



TALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 16th August 2020

Volume 26 Issue 29

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I've been doing rather a lot of funerals lately, as you know, and it is going to be quite important for the congregation to have some sort of memorial service down the track to remember the members who have died during this time and to celebrate their lives and their service to the church. This will be important as many friends and family members of those who have died were unable to attend the funerals, but you can be sure that we did our best to farewell them in a fitting way. One of the things I noticed, as I have over the years, is that it is a real blessing for the family members who are organising the funeral if the person who had died had taken the time to write down their wishes for their funeral service- even if it was as simple as a list of hymns/music and Bible readings. It just takes away a lot of uncertainty as families want to respect the wishes of their loved one. Even better, if they have written a brief life history that can be utilised by the ones preparing the tributes. Maybe if you are stuck at home due to the COVID restrictions, this might be a task you could think of tackling, and then once it is written make sure your family know where to find it. It is a gift, I'm sure they will appreciate.

It has been lovely to find that quite a few people are taking the opportunity of the lockdown to be creative. Quite a few gifts are being knitted, sewn and constructed, plants potted, cakes and slices baked, and numerous face masks sewn for family and friends. I've made marmalade this week. It's always very satisfying to see the array of gleaming jars. I hope, whatever you are doing, that you can find a way to reach out and brighten someone else's day. As the writer of 1 Thessalonians urged us, "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." Blessings, Sandra

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



Thank you

On behalf of Church Council I'd like to thank Rev. Sandra Houghton for sharing her Ministry with us for the past 7 months. Sandra has cared for and supported us as we travel through the COVID lock down, times of stress and uncertainty.

Sandra has offered pastoral care for the bereaved and their families, the sick and isolated who have struggled with the restrictions to meet and share fellowship with friends and family.

Sandra's order of service and sermons have enlightened us with her theological knowledge, her inspiring music choices and uplifting stories of hope in these troubled times.

The weekly reading of Talking point has been the highlight for many with a connection between the Church, the Congregation and the Community.

Sandra's last week will end on Sunday 23rd August.

Sandra we thank you for being part of our Congregation and when we can finally worship and meet again, we'll invite you back for a "proper" thank you.

Sue Scarlett Church Council



Traralgon District Uniting Church
Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 16th August 2020 ORDINARY 20

SONGS: [Holy Spirit you are welcome here](#)
[Reckless love](#)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

When we get it amazingly wrong. God loves us. When we get it superbly right. God loves us
When we have no idea at all what is happening. God loves us
When we walk with God, we do not need to be afraid

HYMN: TIS 590; [What a friend we have in Jesus](#)

OPENING PRAYER:

God of all, be revealed to us beyond our expectations and imaginings today.
Be known to us in ways and places which challenge our understandings of you,
for we long to expand our faith and hope.
We pray in your name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 45:1-15



PSALM: Psalm 133 Ó *B D Prewer 2001*

What a wonderful happiness it is
when Christians get on together!
It is like precious water from the Font
flowing down across a face;
like the baptismal waters
poured by the hand of God's servant.
It is like dew on mountain slopes,
falling from the heights of God.
It is what our Lord has commanded;
the blessing that will last forever.

HYMN: TIS 155; [How great thou art](#)

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 15: 10-28

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

Bev Palmer wishes to thank everyone for their love and support on the death of her husband Alex.
David and Tim are grateful that their mother is being so well cared for.
Thank you everyone.



This month's Crosslight is available online at <https://crosslight.org.au> – click on the magazine icon on the right hand side of the homepage.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Dear God, it is true that we too, like the Pharisees of old, makes our little rules for approaching you. Sometimes we use them to shut out others we believe are not worthy of your company. Sometimes we use them to shut out others we believe are not worthy of your company. Sometimes we decide we ourselves are not worthy to come into your presence, to share our real lives with you.

We fail to believe in the breadth of your love for us and for others.

silent reflection

Forgive us, O God. Turn your face to us, O Jesus Christ, and give to us your grace this day.

