



# BELMONT UNITING CHURCH



14th November Weekly Newsletter 2021

**2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE**

**THIS SUNDAY  
14TH NOVEMBER  
@ 10:00 AM**

**Were  
Back**

**THE  
NEWS TEAM ARE  
EXCITED,  
ARE YOU?**

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**'Let us provoke one another to love and good deeds' ~ Hebrew 10:11-18**

Welcome back! A couple of words I overheard were mentioned a few times as people exchanged greetings with each other last Sunday. What wonderful and joyous moments for the people of God to gather in person once more to worship and share fellowship after the service.

COVID 19 restrictions and isolation have awakened in us a dissatisfaction with being on our own and a deep restlessness for the other. In every cell of our bodies and the very DNA of our souls, we ache for connection again. Our lives are incomplete without God, our family, community, and friends and God is the hand behind this "intolerable shirt of flame," as T.S Elliot puts it.



That longing for the other comes from the way God made us, namely, to crave for and to be dissatisfied with being alone. But to constantly seek out God and each other, as Augustine puts it: "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." In other words, this is why God made us in this way that we will never be satisfied with anything less than being in a relationship with God and each other.

In one of my home congregations before joining the ministry I heard someone's remark that "We don't go to church, for on Sundays we turn on the television, and in our religious programs, we just have ourselves church right here. "In fact, he continued, "we feel a lot more religious right here in our living room in front of the TV on Sunday morning than we do when we are at church."

And I could see his point. Can you? After all, who doesn't feel more 'religious' sitting alone in the safe cocoon of your living room, watching preachers who always soothe and comfort and never offend, or ...

*cont... p.2*



... sitting alone where there is no one sitting beside you on the pew to challenge you or make you uncomfortable. It is certainly safer and easier at home. I wonder if that is why the writers to the Hebrews in this week's lectionary say, "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together..."?

The word 'provoke' is used in the Old Testament when the divine patience wears thin and "the Almighty was provoked." In first Corinthians 13, "Love is not irritable" is the same word. The context of its use in our reading from Hebrews here leads us to believe that the church is in crisis. Some members had left in disgust, and some of its leaders were not who they ought to be. And the solution offered for a church in such a situation is to provoke each other to love and do good things. Being in a community of faith demands of us that level of honest and intentional engagement in love with each other and with God. It is a guarantee that we will never be satisfied with anything less when we gather each Sunday to worship.

May I offer you my sincere thanks and gratitude for how we continue to gather in fellowship, expressing care enough to provoke each other in love as a community and koinonia of God seeking to do good works in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you are aware, I will be away for two weeks from the 15 of November to assist with our move from the manse into our family home in Melton. My family and I are looking forward to joining you again on the 29th of November.

Rev Ikani



## **Blue Christmas Service:**

**A service of remembrance, comfort and hope.**

**Sunday 5th of December at 3.00pm**

As a year comes close to its end, as we think about festivities to come, however they might look in this strange and disturbing year, we acknowledge that although many of us are filled with excitement and anticipation, for others, this can be a painful time.

As we emerge from the lockdowns, and upon reflection on our journey in the last two years, we are keenly aware of the impact of COVID 19 has had in our lives. The anguish of broken relationships, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of this 'happy family time'. And for some of us, this is our first Christmas without our loved one.

We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know that God is with us; Emmanuel.

Join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God is present with those who mourn, for those who grieve, for those who struggle. God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

All are welcome.





Since the terrible slaughter in WWI which shocked the world, on the 11th day at the 11th hour of the 11th month, we stop in silence to remember. So much loss, sacrifice and courage is represented in that silence. Respect and reverence. Grief for young lives, cut off in their prime. Raw personal memories for many. And it continues today.

Around the world there are names on memorials and shrines, in cities, towns and tiny country villages. According to custom, services are held, tributes made and wreaths laid.

There is another reason to pause and remember at this time. There are other very special names, not written on memorials in church, chapel or shrine, or in any public record anywhere. These are ordinary people like us, with personal names, homes and families, who have been obliterated from the face of the earth by murderous bombing, at the hands of evil men who control weapons of mass destruction. And now this happens in the very midst of our so-called civilised society. Some are killed in the name of religion.

