



TRARALGON POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 22nd November 2020

Volume 26 Issue 43

Dear Friends,

Dear Friends, It was great to see the support for the Outdoor Worship Service in Traralgon. We got hot and then wet and then hot again. A lesson for me, don't forget the umbrella. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again this Sunday, please book in through the office and don't forget the chair and the broly and the hat, maybe. In Christ, Kerry minister.tuca@gmail.com 0483 803 922

Transition Team Update (*Simon Trebilcock, on behalf of the Transition Team, 17 November 2020*)

Despite the weather attempting to interrupt proceedings last Sunday, Geoff Aitken, Kerryn Conabere, Bev Palmer, Cheryl Rhimes, Sue Scarlett, Jan Smart and Simon Trebilcock were commissioned as your Transition Team. Later that afternoon and for most of Monday, the team kicked-off the process and started learning about the transition tasks and some helpful tools. The group will continue to meet weekly for the next few weeks to discover and develop what is required of them and the congregations. Please offer your prayerful support for the team.

There are five focus points that the Transition Team will work through with the congregations over the transition period. These are: Heritage, Mission, Leadership, Connections and Future. Heritage is a good place to start, and this involves "reviewing how the faith community (the congregations) has been shaped and formed, celebrating and discarding." Understanding the heritage of the congregations helps us plan for the future. In this review, we discern the fruitfulness of God's mission in our past, celebrate this and take it forward with us. We also discern those things that are no longer fruitful, in order to let go of them. The team will explore this focus point further and then start working with the congregations, although with Christmas coming up quickly, the majority of this work will be progressed from February 2021 onwards.

Traralgon Uniting Church Garden Rejuvenation Project

You may have noticed things happening in the gardens at the Traralgon church - trees cut down, trees pruned back, a hedge removed, shrubs trimmed, loads of soil, and piles of mulch. This is all part of the Garden Rejuvenation Plan 2020, endorsed by the Property Committee and Church Council, and carried out by a team of keen volunteers (with a bit of professional help from the arborists). Discussions began in June with the gardening group and Property Committee members, and these four key aspects were developed to guide the plan:

- Opening up the gardens to present a welcoming and safe space;
- Enhancing the visual appearance of the gardens and addressing the age-based decline of some of the plantings;
- Improving access around car parks; and,
- Reducing the amount and degree of difficulty of regular garden maintenance.

The church site is quite large, and whilst much has already been achieved, the gardens remain a work-in-progress. Please note that there are some uneven surfaces in the lawn areas and garden beds, so please take care when stepping off the sealed pathways.

The gardening team members regularly turn up (many on a weekly basis) to help with the rejuvenation tasks as well as the regular jobs, such as mowing, and this commitment is much appreciated. With more trimming, tidying, weeding, and mulching to be done, as well as planting out new plants, we look forward to the new, rejuvenated garden taking form. Simon Trebilcock



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



**Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 22nd November 2020**

Call to Worship

Christ whose sovereignty is born in suffering,
tested in travail and speaks through the integrity of woundedness:

We come in awe, giving thanks.

Jesus, Child of our humanity, authentic One, whether in wilderness or weddings,
treading the earth in vulnerable truth:

We come in awe, giving thanks.

God who reigns in gentleness, Christ who testifies to truth,
Spirit who embraces all who come in faith:

We come in awe, giving thanks this day.

Gathered together:

We worship God, Holy One, Beginning, Core and End of all life.

Song: TiS 107 [Sing praise and thanksgiving](#)

1. Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living
now worship their maker with gladness and song;
all glory and honour we come to him bringing:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
2. Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;
in darkness he held us in his gracious care,
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
3. Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,
that unto your glory be all that we do;
and where we have faltered, give strength and give healing:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God! Paul Gerhardt 1607-76 tr. Margaret Barclay (1951)

Prayers of confession

Holy One, beyond all time and space, touch us in our fragile hope,
reach us in our darkness and doubt, seek us where we are afraid to be found.

It is hard to bring our confession to you, there are no words, which can do justice to this
moment as we stand before your costly journey.

we know that you carry in your life all the pain and wrong that lies in our life and yet you reach
out to us with great compassion. In the silence we wait for you to know us: *Silence*

Beginning, Core and End of all life you know who we are this day
grieve with us as we face ourselves, weep with us as we remember who you call us to be.
Stay with us in the depths of our struggle that you find within us now. *Silence*

We are no different from those who needed your death long ago.

