



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 26th July 2020

Volume 26 Issue 26

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have been asked by several people why they have not received copies of 'Crosslight', so I have investigated and found out that it is being only published online due to the COVID restrictions. For those with an internet connection it can be reached through the Synod website or directly at <https://crosslight.org.au> where you will find the July edition. This edition includes two articles featuring Gippslanders, one is about Men's Sheds and features Lindsay Oates of the Mirboo North congregation, and the other features Rev Jude Benton the minister of the Joint Anglican Uniting Parish of Mallacoota. Jude's article is called 'Ten ways to help and not hinder in a crisis' and was written out of her experiences in the bushfires that caused such devastation in her parish. If anyone doesn't have access to the internet and would like to read either article please contact me or the church office and we'll arrange a hard copy.

Many things are happening in different ways at present. This can be disconcerting and upsetting, but as long as we encourage and help one another we will get through this time in good shape. This week I officiated at the funeral for Stella Morris, who was a member of this parish since 1954. Stella was 95, and had been in care for some time, but in years past she offered leadership in the Traralgon Parish especially in the Singles Group which met on Friday nights, and she was a co-founder of the Christian Bookshop and Library which ran for 30 years. In the service we sang an old hymn that was a favourite of hers – 'God be with you till we meet again'. One of the verses we sang is particularly apt for this difficult time, it goes:

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you;
Put His arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Let us hold onto this promise, knowing that God is with us to comfort, strengthen and help us.

Blessings, Sandra

Contact details for Rev. Sandra Houghton are:

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Traralgon District Uniting Church

Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 26th July 2020 ORDINARY 17A

SONGS: [I will trust in you](#) – Lauren Daigle
[Unredeemed](#) - Selah

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Based upon Matthew 13:31ff.*

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

A mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;

it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

Yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all was leavened.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

Treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then joyfully sells all he has and buys the field.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

A merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one of great value, sells all of his possessions and buys the pearl.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming. Let all who have ears, hear.

SONG: TIS 745; [Seek ye first the kingdom of God](#)

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, who is both near and far,

huge beyond measure and tiny as a mustard seed: to you we come.

We come to worship,

to sing your praise to seek your help to learn your ways.

Help us to open our minds to all that you are:

you contain all genders all melodies all colours all languages.

Our limited human understanding seeks to name

who you are and how you are, and all our words and all our images fall short.

Keep us mindful, dear God, that our language may fall short but that you never do.

Holy God, to you we come.

Open our hearts and our minds to you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 29:9-30

PSALM: Psalm 128 'Happy people'

Happy are those who honour God, sharing Christ's ways.

You will work and eat;

fun and goodness will be yours.

Husband and wife, like fruitful trees,

shall tap the intimate joys of home.

Your children shall be like sturdy seedlings,

growing straight and tall.

That's how it will happen for those who honour God!

Happiness will flow from Christ's church,

and your worship will be a delight.

All the days of your life

you will delight in Christ's growing family.

Peace be to God's people!

Peace be to God's church!



Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

—Ephesians 6:24

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

SONG: [Thy word](#) – Amy Grant

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Gracious God, sometimes faith as small as a mustard seed seems too much for us to find. For some of us the questions and traumas of life are great and our faith falters under the pressure of them.

If we are struggling today, forgive us our unbelief and restore us to your presence, O God.

Sometimes, O God, it is hard to keep going when the results of our labouring seem so small. There are times when we cannot see any glowing pearls hidden beneath the seemingly endless covering of opposition which lies between ourselves and what we believe might be your will for us and the world.

If we are struggling today, forgive us our unbelief and restore us to your presence, O God.

Sometimes we have lost sight of your treasure in the drudgery of routine events as we try to be your people.

If we are struggling today, forgive us our unbelief and restore us to your presence, O God, with lifted heart and hopeful spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Be assured that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, not even our own low faith, or our weakness or failure.

In all these things God is faithful to us and restores us to life.

We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

HYMN: TIS 554; [If you but trust God to guide you](#)

Read the [SERMON](#) now

SONG: [You won't let go](#) – Michael W Smith

OFFERING:

Let us share with others some of our earthly treasures so that the infinite treasures of God may be spread into all the world.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Generous God, our humble gifts never seem enough, but we offer them in faith today so that your life may be given to others. Amen.