Such is the force of destruction that whole families are obliterated from the face of the earth, as though they never were, leaving no mark nor imprint.

How will they be remembered, who have no memorial? The thought is overwhelming except, when we turn to scripture, tried and tested words of faith. We are encouraged to call God, Father, and to trust him as Jesus did. He spoke of the tiny sparrow, which falls to the ground mostly unnoticed. Save the assurance of the Lord, that not even the so-called seemingly unimportant is outside the Father's notice and care.

Remembrance is a reverent and thankful calling to mind of the sacrifice, the courage and selflessness of generations of the past, human tragedy and loss. It, equally, is a call to not let this count for nothing, nor to ignore the lessons of history.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenged his disciples with a radical approach to conflict. Awareness of spiritual poverty, humility, purity of motive, forgiveness and mercy, with love, even for enemies, and working for peace, and right behaviour to others, are what God requires. With such commitment they will be salt of the earth and light to the world. Remembrance Day is enshrined in sacred memory. But with it comes a challenge to make the ideals of the Sermon on the Mount, real for life on the plain.

## MORE MONEY FOR MISSION

God calls us to be wise and generous stewards of the resources with which we have been blessed.

The UCA Vic Tas now provides a new opportunity for congregations to more fully live into this calling by transitioning real estate assets into shares in an ethical fund.

For further information visit: <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/money-for-mission/>

# Worship At Home

## Acknowledgement of Country

We, the people of Belmont Uniting Church acknowledge the Wauthaurong Peoples, the first inhabitants of the land we live and worship since time beyond remembering. We acknowledge that through this land, God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

## Beyond Destruction

### A Prayer of Approach

Lord of all the world, with you beside us, we cannot be shaken. Guided by your wisdom, we will not be afraid. With your path before us, we will walk in hope. With you as our God, we will rejoice. Amen.

### Notes on the Bible readings

**Mark 13.1-8 ~ Hebrews 10.11-14,(15-18),19-25~Daniel 12.1-3**

We can only speculate as to whether the comment of the disciple in Mark 13.1 is the awe-inspired utterance of a rustic youth in the big city, or simply an attempt to open a conversation on a safer topic. If the latter was the intention, it didn't work. Jesus responds with a prophecy of the destruction of Herod's magnificent Temple (v.2) which was the political and religious symbol of nationhood for the Jews. (This happened in AD 70, following the siege of Jerusalem, and historian Josephus records that 10,000 people were killed.)

Jesus goes on to warn his disciples of false prophets who will claim to be his representatives, before predicting the horrors – war, earthquakes, famine – that will comprise the 'birth pangs' of the kingdom. He indicates that there will be suffering, but this is the signal that something special is going to happen: God's new world is about to be born.

The Book of Daniel was written to encourage the Jews during a time of exile and persecution. Daniel 12.1-3 is a message of hope. God will be victorious after a time of tribulation and suffering. Michael appears as Israel's protecting angel, a symbol that ultimately God is in charge, rather than foreign rulers.

The apocalyptic language in these passages is not easy and has a contemporary resonance. Yet they both encourage faithfulness and promise hope beyond the destruction. The 'birth pangs' Jesus speaks of are the signs of new life.

### A Prayer for Others

We pray for leaders everywhere: for the leaders of the world's most powerful nations... for the leaders of the poorest nations... for the leaders of our own nation... for the leaders of our churches...

May they be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion. We pray for those entrusted with great responsibilities: in hospitals...in schools...in care homes... May they be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion. We pray for those who influence and inspire others: pop stars...actors...sports men and women...writers...artists... storytellers... May they be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion. And we pray for one another and for ourselves, that as we live out our lives, we too may be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion. Amen.

### A Personal Prayer

Loving God, I place into your hands: all my fears about the state of the world; all my despair at the violence within the world; all my concerns about the fragility of the environment; all my worries about my own life; all my doubts that you will stay faithful to your people. Loving God, I place into your hands today, tomorrow and all time. Amen.

