



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 5th July 2020

Volume 26 Issue 23

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

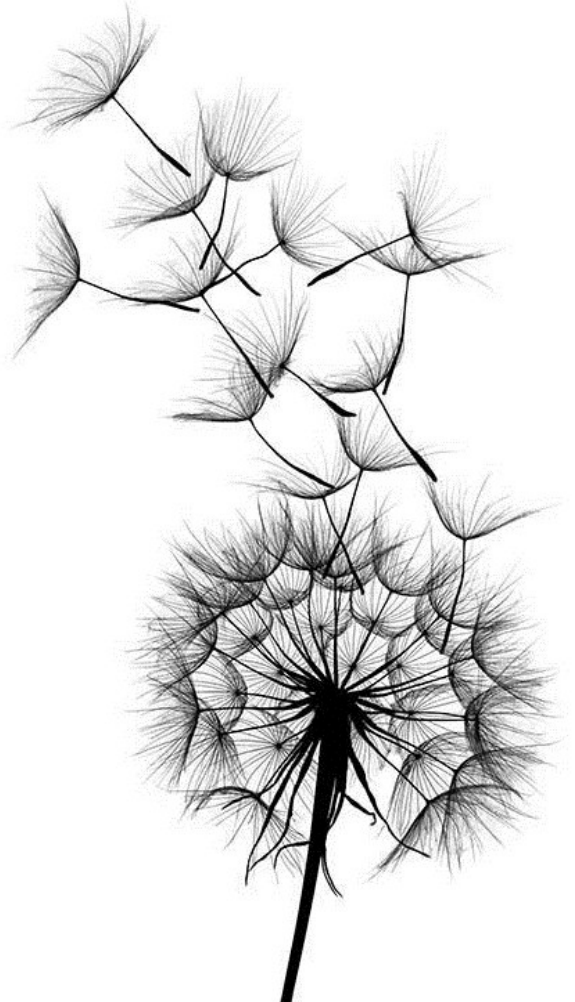
As I take my daily walk around my neighbourhood, I always pause and check the progress on the houses that are in the process of being built. My dad was a carpenter, who later became a trade teacher. I spent a great deal of my childhood watching him help build our family homes. My siblings and I were often enlisted to help – usually fetching and carrying tools and fittings, or being sent to the hardware shop. I've always been fascinated by the design and building of houses, although I've no interest in doing any building myself.

What is very clear to me is that the building of a house involves a wide range of skills and trades and that a smooth build involves a great deal of planning and co-ordination to utilise all these skills and ensure that the house is well built. Likewise, the building and maintenance of a church community requires a large range of skills and a great deal of co-ordination and planning. The apostle Paul wrote extensively (esp. in Romans 12) about the extensive range of gifts that God gives to people. Everyone is given gifts, all of which are needed and are to be valued, and which need to be harnessed and harmonised in the service of the gospel and the church.

We are fortunate that in our church community we have many members who willingly use their gifts in the service of the gospel and church. This is a difficult time for those charged with the administration and oversight of our church communities. They are faced with dealing with ever changing restrictions, the challenges of maintaining worship and pastoral care in this time of isolation, as well as the challenges in organising Kerry's move to Traralgon. Please pray for them and support them as they undertake this work on your behalf. Together we can come through this time, and look forward to the future God has planned for 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 5th July 2020

SONGS: [10,000 reasons](#)- Matt Redman

[God with us](#) – Jesus Culture

CALL TO WORSHIP: *based on Matthew 11:28-30*

Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy
Jesus will give us rest
Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace
Christ will give us peace
Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus
For our Saviour will give us rest in our souls
Come, let us worship our God
Let us follow our Saviour, who leads us into life.

HYMN: TIS 572; [O thou who camest from above](#)

OPENING PRAYER:

inspired by Matthew 11: 28-30

In times of weakness and hour of need,
yours is the strength by which we carry on,
the shoulder we rest our head upon.
When our load is heavy and too much to bear,
yours are the arms stretched out to help us
the grace that we depend on.
In times of weakness and hour of need,
your voice is heard, 'Come... find rest.'
This is grace divine,
the path we tread to wholeness of body and spirit,
the path that leads to you,
and for which we offer our offering of praise.

