



# ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 9th August 2020

Volume 26 Issue 28

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this letter a storm is brewing. The sky is grey, the temperature has plunged, the wind is lashing the trees, and the rain has started to fall. There is something exhilarating about watching a storm, as long as you are warm and safe. I have often thought about what it must have been like for our ancestors, especially those who were early settlers, who had to make the sometimes perilous journey to Australia. Imagine what it would have been like to be caught in a storm at sea on a sailing ship. I once spent a wretched night on a car ferry sailing from Naples to Palermo (Sicily) in a force 9 gale, so I can sympathise with them. But back in the era of the sailing ships, those at sea were often pummelled by storms for days on end, or suffered from diseases that rapidly spread in the cramped quarters, and not all reached their destinations. Sea travel carried a real risk. Emigration was a real step in courage, but then, life was inherently more dangerous in those days before modern health care. So perhaps, it's no wonder that hymns like 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?' were popular. It used seafaring imagery to remind the singer that Jesus' love and care can be trusted even in the midst of danger. The chorus goes:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll;

Fastened to the Rock which cannot move. Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

Hymns are often a great source of comfort in tough times. I would encourage you to sing or listen to or watch videos/You tube of your favourite hymns as we go through this difficult time of isolation. I'm sure that they will help lift your mood and help you focus on God's love. If you have family members in nursing homes or other places of isolation, make sure that they have access to hymns via CD's, DVD's or computer, as many of them are really struggling. One of the hymns I have chosen for this coming Sunday is 'Do not be afraid'. The third verse of this hymn is very apt for this time, reminding us that God is with us in our isolation.

When The Fear Of Loneliness Is Looming, then Remember I Am At Your Side.

Do Not Be Afraid, For I Have Redeemed You. I Have Called You By Your Name; You Are Mine.

I encourage you to trust in this promise, Blessings, Sandra

Contact details for Rev. Sandra Houghton are: [sandrah@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:sandrah@vic.australis.com.au) ph 0428 649 243



## Welcome

*Welcome to Rev. Kerry Pierce*

*Kerry and Rob have moved into the Church Manse and will spend the next few weeks, unpacking and settling into Traralgon.*

*The spring sun shone for the first 2 days before the Victorian Winter returned to welcome them as well. Kerry's induction will be on Sunday 23 August via Zoom. More details to be announced.*



**Traralgon District Uniting Church**

Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



**Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home**  
**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 9th August 2020 ORDINARY 19**

**SONGS:** [Hear the call of the Kingdom](#) -

[El Shaddai](#) by Amy Grant (El Shaddai is one of the Old Testament names for God Almighty, particularly used in relation to God on Mt Sinai who gave the commandments to Moses; El-Elyon na Adonai- Most high be my God, O Lord; Erkahmka na Adonai- I love thee, O Lord, be my strength)

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:  
here, the worriers and wanderers can call God by name.

Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:  
here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us always!

Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:  
here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out 'God, save us!' in every situation.

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

**PRAYER OF PRAISE AND INVOCATION:**

O God of summer and winter, springtime and harvest, your faithfulness is great in every season and your steadfast love is constant through every age.

We come to You in these winter days seeking to hear your word and feel your presence, striving to praise you and glorify your name.

We turn to you in this place of worship and in our very hearts, and ask for your blessing, that Your word of comfort might quell our fears and embolden us to follow your will as we come to understand it this day.  
Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

O God in whom we live and move and have our being, your might is beyond our imagining, your love beyond our describing. As we gather in Your name, bless this, our worship, and grant us to know that, even if in our songs and prayers the words fall short, your steadfast love never does. Amen

**BEFORE BIBLE READING:**

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

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 37:1-36**

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power,  
and of love, and of a sound mind.*  
—2 Timothy 1:7



**Offerings Continuity**

**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

**PSALM: Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45**

Be thankful, call on the name of our God,  
let it be heard in every country!  
Sing, sing, sing your best praises,  
tell the wonderful things God has done!

Revel and delight in our God's name,  
let all seekers rise up and celebrate!  
Set your mind on God's kind of strength,  
set your heart on the presence of the Spirit!

Remember all the great things that have happened,  
the unexpected deeds and justice of God,  
by love we are spirit-children of Abraham,  
descendants of Jacob and God's chosen people.

When God saw famine come on their land,  
and their food supply was cut off,  
a man had been sent on ahead of them:  
Joseph, who had been sold as a slave.

Joseph's feet were injured with shackles,  
his neck was clamped in iron.  
But what he forecast really happened,  
God's word proved him right.

