community of believers and doubters today, needing Your courage and Your comfort in our lives. As we speak the words of the glory of God, in many languages and with many meanings, give us not only tongues to speak, but ears with which to listen, and minds with which to understand and interpret. In this new language of inclusion and love, of mercy and joy, may there be compassion and sincerity in what we say.

We pray that our words and prayers, spoken and acted out, might touch the sore places of our world. Light gently upon the broken-hearted; light gently upon those of fragile mind and body; light gently upon the bewildered and the lost; light gently upon the angry and the grieving.

Bless our nation this day. We pray for our politicians and councillors, may they serve our communities and nation with justice and integrity. Bless those whose gift of knowledge enriches our schools and universities; bless those whose gift of healing enriches our hospitals and caring agencies; bless those whose gift of ingenuity enriches our businesses and our industries; bless those whose gift of hard-graft enriches the work that goes unseen yet remains essential to the way our country functions.

Bless our world this day: bless the war-torn, the nature-ravaged, the isolated, the sick, the forgotten and dispossessed. Bless the charities whose work and generosity provide money and skill and passion and hope to people and places whose needs dwarf our comprehension.

Bless Your Church this day, that wherever God's children are gathered to worship, whether in isolation or gathered communities, God's Spirit of truth and joy may fill each soul; and God's Spirit of welcome and inclusion might fill each act of worship. May the gifts of the Spirit, extravagant and compelling, transform each family of faith into a community of compassion; yet bind the Church together as an expression of joy lived out loud. Come, Holy Spirit, come to us today. Amen.

**HYMN:** [In Christ alone \(virtual choir\)](#)

### BENEDICTION & BLESSING:

God of fire and beauty- Warm us. God of peace and justice- Disturb us  
God of wind and wonder- Amaze us. God of Pentecost- Kindle your love in our lives  
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

### DOXOLOGY: The Blessing – 3 versions from across the world

[The Batavia Madrigal singers](#)

[The Pittsburgh USA blessing](#)

[The UK blessing](#)

*Call to Worship by David Hamflett in [Fire and Bread](#), pp. 148-9 Pentecost Prayer by David Lemmon in [Fire and Bread](#), p. 155 Benediction by Ruth Burgess in [Fire and Bread](#), p. 148 Prayers for Others and Ourselves Rev Derek Browning Church of Scotland. Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729*

If you would like to watch the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of our dear Rita Wilson,  
please follow this link:

<https://youtu.be/PT4BapueQC8>

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