Offerings Continuity

Thank you so much for keeping up your Offering during the current crisis. We would not be doing very well without your continued dedication and support. However, perhaps there are some people who would have liked to continue but have mislaid the necessary information enabling them to do so. So, while we are unable to Worship together Church Council hopes you may wish to continue your freewill offering to support God's work in this place which, we pray, continues. Offerings will continue to be dedicated and blessed each week as a part of our new worship options.

If you would normally make your offering in cash into the Open Plate or if you normally make your offering using a numbered Envelope you could arrange for this to be banked directly to –

Bendigo Bank : BSB : 633-000 Account : 556 138 6 (Please include the reference below !)

Reference : Plate; or, Envelope XX (Envelope Number)

OR, alternatively you may prefer to drop your cheque or envelope in to the Church Office (Wednesday or Thursday AM) **OR forward**, addressed to ...

The Treasurer, UCA Traralgon District, PO Box 1136, Traralgon Vic 3844

Council encourages you however to consider participating in the Direct Giving Program. If you were to decide to follow this path then please let me know and I will get the appropriate information to you to enable that to be set up.

Thank you, Tony Boulton, Treasurer, Church Council

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES:

We pray Lord for our broken world.

We thank you for those things that give us hope in our brothers and sisters.

Friendships that have been years in their making, people who inspire us to live better, and for those who have dedicated their own lives to those who are less fortunate than themselves. Help us to live lives that inspire those around us, lives that will point them back to the creator and source of light.

We pray for those who face dark and difficult times, for those who are facing a diagnosis of illness, or who have had to learn to live with a medical condition.

We especially pray for all diagnosed with the COVID virus, those treating them, those developing vaccines, and those working on public health strategies.

Lord, we pray for your healing, your comfort and your restoration.

Too often we shy away from illness and suffering, make us brave.

That we might reach out with a hand of friendship, ready to touch the lives of others.

We pray for those who face dark days in times of bereavement, and we pray for those who have lost loved ones in recent days and weeks, especially Peter and Val and all of Stella Morris' family, and the Allcorn family, as well as those whose loss has been for many years.

Loving God, we pray for your comfort and presence to be poured out in abundance on all those whose hearts grieve. Our words can do so little, but your presence can do so much.

Remind us and all who have lost of your words of eternal life, offered freely to us all.

We pray for those for whom life has become too difficult to face,

where hardship, deadlines, obligations and debts weigh too heavily to see the road ahead.

In places of despair, Lord bring your light. Help us to know that the fullness of life you speak of is possible no matter our situations. And to those who find themselves stuck, we simply pray that you will give them hope for what is to come.

We pray for those places in our world that are marred by war and bloodshed.

We pray for communities and families that have been ripped apart by conflict.

We long for the day that you will turn swords and spears to ploughshares and pruning hooks, where the things of war will be put aside.

Help us to be people who live lives of peace and justice.

We pray for those who have been forced to leave their homes,

for asylum seekers and refugees. Help us to be receptive to them.

Help us to see your image in them and to treat them with dignity and with love.

We pray too for our church community, here in this place.

Help us through this difficult time when we can't meet in the normal way.

Be with Rev Kerry Pierce and her husband as they leave Queensland to move to Traralgon.

Let us be a people who point to you, who attract others to your kingdom, and who love without counting the cost.

We are aware also Lord of people and situations who are weighing heavily upon our hearts.

In this silence we pray for them, asking your Spirit to intercede on their behalf.

Lord, all these things we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN: TIS 547; [Be thou my vision](#)

BENEDICTION: *based on Luke 8:4ff, Mark 4:1ff, Matthew 13:1ff*

In the name of the God who creates see and calls each one good;

In the name of the God who knows the dangers of weeds and thorns;

In the name of the God who carries safely to good soil, now and forever;

In the name of the God go forth from this place to blossom and bear fruit. Amen.

DOXOLOGY: [Doxology](#) – Anthem Lights

Call to Worship and Benediction written for Evangelical United Church of Christ, 1999. © Katherine Hawker; Opening Prayer by Jane O. Sorenson in Before the Amen, p. 119; Psalm by Bruce Prewer in Australian Psalms, p. 78; Prayer of Confession and Offertory Prayer from Words for Worship, July 28, 2002; Prayers for Others and Ourselves by Rev Michael J Mair Church of Scotland (adapted) Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729

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