



TALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 8th November 2020

Volume 26 Issue 41

Dear Friends,

While we were in full lockdown, the Worship Task Group decided to work together on a roster to provide the *at-home-worship* that had become a 'normal' section of the Talking Point. I'm sure you have noticed the input into the worship services by the lay preaching team. Thank you, Barbara Hutton, for an inspiring message last Sunday. A pre-emptive thanks to Ian and Kerry Conabere for the worship service this week too. Currently we are following the Revised Common Lectionary, although you may notice that Ian and I swapped preaching weeks and kept our previously assigned scripture readings. That was to fit in with my desire to lead the first outdoor worship on November 15th. The Worship Task Group will meet again soon and discuss the future possibilities. If you have any thoughts you would like considered by this group please write an email, or contact one of the members; Kerry, Sue Scarlett, Peter Morris, Barbara Hutton, Geoff Aitken, Dianne Lang, or Ian Conabere.

Last week I met with Lorrel Samson and Merrilyn Schlipalius to discuss Church and State requirements for opening the church building to worship. Currently Government allows us to open the building up to two groups of 10 people (ten metres apart). We can fit this format into the worship space once we have addressed the specified cleaning requirements. This will mean we have to establish a booking or invitation system, so we are not turning people away. We three also discussed closing off the library, due to the difficulty in cleaning this area. Also, the kitchen will remain closed, as no food or beverages are allowed to be served under the current safety rules. Some of this sounds restrictive, but thanks be to God, we will soon see small numbers of people worshipping, witnessing and serving Christ, in the Traralgon church space as they already are in Rosedale and Glengarry.

In Christ, Kerry

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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 8th November 2020

Songs: [Everyday](#) by Andrew Houston (Hillsong-VHC Taylors)

[I give you my heart](#) by Reuben Morgan (Hillsong-ForGodSoLoved777)

Call to Worship: *Psalm 123 (Contemporary English Version CEV)**

Our Lord and our God, I turn my eyes to you, on your throne in heaven.

Servants look to their master but we will look to you until you have mercy on us.

Please have mercy, Lord!

We have been insulted more than we can stand,

and we can't take more abuse from those proud, conceited people.

Acknowledgment:

As we gather in praise, we acknowledge the First Peoples of the lands and waters of this place, the GunaiKurnai Peoples. We offer respect to all Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge their place, and that they remind us of the sacredness of land and all life

Hymn: TIS 599(ii) [Take my life and let it be](#) (Martijn de Groot)

Prayers of Adoration and Confession: *Kerryn Conabere*

God we adore you! Thank you for your gracious love and help us to spread that love as we walk with you. Loving God we thank you for the gifts which you have given us. We are glad to be able to use them to glorify You. We can see so many people around this place with different gifts – the artistic and creative work of the banner group who present your word in a medium which is interesting and challenging, the songwriters who can read your words and produce songs for people to sing and praise you with, the people who serve others through hospitality giving freely of their time to share nourishment with others, the people who preach and spread your word in this way, those who maintain the buildings and the gardens, those who play instruments and sing, those who pray and intercede for others. Lord God you have given us abundant gifts; help us to use them wisely, to be grateful for them and the ability to share them to grow Your kingdom here on earth.

Forgive us Lord, when we ignore these gifts, when we walk away because we feel the gift might be a burden rather than a life-giving joy. When we leave it to someone else to work through a task instead of offering to help them and ourselves to grow the kingdom. Forgive our apathy or our fear of being a Christian during this difficult time. Help us to know that your Love brings with it forgiveness. With that forgiveness comes new life and another chance to follow you, use our gifts and talents and honour you as we go forward, renewed and forgiven.

Thanks be to God

NOTICE Traralgon UCA Worship Outdoors: Sunday November 15th at 9:30am Weather Permitting.