The Pharaoh gave the order for his release,  
a great nation's ruler liberated Joseph.  
He made him lord of the royal household,  
manager of all his affairs.

He was to instruct the princes as he pleased,  
and to teach old advisers new wisdom.  
So that they could know God's commands  
and practice them. Hallelujah!



© B D Prewer 2002

**SONG: [Above all](#) – Michael W Smith**

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14:22-33** This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

We remember the great storm on Galilee, when Jesus' friends were rocked back and forth in their tiny boat of faith, and were frightened for their lives. Their friend came to them in their distress, but they didn't recognise him, thinking him a ghost. How many times, O God, have we been blinded by our fear, and saw in your coming only the shadow of illusion?

We remember that Jesus approached the boat, and invited Peter to join him in standing on the waves. But Peter was afraid and lost sight of Jesus, and he began to sink. How many times, O God, have we turned our attention to the distractions and anxieties of this world, and begun to sink into hopelessness?

We remember that Jesus had mercy on Peter and rescued him from the smothering waves, asking him why he had so little faith. How many times, O God, have we cried out in our faithlessness, forgetting that you always rescue, you always save?

Even as we remember our faults, O God, we remember your mercy. And so we ask to be restored to your side, set back in the boat of your love, while the waves are calmed around us. Master of the Wind, Lover of the Storm, Bringer of the Peace, teach us how to abide in you in all things.

**SONG: [Voice of truth](#) – Casting Crowns**

Read the [SERMON](#) now

**HYMN:** TIS 690; [Beauty for brokenness](#)

**OFFERING**

Let us bring our gifts to God as a sign of our commitment to mission and to all that God dreams for humankind.

Let us pray: O God, we know that even our giving can be a stepping out in faith, as we let go of some of our securities in the holding of our money to ourselves. As we bring our gifts today, call us on this journey. Amen.

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES:**

Eternal God, We remember today a great future leader captured and enslaved and a disciple who began to sink like a rock, and the God who rescued them both, having called them both.

Rather than claiming to be bolder than these or pretending to have a greater trust, we learn from their example and lift our concerns to you.

We live in a world that does not seem to value Your word.

Speak, we pray, to those who find no meaning in their lives.

Overcome the loneliness of mourning, the vanity of constant acquiring, the madness of competition, the isolation brought by technology.

Strengthen those who have heard your voice and suffer in their obedience.

Be with the prophets today who endure persecution because they have shared good news or simply because they owned a Bible.

Bring peace to our world, we pray.

Comfort those caught up in war – the suffering, the homeless, and the bereaved.

Raise up peace-makers and leaders true to your Gospel.

Be with all who have fled and all in refugee camps.

Comfort those who mourn, especially the Palmer, Morris and Allcorn families,

Strengthen the carers, and heal the sick. Especially be with those suffering from the COVID virus, and those caring for them, and with those whose surgery has been postponed.

Give wisdom, protection and guidance to doctors, paramedics, nurses and who seek to heal and care for the sick, the frail, and the disabled. Be with our leaders as they seek to make good decisions, and with those enforcing the restrictions.

We pray for our new minister Revd Kerry Pierce and her husband Rob as they settle in the manse.

Be with our Presbytery Ministers Peter, Deb, Arnie and Jennie, and our Moderator Denise.

Embolden all of us who endeavour to follow, but then falter when we notice the wind and waves.

Lift us from a concern for only ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

**HYMN:** [Do not be afraid](#)

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Step out into the world as those who are following the Christ into unknown waters.

Go in peace and faith because Christ is with us and before us.

And may we hear the voice of Jesus calling to us, and may we touch the outstretched hand of God in the rough waters and find our life lifted up in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY:** [The Blessing](#) (kids)

*Call to Worship by Thom Shuman in [Playing Hopscotch in Heaven](#), p.205; Prayer of Confession by Anna Shirley in [Before the Amen](#), p.111; Offertory Prayer and [Benediction Words for Worship August 11, 2002](#); Prayers for Others and Ourselves by Rev Aaron Stevens Church of Scotland (with additions) Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729*

**Uniting Church in Australia - Traralgon District**

19-29 Park Lane (PO Box 1136) TRARALGON 3844 ph: 5176 1029

**Administrative Assistant:** Theresa Steyn **Office Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday 9am-1pm

**Email Address:** [mail@traralgon.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:mail@traralgon.unitingchurch.org.au) **Web Address:** <http://traralgonuc.blogspot.com/>