## Questions for reflection

- ▶ Is this image messy or beautiful?
- ▶ Where do you see messiness and beauty in the world today?
- ▶ How does your faith give you resilience?

### Live your faith

Each day this week, think of one thing and one person (different each day!) that you rely on, and thank God for them both.






**ROSTER BELOW IS DEPENDENT ON DOUBLE VACCINATIONS**


Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Nov 14	10.00am	Rev Ikani	J. Jeffers	L. Yates	L. Jackson	R. Ferguson	B. Jones	L. Rankin
A. Merritt								
Nov 14	<b>Communion</b>		<b>Flowers</b>		<b>Morning Tea</b>			
	N/A		E. Wood		R. & J. Ferguson			
F. Vaitohi								
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Nov 21	10.00am	L. Leitch	S. Jennings	L. Moss	B. Couper	R. Ferguson	B. Vaitohi	L. Rankin
Richard Buckwell								
Nov 21	<b>Communion</b>		<b>Flowers</b>		<b>Morning Tea</b>			
	N/A		E. Wood		S. & B. Jennings			
E. Wood								
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Nov 28	10.00am	G. Coomber	Ros Buckwell	D. Zucarro	R. Jeffers	R. Ferguson	G. Schneider	L. Rankin
J. Jeffers								
Nov 28	<b>Communion</b>		<b>Flowers</b>		<b>Morning Tea</b>			
	N/A		E. Richards		A. & R. Bunting			
M. Bullock								

Thank you to these willing people for keeping our Church services going. If you need to swap please endeavour to do so or if finding it difficult phone Julie 0418996592

## Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Lord, You are the Light of the World and we declare You to be Lord over every nation. We pray for the establishment of Your Kingdom on earth and help us to be people through whom Your Light shines and through whom You touch the world.

Dear Heavenly Father, at present it is so easy to be full of fear and doubt as we live in difficult times. Help us to know that You are our rock and refuge; may we trust You each day for You alone are our hope and security.

Loving Jesus, You taught us to be peacemakers. Help us to know the importance of forgiveness and peace in our own lives as we reach out to touch the lives of other people.

*Peter Woods*

## Lectionary Readings

Nov 14 - Pentecost 25  
 1 Sm 1: 4 - 20  
 1 Sm 2: 1 - 10  
 Heb 10: 11- 14, (15 - 18)  
 Mk 13: 1 - 8

Nov 21 - Christ the King  
 2 Sm 23: 1 - 7  
 Psalm 132: 1 - 12, (13 - 18)  
 Rv 1: 4b - 8  
 Jn 18: 33 - 37

Nov 28 - Advent 1  
 Jer 33: 14 - 16  
 Psalm 25: 1 - 10  
 1 Thes 3: 9 - 13  
 Lk 21: 25 - 36

Dec 5 - Advent 2  
 Mal 3: 1 - 4  
 Lk 1: 68 - 79  
 Phil 1: 3 - 11  
 Lk 3: 1 - 6

## Faith Sharing Group Restarts

The Faith Sharing Group has started once again, every Tuesday at 10 am in the Church Hall near the kitchen.

This group explores and discusses the weekly lectionary Bible readings, enjoying each other's insights and company with a cuppa beforehand.

All are warmly welcome.



Fundraiser for Bushikori Christian Centre, Uganda -  
What a Fantastic Result!!!

The Friends of Bushikori Committee, through Sue and Bill Jennings, offer sincere thanks to everyone who placed donations in their collection jars while enjoying tea or coffee during October, and to all those who brought their generous donations to the Drive-Thru last Saturday. All these gifts, plus the proceeds from the sale of tomato seedlings and fuchsia plants, totalled an amazing \$3,008. This was a combined project with St John's Anglican Church, Highton. Esther Cohen, a member of the Geelong Bushikori Committee writes: "We are so blessed by the prayers, fellowship and love demonstrated towards Bushikori by the members of the Belmont Uniting Church."



