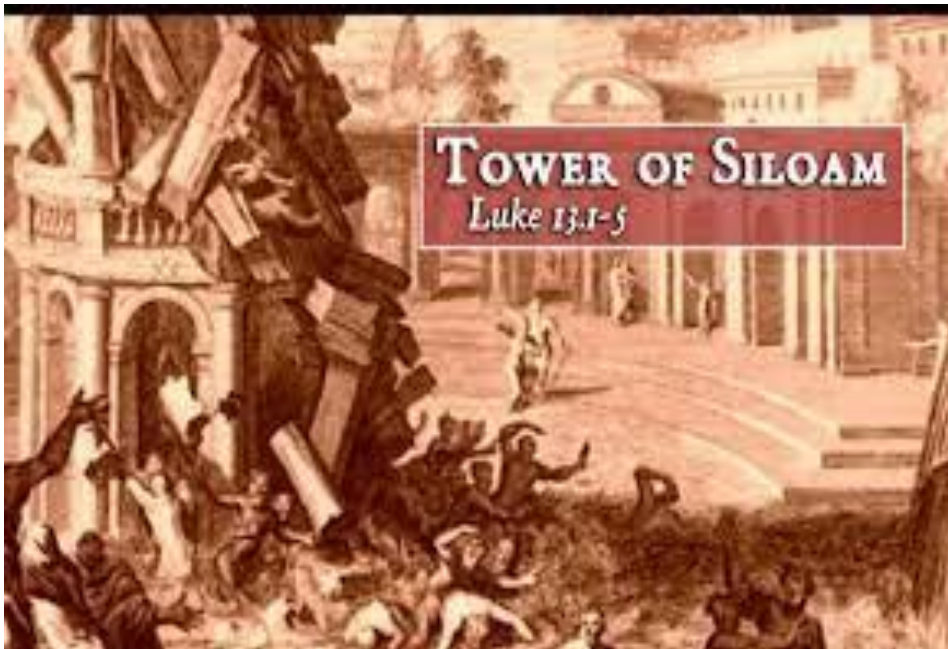


ORMOND UNITING CHURCH

Lent 3

20th March 2022



LENT – A TIME FOR REPENTANCE

WORSHIP AT HOME

This time is an opportunity to be still, seeking to be aware of the presence of God within.

Carve out a time for this practice; prepare yourself, as you might for a usual Sunday morning and remember that there are others from the congregation gathering at the same time as you. There are also many from the church around the globe who are gathering to seek the presence of God as we are.

Prepare a space in the house; find a comfortable chair, light a candle, turn off distracting noises and close the door if that will help you to be still. This is something that does not need to be hurried.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
And also with you

Call to Worship

I have based our call to worship this morning on the following reflection by Michael McGirr on the Third Sunday of Lent, in his book, 'This Cup We Bless,' which we are reading through Lent. He reflects on the story of the Woman at The Well (John 4:5-42)

"Jesus relates to people just as he found them. He did not see society as a collection of identical beings, all of us exactly the same, as if we were cheap cups produced in enormous quantities and sold at a cheap price. Scripture prefers the image of the potter at work at a wheel. Each of us is a work of art. Each of us has a special beauty and also faults unique to ourselves. Nowhere is this more apparent than the timeless story of the woman at the well. Her community saw her in terms of stereotypes. That is why she is alone. She does not fit their mould. Even Jesus' friends want to box her into a category: she is a Samaritan. But Jesus spends time with her. He listens to her. By asking her for a drink, he enters into a relationship where he is not the powerful one. As she re-joins her village, she says, 'come and see a man who told me everything I ever did.' Jesus is highly intuitive. The woman finds her place in community by accepting her own unique and painful story."

Let us worship this one who travels towards the cross; the one who truly knows us and invites each and every one of us, to travel with him on the road to true self-knowledge.

'come and see a man who told me everything I ever did.'

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

From before recorded time, the First Peoples cared for this Land. We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and honour those who have offered themselves in tending it.

We acknowledge the Elders and communities who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.

We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to worship in this place which we call church: our church place. For Jesus place was important. In particular, he looked towards Jerusalem as a place of significance in his life and the life of the world. He knew his destiny and the destiny of the whole Created Order was associated closely with him and that city. The season of Lent has us travelling towards Jerusalem. Last week Jesus lamented the rejection of prophets and seers by Jerusalem and this week he exposes more failure within Jerusalem: the 'blame game' – a game of condemnation and finger pointing and he calls those engaged in such behaviours to repentance. And what might that look like? Let's see.

Prayers of adoration, confession and forgiveness

Our land is alive with the glory of God
desert sands hum and gum trees dance.
Brown grasses sing
and mountains breathe their stillness.
All created things add their rhythms of delight
and even stones rap out their praise.

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;
may our hearts join the beat of her joy,
for our triune God is with us:
the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.
Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.
The Spirit moves within and between us.
Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

(Silence)

This house of prayer is a house of grace.
We gather here to learn our needs:
not to justify ourselves
but to say we are sorry,
not to cling to the familiar
but to risk the untested,
not to enjoy our own decency
but to worship a holy God –
repenting of our own shortcomings
not merely to practice positive thinking
but to be caught up in God's joy.

(Silence)

Together we say
**Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me to the way everlasting**

Uniting in Worship 2

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We do not deserve forgiveness, Lord, yet your love is so great, so unutterably immense, that your forgiveness and renewal is ours for the asking.

