



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

28th March Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

Holy Week 2021: Theme "Walking with Jesus to the Cross"

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

From the beginning of Lent until now we have been preparing our hearts through repentance and self-examination as we journey with Jesus towards the cross. This Sunday, with the whole church, and Christians around the world, we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ entering Jerusalem. He was welcomed as King with palms and shouts of praise as we greet him as our King, though we know his crown of thorns, and his throne a Cross.

Therefore, our theme for this year's Holy Week "Walking with Jesus to the Cross" is an invitation to join together as we follow our Lord this Holy Week, from his triumphal entry to Jerusalem, through his suffering and death, to the glory of his resurrection.

On each day starting Monday of the Holy Week, every evening at 7.00pm, we will gather online via Zoom to read the selected readings, to reflect and pray together. Our hope is that, as a church, we would read this story together, and that we all would have a deeper sense of connection with Jesus as we move with him each day.

A Bit of Context

The account of Jesus' crucifixion takes place in Jerusalem approximately 33 AD during the Feast of Passover. At the time, Herod Antipas was ruling over Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. His father, Herod the Great, had undertaken a massive infrastructure overhaul during his reign, and many projects were still under construction. One such project was the rebuilding and expansion of the Jewish temple. (The first temple had been built by Solomon in 957 B.C. but had been destroyed during the 586 B.C. Babylonian invasion.) Herod the Great's expanded temple complex took up an area roughly equivalent to eight football fields.

The Feast of Passover was celebrated in the spring which goes all the way back to the Hebrew Passover before the exodus from Egypt. In Jesus' time, the Passover (which lasted for seven days) brought hundreds of thousands of people from all over the region into Jerusalem to offer sacrifices at the temple. A typical day would entail going to the markets to procure the animals required for the ceremonial cleansing, spending much of the day in the temple itself, carrying out the necessary rituals with the priests, then in the evening going out to the nearby towns and villages to find food and lodging. Between the Passover crowds and the ongoing construction, one can imagine that the whole area around Jerusalem was abuzz with activity.

The temple sat on the northeast side of the city with its outer wall just inside the wall of the city itself. Starting from the temple mount and looking east, the landscape sloped down into the Valley of Kidron before rising up again to a large hill known as the Mount of Olives. It was from here that Jesus sat in the evening with his disciples, watching the sun set over Jerusalem.

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

—Luke 9:51

PLEASE NOTE

Good Friday Service: 2 April - 10.00am (in-church)
Easter Sunday Service: 4 April - 10.00am (in-church)

Topic: Holy Week Devotions: Monday 29 – Saturday 3rd of April 2021

<https://zoom.us/j/94092469280?pwd=dnV6VlVhKzY0WERaU0lmc0N3bkRZUT09>

Meeting ID: 940 9246 9280 - Passcode: 1234



Belmont Uniting Church March/April Roster 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Mar 28	10.00am	Rev. Ikani Vaitohi	L. Jackson	G. Allen	R. Bunting E. Richards	R. Ferguson	M. Richards	A. Ingles

Date	Communion	Flowers
Mar 28	N/A	J. Jeffers

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Apr 2	10.00am	Rev. Ikani Vaitohi	H. McCann	C. Rankin	J. Oman V. Matthewson	L. McCann	B. Jones	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
Apr 2	N/A	B. Pullin

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Apr 4	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	A. Merritt	R. Pearson	R. Buckwell T. Jepson	L. McCann	D. Zucarro	C. Collins

Date	Communion	Flowers
Apr 4	R. Ferguson J. Ferguson T. Yates H. McCann	B. Pullin

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

Prayer Group on Zoom

You are welcome to join our minister in his weekly morning prayers, praying for our community and the world.

Time - Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7.00 – 7.30am

Prayer requests: Write your prayer requests on the Prayer Request Book available in the Church foyer.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93397494266?pwd=MIkFRMUZCQVl3SjVtWjQwOGY4bnN6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 933 9749 4266, Passcode: 1234



PLEASE NOTE

**Annual General Meeting
Sunday 28th March**



Presbytery Pastoral Care Seminars

16 Apr - Friday 9:30am-12:30pm
22 Apr - Thursday 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Speak with Ikani for details



Prayer Points For the Week

On Palm Sunday, Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey on a journey of peace and love. Dear Lord, may we experience through our own faith journey a deeper and better understanding of Your peace and love.

