



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

25th April Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

Anzac Day

I saw a kid marchin' with medals on his chest.
 He marched alongside Diggers marching six abreast.
 He knew that it was ANZAC Day - he walked along with pride.
 He did his best to keep in step with the Diggers by his side.
 And when the march was over the kid was rather tired.
 A Digger said "Whose medals, son?" to which the kid replied:
 "They belong to daddy, but he did not come back.
 He died up in New Guinea on a lonely jungle track".
 The kid looked rather sad then and a tear came to his eye.
 The Digger said "Don't cry my son and I will tell you why.
 Your daddy marched with us today - all the blooming way.
 We Diggers know that he was there - it's like that on ANZAC Day".
 The kid looked rather puzzled and didn't understand,
 But the Digger went on talking and started to wave his hand.
 "For this great land we live in, there's a price we have to pay
 For we all love fun and merriment in this country where we live.
 The price was that some soldier his precious life must give.
 For you to go to school my lad and worship God at will,
 Someone had to pay the price so the Diggers paid the bill.
 Your daddy died for us my son - for all things good and true.
 I wonder if you understand the things I've said to you".
 The kid looked up at the Digger - just for a little while
 And with a changed expression, said, with a lovely smile:
 "I know my dad marched here today - this is ANZAC Day.
 I know he did. I know he did, all the bloomin' way".

D. Hunter
 (A veteran of Shaggy Ridge with the 2/12 Battalion in WW2)

"The inquisitive mind of a child"

Why are they selling poppies,
 Mummy?
 Selling poppies in town today.
 The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
 For the men who marched away.
 But why have they chosen a poppy,
 Mummy?
 Why not a beautiful rose?
 Because my child, men fought and died
 In the fields where the poppies grow.
 But why are the poppies so red,
 Mummy?
 Why are the poppies so red?
 Red is the colour of blood, my child.
 The blood that our soldiers shed.
 The heart of the poppy is black
 Mummy.
 Why does it have to be black?
 Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
 For the men who never came back.
 But why, Mummy are you crying so?
 Your tears are giving you pain.
 My tears are my fears for you my child.
 For the world is forgetting again.

In Flanders fields

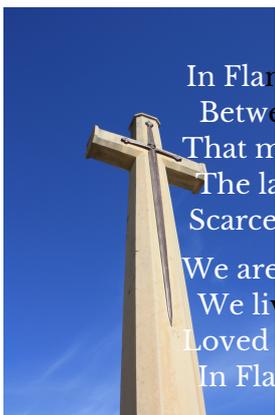
Author Unknown

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place: and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

John McCrae (1872-1918)





Belmont Uniting Church April/May Roster 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Apr 25	10.00am	Rev. Narelle Collas	J. Ferguson	H. McCann	J. Cocking E. Wood	L. McCann	B. Jennings	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
Apr 25	N/A	H. McCann

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
May 2	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	D. Stephens	N. Phillips	H. McCann G. Coomber	B. Vaitohi	D. Zucarro	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
May 2	L. Moss A. Merritt J. Jeffers R. Pearson	H. McCann

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
May 9	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	J. Jeffers	L. Yates	L. Jackson A. Merritt	B. Vaitohi	B. Jones	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
May 9	N/A	B. Coomber

If for any reason you are unable to attend your rostered duty, please endeavour to swap with anyone & contact the worship leader and the Newsletter Editor too.

FAITH SHARING

The Faith Sharing Group re-commenced (after the pandemic shut down) on Tuesday 13th April and is still seeking new participants. It meets from 10am until 11.30am every Tuesday in the church hall to discuss the lectionary readings set for the week. It is an opportunity to learn, grow and share with others in the church. You will be warmly welcomed.



Coffee after Church Service



If you would like to order a take away coffee or a cup of hot chocolate this Sunday, see Jeannine Oman in foyer when you arrive.

Cafe CBD will prepare your order to be ready by the end of our worship service.

→ **PLEASE NOTE** ←
There will be a trial Morning Tea from our kitchen after the service on Sunday May 1st

Social distancing still applies at our church service.

Face Masks are still required to be worn during hymn singing.

Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to live out our faith day by day, to live righteously, letting our actions be consistent with our beliefs. May our lives reflect Your love and truth.

ANZAC Day is an opportunity to remember men and women who sacrificed their lives during war times. We pray for world peace and world leaders not to be concerned with spending millions of dollars on weapons of mass destruction.

Dear God, we thank You for all that You created. Help us to delight in the beauty of nature and all aspects of Your creation. May we take time to enjoy all that You have provided for us, including the stillness and silence of night - time.

Peter Woods



Belmont Uniting Evening Fellowship

THIS WEDNESDAY - 7:30pm 28th April

Guest Speaker - Ian Henricus
"Cycling in France" (All Welcome)



Blume's Fashion Show

Wednesday 12th May @10:00am

Glen Coomber - Guest Speaker

7:30pm Wednesday May 26th
"Calligraphy & Candles" (All Welcome)

Lectionary Readings

April 25 - Easter 4

Acts 4: 5 - 12

Psalm 23

1 Jn 3: 16 - 24

Jn 10: 11 - 18

April 2021

May 2 - Easter 5

Acts 8: 26 - 40

Psalm 22: 25 - 31

1 Jn 4: 7 - 21

Jn 15: 1 - 8

May 9 - Easter 6

Acts 10: 44 - 48

Psalm 98

1 Jn 5: 1 - 6

Jn 15: 9 - 17

May 13 - Ascension Day

Acts 1: 1 - 11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Eph 1: 15 - 23

Lk 24: 44 - 53

Combined Pentecost Service on May 23rd at 3 pm at Western Heights UCA.



For further information please contact Narelle or the Co-Editor Ray Ferguson

Rev. Narelle Collas
Presbytery Minister
Presbytery of Port Phillip West

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Here is the list of songs that will be sung during the service.

Theme Song: Hearts on Fire – Michael Mangan (Australian)

Holy Spirit Come – Geoff Bullock (Australian)- found In the ‘Source’ music books and other music books

Holy Spirit, Living Breath - a modern hymn from the UK - in the ‘Source’ music books

We are one in the Spirit

The Spirit lives to set us free

The Lord Bless you and Keep You (new blessing song from the UK)

Filled with the Spirits Power TIS 411

She sits like a Bird TIS 418



Peace be with you!



And also with you!

Some thoughts from John 10 verses 11 - 18

In what ways does the image of ‘good shepherd’ resonate with me? In what ways do I struggle with this image? Recall times in life when you have been ‘shepherded.’ Have I ever seen myself as a shepherd?

Have I been called to give my life for another? In what ways have I given my life for others? ‘Men and women for others.’ How do I understand this statement of Jesus that he gave his life for me, for us, for the world? Out of love!

Do I believe Jesus? Do I believe that he loves me so much that he will give his life for me? He tells me that he is the good shepherd and will never allow real harm to come to me.

I am being invited to trust Jesus in all the events of my life. I think about those areas of my life where I find it hard to trust God. I talk to Jesus about these things, and I listen to what he says to me.

Jesus is no hired hand: our relationship is based neither on commerce nor on my choice. He seeks only my lasting good. I pray for humility, that I may be led; for trust, that I may follow in faith; for purity of heart, that I may not be distracted from the Shepherd’s voice.

Sunday reminds us that we do not come to God alone - our worship draws us into community and identifies us as sheep of the Good Shepherd. Being thought of as a ‘sheep’ is not to demean, but to rescue us from thinking too much of ourselves. Jesus calls us to humility and trust, cautioning us against those who work only for what they get and warning against whatever might snatch or scatter us.

The shepherd keeps the sheep in view, regarding them and seeing beyond them. I ask God for the humility I need, that I might listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd, allowing him to lead me and trusting that he is leading others too - even if in ways I don’t understand.

We know leaders who want influence or money, who value their own reputation and life above that of their followers, and who can be bought. Such leaders are a sad mistake, and we live to regret giving them power. Lord, you are a fearless leader. Death has no terrors for you. You value the life of your followers above your own. You are not in it for the money, but you know me and love me.

(exerpts from Sacred Space)

He has risen!



He has risen indeed!