So, we ask

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

God of mercy, re-create your children as people of integrity, so that, discerning the true from the false, we may hold on to the Truth, revealed to us in all its fullness, in Jesus Christ.

Release us into the freedom of God's children, honouring Christ before all.

We pray in his name.

AMEN

Scripture read by Marg Davis

Your word O Lord, is a lamp to our feet

A light to our path

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 63: 1-8

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Word of the Lord

All praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection

Prayers of the People prepared by Heather Baxter

Let us pray

Creator God we pray for your magnificent creation – from the tiniest insect to the heights of amazing mountains, from colourful flowers to the still waters of billabongs. We watch with horror at the ferocity of floods on the east coast of Australia, and wonder at how we can be yet again in clean-up mode. We hear the voices of the people affected by these floods – we want united action on climate change, not a blame game.

Father God we pray for the people of the world who have no safe place to live: the refugees fleeing violence in Ukraine, the thousands of people in Australia who are sleeping rough in their cars and in parks, and the people who are caught up in poor aged-care arrangements. We know that in Australia we have failed to make homelessness and secure housing a priority for governments to address. God, help us to creatively imagine a new way of employing safe, affordable housing for all.

Jesus, our companion, we pray for the people who are desperately ill. For those affected by COVID, those facing unexpected health conditions, and those affected adversely by the aging process. Help us, Jesus, to become what you desire – people who are able to be your voice in this world that is sometimes terrifying to people who are in pain.

We pray for our politicians in Australia as they prepare for the Federal election. We desire parliamentarians that are honest, transparent in their actions, and lead all Australians to a better future, as well as show compassionate global leadership. Help us to do the hard work of listening and watching each candidate's proposals, and then help us to choose wisely as we cast our vote.

We pray in Jesus' name

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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

Dismissal

Go now to all to whom God sends you,
and speak whatever words God gives you.
Rejoice in the truth and do not be afraid.
Let all that you do and all that you say
be filled with love, for love never ends.

Blessing

Go in peace, for you do not go alone, God goes with you.
Go in peace to serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ
Amen.

Word of mission Marg Davis

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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NEWS AND NOTICES

ANDREW'S LEAVE

Andrew is currently taking a period of personal leave until **Tuesday 29th March 2022** and during this time we ask that any pastoral matters be referred to Heather Baxter directly, and any administrative matters continue to be sent via the Church office at office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au or via the Church contact phone number on 0411 958 127. We ask that Andrew not be contacted directly via phone or email during this time.

WORSHIP DURING THE DEMOLITION PHASE

The worship service for this weekend **20 March 2022 will be held face to face at the Ormond Church.**

POSTPONEMENT OF ORMOND LEARNING HUB COURSE (READING LUKE'S PASSION)

Please note: the March Learning Hub Course "Reading Luke's passion" has been postponed until further notice – a future date for the course will be determined in time.

LADIES LET'S DO LUNCH!

Calling all ladies for a much needed get-together, chat & some delicious food!

WHERE: Bay Rd Nursery , 114 Bay Rd. Sandringham

WHEN: Thursday 24th March

TIME: 12.30pm

RSVP: Monday 21st March

(Let me know if you need a lift)

From your Foodie Friend,

Anne Barry 0421 074 033

UNITING WORLD – LENT EVENT



Please refer to the UnitingWorld link [here](#) for some more information around the LENT EVENT

Lent Event calls you to join other Christians in a pledge to give up or take up something in solidarity with those who live with less. Learn about how to be a good global neighbour and see the many ways to donate to support our work, knowing that every dollar is part of God's mission in the world, ending poverty and building hope.

EAST COAST of AUSTRALIA - FLOODING EMERGENCY APPEAL

The recent floods in southern Queensland and NSW have been truly devastating in their magnitude and destruction. As is so often the case, the Uniting Church is stepping up to support individuals and communities affected by such disasters. Below you will find details of the National appeals from the Vic/Tas Moderator

Rev. Denise Lersch and National President Rev. Sharon Hollis to support the work of the Assembly in flood relief efforts. If you are able to contribute there is a button which takes you to a site where you can make a financial contribution to this work.

You will find the link [here](#) (press ctrl key and click mouse) for the national appeal launched by Uniting Church in Australia President, Rev Sharon Hollis.

ACT FOR PEACE – UKRAINE CRISIS



UKRAINE CRISIS EMERGENCY APPEAL

The shocking Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis unlike anything seen in Europe since World War II. Millions of people could become refugees, forced from their homes and their loved ones.

Please give what you can today to help provide urgently needed food, medicine and temporary shelter to displaced families.

PLEASE GIVE URGENTLY

CALL: 1800 025 101
AFP.ORG.AU/UKRAINECRISIS

ACT FOR PEACE
 CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER THROUGH THE **actalliance**

The international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia | ABN 86 619 970 188

As we are all aware, the crisis in the Ukraine has been devastating. Please refer to the link [here](#) (Cntrl & click mouse) for more information and for the many ways to donate and help this appeal.

ROSTER for Sunday 27th March 2022

READING	Kristina Parish	
PRAYERS	Warwick Barry	
DOOR DUTY	Lorraine Denniston	David Northwood

SOUND	Neville Parker	
RESOURCES DELIVERY	Warwick Barry	