We too question your sovereignty We too walk away from hard truth.

Forgive us, O Holy Gracious One, and restore us to ourselves and our community.

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Even as God suffers in the depths of pain of all that we deliver to life,
Christ forgives us, restoring all who come in hope. We are forgiven and free!
Thanks be to God.

Song: TiS 158 [God has spoken](#)

1. God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging word,
each, from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, his throne eternal,
God the first, and God the last.
2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father ever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time began,
Light from Light, to earth descending,
God, revealed as Son of Man.
3. God is speaking by his Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the age-long word expounding
God's own message, now as then,
through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith yet standing fast;
God still speaks, his word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

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Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46

Lorrel & Greg Samson

Sermon: Rev. Kerry Pierce

Prayers of the People: Geoff Aitken & Jan Smart

As we bring our prayers, we invite you to place yourself and situations you are concerned about into the words adapted from Prayers by Bruce Prewer.

God of life abundant. God who brings joy, great joy to those who watch, pray and serve. Keep your church awake and alert to the needs of your world and its peoples.

God of light and love [Let your light draw us nearer to you and to our neighbours in all the earth.](#)

God of Abundance Keep us alert to the landscape of creation, where beauty has been defaced and resources exhausted.

Keep us alert to the hungry and homeless and those who do not share in the necessities of life.

God of light [Draw us nearer to your wisdom and generosity, and to places in need of repair, and to people with whom we may share.](#)

God of abundance Keep us alert to the needs of fellow Australians and people around our world who have become hurt or lost in the wilderness of life

Keep us alert to the sensitive person who puts on a bold face but suffers behind a façade

Keep us alert to the disabled person who may be suffering behind closed doors.

God of light [Draw us nearer to your righteous anger and to those who suffer mental and physical abuse](#)

[Draw us nearer to your compassion and to those who are broken in body mind and spirit.](#)

God of abundance Keep us alert to the overworked and the unemployed person, weary and exhausted, disappointed, and disillusioned in their situation

Keep us alert to the bewildered person who needs understanding, encouragement and guidance.

God of light [Draw us nearer to your comfort And to those who suffer in many ways](#)

God of abundance Keep us alert to those facing difficult decisions, those unwell, those bearing heavy burdens

God of light [Draw us nearer to your inclusive love and closer to our neighbours,](#)

[Draw us nearer to your peace and to those caught up in conflict. God of light and love](#)

we pause in silence to remember all who are on our hearts..... And now we pray together

Our Father in heaven

Offering Song: TiS 276 [There's a light](#)

1. There's a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring
when our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King;
weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long,
but his triumph day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.
2. There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air,
and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer:
for the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,
and the travail of our spirit is the travail of his own.
3. He is breaking down the barriers, he is casting up the way,
he is calling for his angels to build up the gates of day:
but his angels here are human, not the shining hosts above;
for the drum-beats of his army are the heart-beats of our love.
4. Hark, we hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell —
the great triumph song of Jesus, of our King, Immanuel:
Zion, go you forth to meet him; and, my soul, be swift to bring
all your finest and your dearest for the triumph of our King!

Henry Burton 1840–1930 alt.

Blessing:

Go into the world as those who follow the sovereign Lord of justice and peace,
go in hope and faith, believing that the reign of God will surely come.

Go with the blessing of the Holy One, Beginning, Core and End;

Go with the blessing of Christ Core from whom truth springs;

Go in the Spirit of love Whose reign is known in compassion and care.

Go, listen, for the truth in all you meet. Amen.

Song: TiS 231 [At the name of Jesus](#)

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now:
this the Father's pleasure
that we call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.3. In your hearts enthrone him,
there let him make new
all that is not holy,
all that is not true.
He is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Humbled for a season
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.4. When this same Lord Jesus
shall appear again
in his Father's glory,
there with him to reign,
then may we adore him,
all before him bow,
as our hearts confess him
King of Glory now. |
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Caroline Maria Noel 1817–77 alt.

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