Fundraiser for Uniting - Also a Fantastic Result!!!

The Mission and Outreach Committee members are so grateful for the gifts of food, gift vouchers and cash so generously donated at the Drive-Thru last Saturday. Your generosity will provide over 120 kg of food and \$905 of gift vouchers this Christmas time, distributed through Uniting. The new Co-ordinator at Uniting was most impressed! Thank you to everyone who made the two fundraising events so successful.

For anyone who missed out, food collection will continue each Sunday during November.

WELL DONE EVERYONE, and thank you for your magnificent work and generosity in spreading the Good News and God's love in Uganda and Geelong this Christmas season.

Jean Murray on behalf of the Mission and Outreach Committee



## SCONES SCONES SCONES

Join the Social Justice Group on Sunday 21st November for morning tea after the service – scones. If you are able, we hope that you will contribute a small donation to support the Alola Foundation.

The Foundation was set up in Timor Leste to support women and children experiencing violence. It has expanded its aim and seeks financial help to educate young women and girls. Any money raised will go towards providing scholarships for girls. \$75 will keep a girl at school for a year.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PROGRESS AND SAFETY.





## Belmont Uniting Church Evening Fellowship

On Wednesday Oct 27th the ladies enjoyed their first meeting in the Church Hall for many months.

A delicious boxed lunch made by Dial-a-Lunch (DAL) was delivered by Ray Ferguson and we all had a great time catching up in person with each other. After lunch and a cuppa our meeting enabled us to catch up on much missed business and correspondence. It was so lovely to be back together again. The ladies were very pleased to be able to donate \$150 to the Alola Foundation who are raising money for education scholarships for girls in Timor Leste.

Our November and December meetings are to be announced. Stay tuned.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 21 November -	10.00am ~ Reign of Christ	-	Mrs Lorraine Leitch
Sunday 28 November -	10.00am ~ Advent 1	-	Mr Glen Coomber
Sunday 5 December -	10.00am ~ Advent 2 (Holy Communion)	-	Rev Ikani V
	3.00pm - Blue Christmas Service		~ Rev Ikani V
Sunday 12 December -	10.00am ~ Advent 3	-	Rev Ikani Vaitohi
Sunday 19 December -	10.00am. ~ Advent 4	-	Rev Ikani Vaitohi
	7.30 pm. - Christmas Carols Service	-	OASIS Group
Friday 24 December -	7.30pm - Christmas Eve Service	-	Rev Ikani Vaitohi
Saturday 25 December -	9.00am - Christmas Day Service.	-	Rev Ikani Vaitohi
Sunday 26 December -	9.00am - Christmas 1	-	TBA

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### Mark 1: 1 - 8

#### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"  
3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him."

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



# Remembrance Day Service

At 10.45am on Thursday November 11th a Remembrance Day Service was held here at our church near the flagpole.

Rev Ikani Vaitohi welcomed 34 adults and also 18 kindergarten children from next door. In his opening remarks he explained how the day came about and we all sang 'O God our Help in Ages Past.' Then followed three readings from Noel Carthew's book, "Voices from the Trenches-Letters to Home." These were read by Glen Coomber and Ray and Julie Ferguson.

The reading was John 15:12-13 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Following a prayer, Returned Vietnam Veteran Max Ingles, our own church member, read The Ode of Remembrance. Then Richard Buckwell rang the church bell to lead us into the Last Post and the 2 Minutes Silence. During The Rouse, Les McCann hoisted the half mast flag back to the masthead. Finally the National Anthem was sung and Ikani gave the blessing. Everyone then had a chance to place a poppy on the black cross and the kinder children did this very well. The cross and poppies were left in place for the rest of the day for passersby to add to the cross.

Thank you to all involved for a poignant service of witness in the community.





# **IMPORTANT NOTICES**

## **Changes to COVID-19 restrictions**

You are aware of the changes to restrictions that have occurred, which were prompted by vaccination targets being met.

The changes mean that we are able to meet together in worship, and that other church activities can now start up again. **We have now returned to in-person worship.**

The number of people who may attend religious gatherings in any part of Victoria depends on whether everyone present is fully vaccinated.