BEFORE BIBLE READING:

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 7:15-25

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

SONG: [This is the air I breathe](#) – Michael W Smith



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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Let us pray: O God, we hear so many voices within us and around us weighing us down with burdens too great to bear.

When we fall short of the ways you want us to live:

Lord have mercy: Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, when you call us to carry your easy yoke, when you tell us your burden is light, yet we choose other burdens to carry and leave your work undone.

Christ have mercy: Christ have mercy

Compassionate God, when we try to do good and yet end up doing the opposite, when we let you down and fail to live your ways of love and peace, and justice towards all people.

Lord have mercy: Lord have mercy

Gentle loving God, quiet the voices that distract us from loving you, still our minds, and keep us focussed on loving and serving you, in the name of Christ. Amen

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

.....

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Our sins are forgiven: Thanks be to God.

SONG: [Still](#) – Natasha Midori

Read the [SERMON](#) now

HYMN: TIS 129; [Amazing Grace](#)

OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Loving generous God, may these gifts and the service of our lives be used to lift burdens from weary shoulders and to proclaim the love of Christ with gentleness and humility, even as he did. Amen



When will we start worshipping in Church again?

When the State Government relaxes the restrictions and makes the decision that we can meet in larger groups, Church council will decide on a date to resume worship in the Church.

You will be given at least 2 weeks notice before we start to worship in the Church again.

Sue Scarlett Church Council Chairperson

Update on when Rev. Kerry Pierce will be beginning her Ministry with us.

Although still not confirmed, it is anticipated that Rev. Kerry Pierce will be moving down from Queensland early in August and will start her ministry with us at the end of August.

Rev. Sandra Houghton is happy to continue with supply ministry for the time being

This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God himself . . .

—Hebrews 6:19 (TLB)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

God of love and grace, we pray for all those today who are weary,
for those who carry heavy burdens;
give us the courage and humility to know that the invitation is also for us.
Come bring your burdens to God.

We pray for those who are ill or worried about a diagnosis;
for all who are bereaved, and for everyone who is a carer.

Come bring your burdens to God.

We pray for those who are sick with the COVID virus, and those who are caring for them.
We pray for those who are fearful of catching the virus, and those living in countries with
inadequate health services,

And we pray for national leaders that they may make wise decisions
as they seek to protect their people

Come bring your burdens to God.

We pray for those impacted by last summer's bushfires,
especially those feeling forgotten and struggling
with the enormous task of rebuilding homes and farms and businesses.

We pray for Blazaid, all agencies seeking to help, and churches in those areas.

Come bring your burdens to God.

We pray for those who are homeless and those who are reaching out to them.

We pray for countries fractured by war and fighting that they might find peace.

We pray for those who have lost families and countries especially the many refugees who face an
uncertain future...

Come bring your burdens to God.

We pray for the millions across the world who will go to bed hungry tonight
and who have no choices at all, but know that getting through today
stacks up worries for tomorrow.

Come bring your burdens to God.

God of love and mercy, we pray for ourselves that we may have courage
to refuse to turn against those in need and instead to stand with those You love and care for.

We pray in the name of Jesus who is gentle and humble and whose burden is light.

Amen.

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

BENEDICTION:

Go forth into the world as those who are born again into the life of God.

Go in brave hope as those who are loved of God,
forgiven in the power of the Spirit
and accompanied by Christ in life's every journey. Amen

DOXOLOGY: [The Blessing Australia](#)

*Call to Worship written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>; Opening Prayer written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>; Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication by Brian Cole; Communion order by Richard Bott, Canada, in [Gifts in Open Hands](#), pp. 135-8; Benediction by Dorothy McRae-McMahon from [Liturgies for High Days](#), p.59
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