



# ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 23rd August 2020

Volume 26 Issue 30

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's time for me to say goodbye and thank you for the privilege of being your minister for the last seven months. I have enjoyed getting to know you, visit you and lead you in worship, although I would never have anticipated that for most of my time with you we haven't been able to physically gather together for worship. None the less, I'm glad that we have been able to continue to produce worship materials each week for distribution by email and letterboxing. I do want to thank Theresa Steyn and Max Crisp for their help in producing the materials (and also for a great deal of assistance with preparing for funerals), and Geoff Aitken, Ian and Kerryn Conabere, Ian Leversha, Jan Smart, Isla McGloin, Pamela and Ian Christensen, and Maxine and Graeme Edwards for their help in letterboxing week after week. And I would also want to thank everyone who has been willing to help in any way, and especially to Sue Scarlett for her wise counsel and warm friendship. And thanks also for all the feedback, I have enjoyed very much your emails, letters, cards and phone calls. I look forward to the day when I'll be able to come and participate in worship with you all. Meantime, you will be in my thoughts and prayers, and I pray that you will support and welcome Kerry in the same warm way that you welcomed me,

Blessings, Sandra



## Welcome

Welcome to Rev Kerry Pierce and Rob Pierce.  
Sunday 23 August at 2.30 p.m Kerry will be inducted into  
our Congregation via Zoom.

Deb Bye (Presbytery) will give us the sign in details for  
anyone who would like to watch the zoom induction.

Contact details for Kerry are:  
51761029  
Email: [kerrypierce@gmail.com](mailto:kerrypierce@gmail.com)



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



**Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home**  
**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 23rd August 2020 ORDINARY 21**

**SONGS:** [Grace](#) – City Alight  
[Who am I](#) – Casting Crowns

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
Our joy comes from the heart of God, who transforms us into open-handed givers of hope.  
Our grace comes from God's compassion, who breaks the bonds which tie us to sin and death.  
Blessed be the Lord our God! who reveals to us the One who brings us new life!

**HYMN:** [In Christ alone](#) – National Methodist Choir of Great Britain

**OPENING PRAYER:**

When fear would enslave us, you set us free by your faith in us; when the currents of hopelessness would sweep us away, you cradle us in your promises; when evil would exercise power, you transform us into members of the one Body, so we can overcome its efforts.  
You are always on our side, All Watchful God.

Through the mouths of children and youth, you teach the foolish the wisdom of your grace;  
through the gentle lives of those harmed by hate, you open our locked hearts to embrace the broken.  
You are always by our side, Heart of Compassion.

Reluctant to let go of all our gifts, you touch us with generosity's grace.  
Hesitant as to what we might do for others, you teach us the skill set of compassion and service.  
Dwelling with loneliness, you nudge us to welcome the last and the least.  
You are always at our side, Spirit of Change.

God in Community, Holy in One, we believe you are side-by-side with us,  
even as we pray as Jesus has taught us,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.



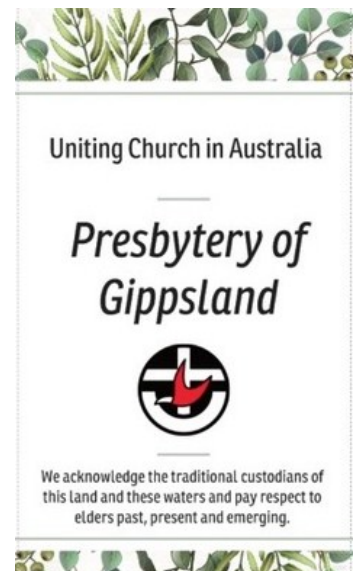
You are warmly invited by the UCA Presbytery of Gippsland

Lyrebird Ministry Team

and the congregations of  
Traralgon, Glengarry and Rosedale  
To celebrate the induction of the  
Rev Kerry Pierce

**When: Sunday 23rd August 2020 at 2:30 pm**  
**How: via Zoom**

R.S.V.P. to [gippspreszoom@gmail.com](mailto:gippspreszoom@gmail.com)  
By 5pm Saturday 22nd August to receive a zoom link



**BEFORE BIBLE READING:**

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

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 1:6 – 2:10**

**PSALM: Psalm 124 paraphrased**      *Psalm Ó B D Prewer 2001*

If God had not been there for us-  
let everyone admit it-  
if God had not been there for us  
when evil people came at us,  
then they would have swallowed us  
in their consuming hatred.

The flood would have washed over us,  
the torrent would have engulfed us.  
Raging waters would have drowned  
and completely hidden us.

Wonderful is our God for keeping us  
from being a prey to their teeth!  
We have escaped like a budgerigar  
from the bird smuggler's net.