We look forward to meeting you on the Western side of the church, between the carpark and the church building (grassed and concrete area). The Transition Team will be commissioned for their work at this service. You are invited to **bring your own outdoor chairs**. Chairs can be provided if needed. The Talking Point will go out with Worship included, as per our current pattern, for any person who feels vulnerable and/or prefers to stay home. Please advise the church office if your plan to attend, as currently only 50 people are permitted to attend outdoor worship.

Government requires: **Masks must be worn at all times. Social distancing must be maintained. If you have any cold or flu type symptoms please stay home. No food or drink may be served, you may like to bring your own tea/coffee or bring a water bottle.**

This outdoor worship is a trial and will inform our next step towards a new normal.

Hopefully see you then, Kerry

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 25:14-30. The parable of the three servants*

Response: In this we hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Learning to be a servant* Ian Conabere

Offering Prayer:

Lord God, you have given us more than we asked for and more than we deserve. May we show a like generosity in all that we do for you and for our neighbours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn: TiS 641 [This is my will my one command](#) (Koine)

Prayers for others: *Kerryn Conabere*

God of Grace and mercy hear our prayers as we pray for others and ourselves.

This shrinking world is a sad place at the moment dear Lord and we wonder what is going on as we watch the figures of so many people getting the corona virus and so many dying from this disease. For each death there are family members who are grieving that loss, their loved one is not just a number but a person – a person who mattered to someone. Lord for all those family and friends who have had funerals in a way that was far from what they had envisaged when farewelling a loved one, be with them. Help them in their grief and wrap your loving arms around them all.

God of Grace and mercy hear our prayers

Thank you that in our part of the world, the numbers are coming down and we can travel a lot more around our region and see some family and friends in parks and nature walks. We are grateful that enough people are making the efforts to live safely in this COVID time and wearing masks and getting tested as required. Give us all a heart for others, knowing that the regulations are there for a reason.

God of Grace and mercy hear our prayers

During this time when leadership world-wide is questionable to say the least, we ask that you rise up people who have honour and integrity, love and compassion and a genuine desire to help all people, not just the rich, not just the white, not just their mates, but all people they might represent. God we need a revolution of change where You are there, in the front and centre, guiding those who are charged to lead their countries.

God of Grace and mercy hear our prayers

We pray for our teachers who have tried hard to make remote learning engaging and successful for their students, often times without success as learning from home is not ideal and sometimes kids just did not co-operate or want to do the work which had been set.

God of Grace and mercy hear our prayers

Be with them now they are back at school and help them to be enthusiastic and positive as they get to know their students for a second time this year. Help the students be responsive, give them a desire to want to learn and get back into the routine of school and being able to see friends. This year has been stressful for both teachers and students and we ask your blessing upon them allowing them to break free from any guilt, anxiety and worries as it has been the same for everyone.

God of Grace and mercy hear our prayers

Finally, Lord, we pray for ourselves and our family members. Where there are problems because of this unusual year and the restrictions have caused loss of a job, stress, anxiety and pressure, may you still their hearts. Comfort them and may they feel your love, care and concern for them. Be with those who are struggling with frailty and old age who are facing a different kind of life where the body lets you down in so many ways, guide them gently and lovingly into your Eternal home. Be with us, help us to be faithful servants today, and every day.

God of Grace and mercy hear our prayers those we have spoken and those held in our hearts. Amen

Benediction & Word of Mission: *1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, 16-18 (CEV)**

God doesn't intend to punish us, but wants us to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ died for us so that we could live with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. That's why you must encourage and help each other, just as you are already doing.

Always be joyful and never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do.

Hymn: TiS 650 *Brother, sister, let me serve you Vs1,2,3 &5 (mkariobangi)*

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From p170 of Love is the new Black

– Cameron Semmens

Take us Lord,
nudge us into knowing,
elbow us into action.

So often we only do
what we are expected to do.

So today we say
tickle us, nudge us, elbow us
into the otherworldly ways of your Kingdom.

Be gentle with us, we're fragile...
but you know that.

Be firm with us, we're stubborn...
but you know that.

Through the cracks in our lives
we invite you to intrude.
Assert your love
Through our brokenness.

This we pray

Amen.



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