Loving God, we pray as we approach Easter that this may be an exciting time for us as Christians as we reflect on Jesus' life, ministry and His triumphant victory over death.

Dear Lord, we pray for all people affected by the floods during the week. We are thankful for the SES and other emergency workers who have helped farmers, home owners, residents and shop keepers to overcome flood waters, damaged buildings and in the recovery of animals.

Peter Woods



Belmont Uniting Evening Fellowship

Advance Notices - 7:30pm Wednesday 28th April



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

7:30pm Wednesday 26th May
Guest Speaker - Glen Coomber

"Calligraphy & Candles" (All Welcome)



Lectionary Reading

March 28 - Palm Sunday	March 29 - Holy Week	March 29 - Holy Week	March 30 - Holy Week
Is 50: 4 - 9	Is 42: 1 - 9	Is 42: 1 - 9	Is 49: 1 - 7
Psalms 31: 9 - 16	Psalms 36: 5 - 11	Psalms 36: 5 - 11	Psalms 71: 1 - 14
Phil 2: 5 - 11	Heb 9: 11 - 15	Heb 9: 11 - 15	1 Cor 1: 18 - 31
Mk 14: 1 - 15	Jn 12: 1 - 11	Jn 12: 1 - 11	Jn 12: 20 - 36

Last Sunday's Harvest Thanksgiving Service resulted in 200 kg of food and other items being delivered to Uniting Barwon at Grovedale, plus Food Vouchers worth \$590.

This is an outstanding and overwhelming result! Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way at all. It is noted that a quantity of food and money was generously donated by members who can no longer attend Sunday services but who are still very much part of our outreach ministry.

As a congregation of believers, we certainly strive to reach out and spread God's love with a tangible message of HOPE.

On behalf of the Mission and Outreach Committee, Jean Murray.

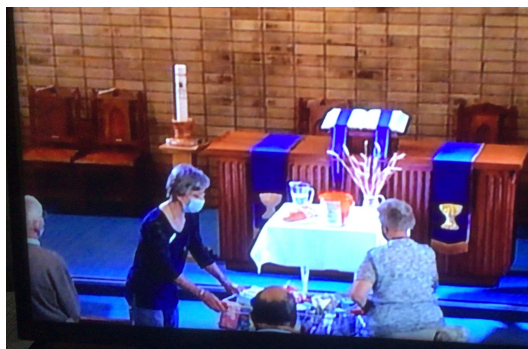


Photo - Geoff Schneider



Photo - John Wilson



Photo - Geoff Schneider

FAITH SHARING

The Faith Sharing Group is recommencing (after the pandemic shut down) on Tuesday 13th April and hoping for 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 would 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, you will need to write your name and what you wish to order on a piece of paper to hand in when you arrive.

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

LADIES EVENING FELLOWSHIP

Last month Lorraine Lietch gave a great talk on her life-she has learned and studied so much - it was fascinating.

Last Wednesday Jean Murray spoke at Ladies Evening Fellowship. It was such an interesting topic 'People I Have Met or Nearly Met on my Life's Journey.' One of these people was Weary Dunlop who spoke years ago at Morongo telling the girls they needed to have real heroes in their lives. What a hero he was! Some other people included the Kaiser family from Germany who came to Geelong, the Ngo family who came here from Vietnam, Swedish hero Raoul Wallenberg who saved thousands from Death Camps, Missionary and athlete Eric Liddell and brave Matt - a student of Jean's. Fascinating talk

.....

LANCE MATHESON TRIBUTE

There is a lovely tribute to Lance Matheson in the Bushikori Newsletter. He was a founding member of the Aust Support Committee and a valued member for 22 years. The last sentence says 'The wisdom, kindness and deep faith Lance had will be greatly missed.'



Jesus entering Jerusalem



The trial



The Crucifixion



The Resurrection