



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 28th June 2020

Volume 26 Issue 21

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Last week I had to drive mum up to Melbourne for a specialist's appointment. It was one of those days when the weather was all over the place – Intermittent rainy showers, sporadic gusty winds, and occasional bright sunshine. On a way home, one of the bursts of sunshine happened to coincide with us passing some bright flowering wattles on the roadside. The bright yellow of the wattle flowers in the sunlight was such a brilliant contrast to the rest of the much duller shrubbery. The sight of these flowers brightened our day, and reminded us that although we are in the midst of winter, beauty is still present.

I absolutely love flowers. One of my fondest memories is of travelling to York, England in early spring when so much of the landscape was brown and dull. But, as I emerged from the train station, it was to a view of thousands of brilliant yellow daffodils that turned the slopes below the city walls into a place of beauty. It was breathtaking. I was so fortunate to enjoy this fleeting beauty.

In the Bible, the fleeting beauty of flowers is often used to contrast with the everlasting love of God. Perhaps the best known of these passages is in Luke 12:22-31, but I also love Psalm 103:15-18 which reads, "As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments."

As you enjoy the beauty of the flowers (and all the other wonders of creation), remember that the Creator of all this beauty steadfastly loves you,
Blessings, Sandra

Contact details for Rev. Sandra Houghton are:
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Update on when Rev. Kerry Pierce will be beginning her Ministry with us.

Due to a number of factors, Kerry will be beginning her placement with us, later than initially advertised.
At present, we are planning that Kerry will be moving to Traralgon on 1st August to take up her IIM placement with us.
The definite date is yet to be confirmed.



Traralgon District Uniting Church

Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 28th June 2020

SONGS: [As the deer](#)

[Who am I?](#) – Casting Crowns

WORSHIP: *Based upon Matthew 10:40.*

Let us worship God!

Jesus said that whoever welcomes one of his followers,
welcomes Jesus himself.

Whoever welcomes Jesus, also welcomes God.

Whoever offers even a cup of cold water to one
of God's children will be blessed by God.

With God, all are welcome! Let us worship God. BC

HYMN: [The heart of worship](#) – Michael W Smith

OPENING PRAYER:

God of grace and hope, fill us with your Spirit,

That we may know your will and act on it.

Help us to do the things you ask,

And so to bear fruits of justice and love in our world.

Strengthen us in faith, to be ministers among our neighbours.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

BEFORE BIBLE READING:

Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.

PSALM: Psalm 13 *a fresh translation*

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear the pain in my inner being
and have trouble in my heart daily?

How long will my enemy exalted over me?

Look on me and answer me, O LORD, my God;

Bring light to my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death,

Lest my enemy should say, "I have prevailed over him."

And rejoice because I have been shaken

But I have trusted in your faithful and inexhaustive love;

My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the LORD, because the Lord God has dealt bountifully with me.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 10:40-42

NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 6:12-23

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Flu injections: All those visiting Nursing Homes and Hostels are now required to have had the flu immunisation this year. Before visiting you will have to prove this by presenting a certificate or letter from your doctor. So, when you have the flu injection be sure to request a certificate of immunisation.

SONG: [O God, you search me](#) – Bernadette Farrell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Let us pray:

For our slowness to recognize your gifts in other people and their calling to be children of God:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our reluctance to accept your free gifts and your gracious call to play our part in your ministry:

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

For any cause of division in your body for which we are responsible: Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**



DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

The good news is that all who trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Our sins are forgiven: Thanks be to God!

SONG: [Your heart today](#) – Himig Heswita

Read the [SERMON](#) now

HYMN: TIS 650; [The servant song](#)

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

You welcome us, O God, with abundant grace.

Your welcome comes in community and forgiveness, in creation's beauty and love's joy.

So, may we welcome others: through our relationships, in our forgiving and accepting forgiveness, in the joy of love's offering and receiving. Bless these our gifts we offer. Amen.

'A very sincere THANK YOU from Nance and John Allcorn for the expressions of love and sympathy on the loss of their sister and sister-in-law Laurel Davey. Please accept this as our personal thanks.'

Dorothy Fisher is now a resident at Traralgon Aged Care, 69 Liddiard Street, Traralgon. She enjoys visitors, but you need to book a time on 51760759 (and have had a flu shot).



Congratulations

to Joan Marett who turned 90 on 16th June. Joan is now living with her daughter Kerryn and son in law Ian Conabere.

Temporary Roster for July

It has not been possible for members to fill in a non-availability sheet because of the COVID19 shut down.

In anticipation that we may be able to worship again soon, I have prepared and circulated a temporary roster of duties. If for any reason you are unable to complete your rostered duty, please arrange a swap with someone or organise a replacement.

A non-availability sheet for August - October is on the notice board. Please indicate your non-availability on it as early as possible. This will enable us to compile a new roster for the next three months. Bruce Boucher, Roster co-ordinator

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES:

Loving God, we thank you for the many blessings you have sent our way. We pray today for those suffering the pain of living - those who are sad, anxious, grieving; those suffering from serious illness; those facing death, and those who journey with them.

Lord hear us: **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for those who need your healing touch; for those who are struggling with their faith; for those who struggle with deep physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Lord hear us: **Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for the nations of the world - for those dealing with the ravages of war and terrorism: including the people of Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, the Ukraine.

Lord hear us: **Lord hear our prayer**

God, we pray for those who are trapped in modern day slavery that they may be set free. We pray for those recovering from natural disasters; for the jobless that they may find meaningful work; for the homeless, especially the children, that they may find shelter and wellbeing.

Lord hear us: **Lord hear our prayer**

God of hospitality, may we remember that you welcomed us so that we can welcome others into our church, that we can share with them even a cup of cold water. May we remember, Lord, that as we welcome others we welcome you.

Lord hear us: **Lord hear our prayer**

HYMN: TIS 595; [O Jesus, I have promised](#)

BENEDICTION:

God welcomed us with a cup of water;
The refreshing invitation from a friend to "come in."
God asks us to offer such a cup to others.

God welcomed us with a cup of water;
A moment of shared tears in a time of grief or loss.
God asks us to offer such a cup to others.

God welcomed us with a cup of water;
A cleansing offer of forgiveness in a time of shame.
God asks us to offer such a cup to others.

God is a hidden spring in the desert rock.
God is an ever-flowing stream of righteousness.
God is living water.
Let us offer a cup of water to a thirsty world.

DOXOLOGY: [The Blessing Zimbabwe](#)

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And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself . . .

—2 Chronicles 33:12

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