



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 2nd August 2020

Volume 26 Issue 27

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am sad to have to acknowledge another death in our Traralgon congregation, that of Rev Alexander Palmer who died on Thursday 23rd July aged 90. Alex was ordained on 1st January 1961 and served at Ballarat West, Nyah West, Nhill, Wangaratta, Traralgon (9 years), and Maryborough, before retiring to Traralgon where he and his wife Bev had spent their longest appointment. As a minister Alex was a strong teacher and leader, innovative and engaged in seeking to help the church reach out to the community. The Open Door Coffee shop and the Early Childhood Development ministry were two of the innovations from his appointment in this area. Alex was known for his love of the Bible, music especially hymns, his pastoral care and mentoring, for being a very good friend, and his devotion to his family. Our sympathy is extended to Bev, David and Tim and all of the Palmer family.

Unfortunately, it appears that COVID restrictions will be with us for some time to come. We will need to remain vigilant about the safety of our community and also our own safety. Hospital and Nursing Home visiting has been further restricted, so I do apologise for the fact that I am not able to visit those of you who are in care. Please feel free to call or email. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Please do try to keep in touch with one another, and encourage one another. Fortunately, it is a good time to be hibernating out of the rain and cold. Hopefully as Spring arrives there will be better news. 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 2nd August 2020 ORDINARY 18A

MUSIC: [Here is love vast as the ocean](#) – Robin Mark
[God is for us](#) – City Alight

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Based upon Genesis 32.*

Wrestling, struggling, resisting
Powers beyond understanding
Embracing, reconciling, sacred

Let us wrestle. Let us worship that which is sacred.

HYMN: TIS 594; [Fight the good fight](#)

OPENING PRAYER:

God, in this time of worship, open us to the truth about your reign that we may be led deeper into what it means for us.

May our hearts and minds be open to the stories of love, the words of life and the vision of your realm you want us to have.

And may Christ's reign over this world draw us closer to you, one God, one Saviour, one Spirit, reigning over all. Amen.

BEFORE BIBLE READING:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 32:22-31

PSALM: Psalm 17:1-9,15 *paraphrased*

I have a complaint that is justified,
loving God, please hear me out!

Listen to this my urgent prayer
from lips that for once are sincere.

Let my vindication come from you,
let me see things put right.

If you assess my secret thoughts
and visit me while I am asleep,

if you test me on this matter
you will find I speak truly.

When it comes to what others say and do,
I have avoided the way of violence.

My steps have kept on your paths,
my feet have not slipped sideways.

I call out to you because you will answer me,
you turn your ear and listen to my voice.

Show your wonderful love to this seeker;
from foes, keep me safe at your right hand.

Treasure me like the apple of your eye,
like a mother dove hide me under your wings.

Protect me from the evil that would ruin me,
from everything that threatens my faith.

The best is this: I know you shall be near,
with us in every good deed.

Every morning when I wake up,
your Presence shall be my delight.



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SONG: [Reckless love](#) – Cory Ashbury

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION:

Gracious and loving God, you enabled the writer of the Psalm to turn to you in the confident assurance that his cries and prayers would be heard and answered by you.

We offer you our prayers in that same belief.

Through Jesus Christ, our burdens are lightened and our sins are forgiven.

Through his sacrificial love, our lives are blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For these great and glorious gifts, we offer our thanksgiving, our praise and adoration.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Merciful God, the story of Jacob shows your willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles – into fractured relationships, family differences, un-reconciled situations with people we care about.

Yet we confess that too often we hold on because we do not want to loosen our grip on our possessions and our selfish desires.

Often we fear that our very lives will be dislocated by your kingdom values of justice, mercy and peace.

Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values, desires and pressures that confront us daily so that we can unclench our hands and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Only then can we fully embrace others in their pain – and be embraced – in the name of Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!

All this is from God, to whom we have been reconciled through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-18a) in whom we are blessed and forgiven. Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 8:14-25

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14:13-21

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

HYMN: TIS 580; [Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us](#)

Read the [SERMON](#) now

HYMN: TIS 578; [How firm a foundation](#)

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Let us pray: Gracious God, we offer our diverse gifts and our lives, that, inspired by your Spirit of grace, we may bring your realm close to those who hunger for justice and freedom. Amen

Congratulations

To Peter and Val Morris

who celebrated their 40th Wedding anniversary last weekend

Offerings Continuity Thank you for keeping up your Offering during the current crisis. 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 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

Contact Tony if you are considering participating in the Direct Giving Program.

Tony Boulton, Treasurer, Church Council

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES:

Gracious and all loving God, who invites us to share in the joy of the resurrection, we turn to you with our prayers for others.

Recall to our mind in this time of silence, those people and situations that have arrested our attention and touched our heart. Through your Spirit's prompting, lead us in our prayers. *silent prayer*

We pray for our world, remembering before you all who are suffering.

We pray for all who will go hungry today. O God, in the struggle of life. **Be our strength and guide.**

We pray for the homeless, those who are away from family and friend, all who feel betrayed by life. O God, in the struggle of life. **Be our strength and guide.**

We lift to you all the children of the world.

We pray that they might grow in freedom to fulfil the potential you have given them.

Let them be free from abuse.

Give our leaders special compassion for the poor, that they may have the opportunity to raise their children without impediments. O God, in the struggle of life.

Be our strength and guide.

In Christ you offer release for the captives.

We pray for all who are imprisoned by mental torment or the abuse of others.

We ask for release for all who are held captive by substance abuse.

We pray for all who feel that there is no future in life, especially the young.

And we pray for all those who are physically imprisoned

For those who are imprisoned because of their beliefs, we pray for strength.

For those who are gaoled because of crime, we pray for new ways forward.

O God, in the struggle of life. **Be our strength and guide.**

O God, who looks upon us with the tender heart of a loving mother, we pray for one another.

We pray for the healing of wounds, the strengthening of souls, and the restoration of relationships.

Especially we remember before you those in need of your healing,

Including those suffering with the CIVID virus, those caring for them, and their families.

And those who are bereaved including the Palmer, Morris, and Allcorn families and all others on our hearts. We pray for those isolated in Aged Care. Keep us strong by your grace.

Help us to be a community that reflects your purpose and will.

Help us to love one another, and by loving each other,

to be a source of love to the world. O God, in the struggle of life.

Be our strength and guide.

We pray for peace in all the world. Bless the peacemakers and peacekeepers.

We pray for lasting cease fires in all places of war.

O God, in the struggle of life. **Be our strength and guide.**

Thank you that you hear our prayers and answer them in your wisdom. Make us content now to wait on you, to serve in your name, and to seek the path of faith. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

HYMN: [You say](#) – Lauren Daigle

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

From struggle to service, from worship to mission –

God is calling us to go into a world in need.

Let us go then, renewed in faith, restored in spirit and empowered to be the people of God.

May the wonder of Christ's grace, the beauty of God's love, And the mystical power of the Holy spirit, Occupy our minds and hearts as we live to the glory of God. Amen.

DOXOLOGY: [You do not walk alone](#) by Elaine Hagenberg

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