



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 7th June 2020

Volume 26 Issue 19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Quite a long time ago I purchased three 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzles thinking that they might prove useful one day. Well, the day has come, and I've just completed the last one. Each design has been quite different, but each has included some large areas that were difficult to complete- usually water or sky or rocks or trees. These areas were usually the last ones to be completed. With each puzzle I got to a point where it seemed that the pieces I had left were not going to fit in the spaces left. This was extremely frustrating. When this happened the first time, I was convinced that somehow I didn't have all the right pieces.

But when I examined carefully the completed parts of the puzzle I discovered that in each case I had wrongly placed one or more pieces. What I had to do was carefully pull apart those sections with the wrongly placed pieces, replace them with the correct pieces, and then the pieces I had left fitted the gaps in the jigsaw. Finally then, I was able to complete the puzzles!

I had to acknowledge that I might have done something wrong/made an error before I could make progress and complete my task. Isn't that just like so much of life? So often, we think we are doing so well, only to discover that we've done something wrong/upset someone/made a mistake. When we come to this realisation, then we need to stop, review, acknowledge our mistake, and do our best to rectify the situation. When we have hurt someone, we need to apologise and seek forgiveness. Unfortunately, we live in a society where often there is a failure by our leaders to do this, even when people have been treated unjustly.

But, as Christians, we are called to be people who willingly confess our wrongdoings and seek forgiveness from God and from those we have hurt, knowing that this is the way of Christ. 1 John 1:9 is one of many verses that reminds us of this: 'If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' I pray that I might always be willing to admit when I'm wrong or done the wrong thing, although I also admit that I don't always live up to my ideals. I hope that you also may be people who are willing to confess, and willing to forgive and be forgiven,

Blessings, Sandra

Contact details for Rev. Sandra Houghton are:
sandrah@vic.australis.com.au ph 0428 649 243



Our next Outdoor Working Bee has been POSTPONED until further notice.



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.



Traralgon District Uniting Church

Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 7th June 2020 Trinity Sunday

SONG: [Only a holy God – City Alight](#)
TIS 716; [Father we adore you](#)

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on Psalm 8)*

Creator God, you have placed your glory
above the highest clouds.
Great is your name, O God.
Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

Tiny babies babble their praise to you
and young children sing in joy;
their noisy praise drowns out
the sound of opposing voices.
Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

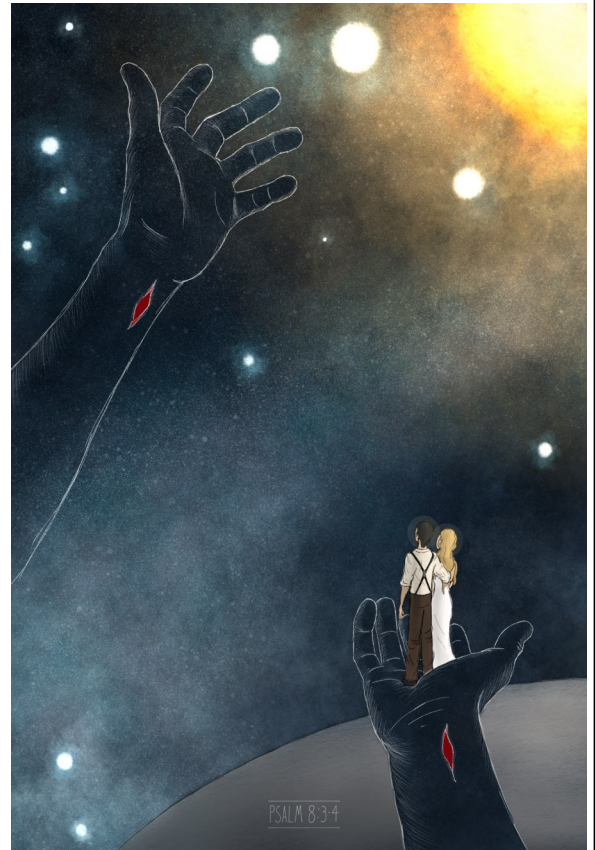
When we gaze at the night sky
with all its works and wonders we question:
what are mortals that you pay any attention to us?
Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

Yet you have made us a little less than divine,
you crowned us with glory and honour
and you call us caregivers of your creation.
Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

HYMN: TIS 100; [All creatures of our God and King](#)

OPENING PRAYER:

You speak, O God, and life comes forth.
Out of the shadows of chaos
your breath stirs order and beauty
which is sustained by your steadfast love.
Speak again, Creator God, and breathe new life
into this community of love
so we may answer your call
to serve the world you so love. Amen.



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

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

HYMN: TIS 188; [Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand](#)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Great Creator, we tend to think that we are far superior to the animal kingdom, yet at times we are much like it and sometimes far below it.

Sometimes we are like wombats hiding in dark burrows rather than like people living in the light. Sometimes we are like a flock of galahs, squabbling, chattering and screeching so much that we don't even hear the cries of the wounded or lost.