When we decide that some people are not so needy because they shout instead of crying, or because they push their way into our space instead of waiting and knocking at the door. Forgive us, O God. Turn your face to us, O Jesus Christ, and give to us your grace this day.

If we cannot imagine receiving generosity from people we have wronged, or those who have power over us: Forgive us, O God. Turn your face to us, O Jesus Christ, and give to us your grace this day. Break into our souls with your love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

As Joseph looked upon his erring brothers with love, so Jesus Christ looks upon us all with ever-surprising kindness.

We are forgiven. Live fully in hope and faith!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

SONG: [Waymaker](#) - Sinach

Read the [SERMON](#) now

HYMN: TIS 459; [In Christ there is no east or west](#)

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Let us pray: Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.



Our sympathy to Margaret McColl of the Glengarry Congregation on the very sad loss of her husband Ron on the 7th August, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Our sympathy also to her children Rhonda, Colin and Joanne and all their families on the loss of their beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

A funeral will be held in Traralgon Uniting Church on Friday 14th August for Mrs Thelma McKenney, late of Margery Cole Nursing Home. Thelma lived in Traralgon and Toongabbie. Our sympathy to her children Lenny (dec), Julie, Trev, Susie, Vickie and Mal, and their families.

The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking;
he rescues those who are humbly sorry for their sins.

—Psalm 34:18 (TLB)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES:

We come to God with our prayers for other people.

Let us pray. It is not much use, Holy Friend; praying for our world-wide neighbours unless we trust you with our own lives, and what is harder, completely trust you with the lives of our loved ones. Therefore, we pray that you will increase our faith and embolden us to both pray and live by it. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for those far away neighbours who are at war: in the Middle East in Syria and in Africa in Sudan and other places. We pray for peace and for peace-makers. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for mistreated neighbours: suffering from extortion and injustice, political or religious oppression, cruel economic exploitation, or domestic tyranny. So we pray for places where people live under the threat of terrorism or oppression, and for all the refugees and asylum seekers. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for our suffering neighbours: in places where they have experienced disasters. For the suffering people of Beirut in the aftermath of the explosion there, For those who were burnt out by bushfires or inundated by flooding, Pounded by cyclones, or rocked by earthquakes. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for neglected neighbours: homeless, misjudged, persecuted, and hungry, or consigned to unremitting poverty, hard labour, and a short life span. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for near-at-hand neighbours: at work, in our street, in supermarkets, banks, schools, and hospitals; all who are in trouble and at their wits end. Especially we pray for all impacted by COVID 19 – for the sick, the isolated, those who have lost jobs or businesses. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for our bruised and weeping neighbours: those just made redundant, pained by divorce, grieving over a delinquent child, or weeping hot tears at a grave side. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for the work of The Leprosy Mission and Uniting World as they reach out to people in need across the world, as they continue their work of advocacy and education and fund raising. Keep their workers safe, enable their work to continue without obstruction, and bless them. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend we pray for the neighbours in our church: the weak and the strong, the shy and the outgoing, the leaders and the followers, the newcomers and the familiar faces, those bearing secret burdens and those buoyant with happiness. Help us support one another even as we remain isolated. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Through Christ Jesus, our Saviour. Amen!

HYMN: TIS 629; [When I needed a neighbour](#)

BENEDICTION

How rich in wisdom and knowledge are the depths of God.

Let us go forth to serve and glorify the name of our Saviour.

The Christ, who calls us, equips us. The Christ, who equips us, sends us forth.

The Christ who sends us forth will accompany us in every situation.

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, And the unity of the Holy Spirit, be with us forever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY: [Doxology](#) – Sandra McCracken

Call to Worship by Ruth Burgess in [Bare Feet and Buttercups](#), p.252; Opening Prayer & Prayers of Confession from [Words for Worship August 18, 2002](#); Commissioning and Benediction from [Words for Worship, August 15, 1999](#); Offertory Prayers by Edwin E. Beers in [Touch Holiness](#), p.214; Prayers of Intercession by Bruce Prewer (adapted) Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729

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