All the bird cages have been opened,  
and we rise up and soar away free!  
Our help is in the name of the living God  
who made earth and all the stars of heaven!

**NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 12:1-8**

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13-20**

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

**SONG: [Thy word](#) – Amy Grant**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Dear God, who comes to us in the grace of Jesus Christ, even as you look upon us with blessing and love, we know only too well that we are not always those who bless others.

We often look out on the world and find it hard to see what you see in it.

We are tempted to think that nothing much could change in people and in the way things seem to be, forgetting our own journey of forgiveness and change as we have travelled in company with you.

Forgive us, O God, and open our eyes to see ourselves and others as you do.

Forgive us when we give up on ourselves and believe that nothing worth much can come from us.

Forgive us when we make you in our own image and construct a harsh God who fails to understand our struggles and our failures in the face of our tough journeys in life.

Forgive us, O God, and open our eyes to see ourselves and others as you do.

*silent prayer*

Forgive us now, Forgive us now, for Jesus Christ's sake, we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit" is the word to us in Jesus Christ.

Those who come in faith and humble confession are offered grace and are set free.

We are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen

**SONG: [Open your heart](#) – Father Rob Galea**

Read the [Sermon](#) now

**HYMN: [Take my life and let it be](#) (I am yours) – Michael Neale**



### **OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

Let us bring our gifts to God as a declaration of our joining with God in caring for the world and in the mission of Jesus Christ. O God, we realise that our giving is a sign of who we believe ourselves to be. We pray that our giving this day will link us with your generous heart. Amen.

### **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES: Using God's gifts**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you have given us all talents and abilities.

You have created each of us in a unique way, that we may give our own unique service and talents to you. Blessed are you, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit.

Lord, giver of all good gifts, we give you thanks for all you have given us.

May we share our talents and use them to the benefit of others and for your glory.

We pray today for all who tell others of your love and proclaim the Gospel.

We ask your blessings upon all who minister to others, especially we pray for Revd Kerry Pierce who will begin her ministry in this place today, and pray your guidance for our Church Council, and for the pastoral care co-ordinators, and bless and guide Theresa in her role the church office.

**Silent prayer** Giver of all good gifts, hear us and help us to live to your glory.

Lord, giver of all good gifts, we ask your blessing upon all artists, musicians, craftspeople, gardeners, architects, politicians and all who use their gifts to improve our world. We remember all who are unable to use their talents to the full through oppression or other circumstance.

**Silent prayer** Giver of all good gifts, hear us and help us to live to your glory.

Lord, giver of all good gifts, bless us and our loved ones. We pray that our homes may be places where talent is fostered and given the chance to grow. We ask your blessings upon all schools and places of learning and all who help others to develop skills.

At this time, we pray that they may be able to find creative ways to engage their students, and that no students may be left behind. Especially we pray for those undertaking their VCE.

**Silent prayer** Giver of all good gifts, hear us and help us to live to your glory.

Lord, giver of all good gifts, we thank you for this beautiful but sometimes volatile planet we call home. We pray for all who suffer as a result of floods, typhoons, drought, earthquakes and other disasters. We pray for the people of Beirut after the explosion, those facing wildfires in Europe and America, And those seeking to rebuild their lives after last summer's bushfires.

We pray for those who are seeking to help them.

**Silent prayer** Giver of all good gifts, hear us and help us to live to your glory.

Lord, giver of all good gifts, bless all who are thwarted in their ability through illness, oppression or the lack of opportunity. We pray today for all who are struggling due to poverty, hunger and homelessness. We remember before you loved ones and family who are ill. We pray for those struggling with mental illness and isolation due to COVID restrictions. Keep safe the medical workers on the frontline against COVID 19, and guide those developing vaccines.

**Silent prayer** Giver of all good gifts, hear us and help us to live to your glory.

Lord, giver of all good gifts, we thank you for the gift of life eternal. We rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints and ask your blessing on our loved ones departed, that they may be home with you in your kingdom of love.

**Silent prayer**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN:** TIS 687; [God gives us a future](#)

### **BENEDICTION**

Go into the world as those who choose and are chosen to bring justice, peace and freedom to a longing people. And may God be in our every action, Christ Jesus be in every pausing to listen and the Holy Spirit be in every moment of choosing. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY: a choice of Irish blessings** [Irish blessing song](#) , [May the road rise to meet you](#)

*Call to Worship and Opening Prayer by Thom M Shuman © 2011; Psalm Ó B D Prewer 2001; Prayer of Confession from Words for Worship February 3, 2002; Offertory Prayer from Words for Worship August 25, 2002; prayers for Others and Ourselves by David Adam in Even more themed intercessions, pp.68-9 (adapted); Benediction by Dorothy McRae-McMahon in Liturgies for Daily Life, pp.60-1 Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729*

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