Sometimes we are like inquisitive emus, curious about the ways of Christ but quick to take fright and run.

Sometimes we are like bowerbirds, so busy collecting pretty possessions that we miss the greater wonders around us.

Loving Creator, generous Saviour, forgive both our inflated egos and our deflating behaviour.

By the fierce love of Christ, rebuke, forgive, liberate and rearrange our lives.

Help us to walk in Christ's clear light, to recognise the needs of those around us, to put you first, and to treasure that costly love-light which is the very environment of heaven. In his name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Christ Jesus is risen and goes on ahead of you. In him you are a forgiven and renewed people.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 28:16-20

Read the [SERMON](#) now

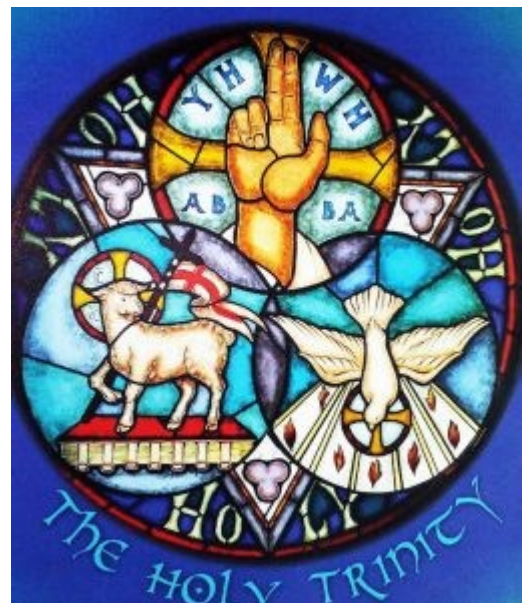
HYMN: TIS 132; [Holy, holy, holy](#)

RESPOND: *Statement of faith for Trinity Sunday*

We believe in God the Creator
who speaks and we live,
 who breathes and we are sustained,
 who loves and we are renewed.

We believe in Christ the Saviour
who is born and we see light,
 who breathes and we have peace,
 who touches and we are healed.

We believe in Spirit the Holy One
who comes and we are empowered,
 who breathes and we are filled with compassion,
 who stirs and we become a new creation.



OFFERING:

Holy God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, today we remember with gratitude the many ways in which you touch and bless our lives. You bless us with the gifts we need to serve you in our communities. So we offer these gifts and our lives in thankfulness for all you have done and are doing in our lives. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God in three persons, you are the Lover of people who are neglected or rejected. By your Spirit open our awareness and stretch our compassion to include people on the edges of our community. God of many names: hear our prayer

Make us aware of those in our own neighbourhood who are feeling forgotten or isolated from the main stream of community life. By your Spirit stretch our compassion and show us the ways to help. God of many names: hear our prayer

Make us aware of those feeling isolated in remote places, or lost in big cities, those who need connection and support. By your Spirit stretch our compassion and give us the will to make a difference. God of many names: hear our prayer

Make us aware of refugees and migrants who are finding it difficult to feel included in our community and nation. By your Spirit stretch our compassion to reach beyond race, skin colour and culture. God of many names: hear our prayer

Make us aware of folk who are hungry for a community of faith but are anxious and tentative when visiting our congregation. By your Spirit stretch our compassion to include strangers in our midst. God of many names: hear our prayer

Make us aware of any in our regular membership who float around the edges of our fellowship without feeling they really belong.

By your Spirit stretch our compassion until all are valued as our sisters and brothers in Christ. God of many names: hear our prayer.

We pray also for those who are unwell, those recovering from surgery, those who are bereaved, those who are carers, those who are separated from their loved ones. We name those who are on our hearts

.....
By your Spirit stretch our compassion to reach out to those in need. God of many names: hear our prayer.

We know loving God, that you are already working in the lives of these for whom we have prayed. We dedicate these prayers, and whatever gifts we have, to sharing your work of gathering into your love all the lonely and unwanted people of the world. Through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

SONG: [Great are you Lord – Casting Crowns](#)

BENEDICTION:

God creates the whole universe and asks us to care for it with love.

Jesus welcomes us as his sisters and brothers and asks us to become one family.

The Holy Spirit teaches us how to reconcile and build a world of peace.

So go to serve the God of many names and be blessed by the God of many names.

We go in the presence of God.

DOXOLOGY: [The Hawai'i Blessing](#)

Opening Prayer, Statement of faith, Benediction from [Seasons of the Spirit 2008](#); Prayer of Confession- 'An Aussie Confession' by Bruce Prewer p.83., in [Australian Prayers.](#); Offering prayer and Prayers of the People from Brian Cole Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32, NIV



Uniting Church in Australia - Traralgon District

19-29 Park Lane (PO Box 1136) TRARALGON 3844 ph: 5176 1029

Administrative Assistant: Theresa Steyn **Office Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday 9am-1pm

Email Address: mail@traralgon.unitingchurch.org.au **Web Address:** <http://traralgonuc.blogspot.com/>