**Several things need to happen for us to return to in-person worship:**

1. Anyone attending a worship service needs to carry and show their vaccination certificate or exemption certificate. This can be held on your phone, or you can use a paper certificate. You will also need to scan in using the QR Code.
2. Numbers of people allowed in our church is currently limited to 90 fully vaccinated persons (including anyone with a medical exemption)
3. We are exploring options for in-person worship for people who are not vaccinated. These might include live broadcasting our church service, or offering a second service on a Sunday. The current restrictions state that only 30 people are permitted to attend a religious service if anyone present is unvaccinated.
4. If you perform any kind of volunteer work (on rosters) for the congregation, you must provide evidence of double-vaccination or a medical exemption. This includes: greeters, ushers, organists, readers, gardeners, morning tea servers, flower arrangers, office bearers and leaders of groups and children's activities, and Church Council members. This is because all of our church volunteers are considered to be "authorised workers".

### **What to do:**

If you are a volunteer – please send the following information to Ray Ferguson or Glen Coomber as soon as possible: Immunisation Certificate number ("Document Number"), date of 2nd immunisation, and type of vaccine received.

[someone/insert name here] will be at the church on [date] at [time] to receive this information if you are unable to email it.

If you are planning to attend worship – link your digital certificate to your Services Victoria app or Medicare Express app on your mobile phone. If you need a paper certificate, you can print one from your Medicare online account through myGov; you can contact the clinic where you were immunised and request a copy, or you can contact the Australian Immunisations Register on 1800 653 809 (Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm). If you have a medical exemption, you will need to bring this with you to worship.

If you have chosen not to be vaccinated, or are unable to be fully vaccinated at this time, please speak with Ikani as it will assist us in ensuring that everyone can participate in worship. This information will be treated in confidence.

### **More information:**

**Ray Ferguson / 0423922112 / rayjulie@internode.on.net**  
**Glen Coomber / 0408175984 / glengeel@yahoo.com.au**

# COVID-19 VICTORIA FAQs

METRO MELBOURNE AND REGIONAL VICTORIA | OCT 28, 2021



**As Victoria reaches the 80% fully vaccinated target, restrictions will ease from 6pm Friday October 29 when Regional Vic and Metro Melbourne will be under the same COVID restrictions.**

**The following will apply across all Victoria as of 6pm Oct 29, 2021. Changed restrictions shown in RED.**

- **Leaving Home** – There are no longer any restrictions on leaving home.
- **Intrastate Travel** – There are no longer any restrictions on travel within Victoria, including travel between Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria.
- **Masks (unless an exemption applies)** – Wearing face masks is now only mandatory in indoor settings. Masks must be carried at all times outside the home, but are no longer required to be worn outdoors except where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Visitors to the home** – up to 10 people per day, including dependants, may visit at home.
- **Public outdoor gatherings** – up to 30 people may gather outdoors. This does not include back yards or other outdoor areas of a private residence.
- **Religious gatherings and ceremonies (incl Weddings and Funerals)**
  - **If all attendees are fully vaccinated**, indoor gatherings are subject to a density quotient of one person per 4 square metres (no number caps). Up to 500 people may gather outdoors with a density quotient of one person per 2 square metres.
  - **If vaccination status not known for all attendees**, up to 30 people may attend subject to density quotient of one person per 4sqm.
  - **COVID check-in marshals** must ensure all attendees check-in and, if it is a service for the fully vaccinated, that all attendees over 16 have proof they are fully vaccinated or medically exempt. (see p4)

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### Religious gatherings and ceremonies

- **if all attendees are fully vaccinated**, the number of people who may attend is based on a density quotient of one person per 4 sqm indoors. Up to 500 people may attend outdoors with a density quotient of one person per 2 sqm
- **If the vaccination status of all attendees is not known**, up to 30 people may attend, with a density quotient of one person per 4sqm.
- **COVID check-in marshals** must ensure all attendees check-in and, if it is a service for the fully vaccinated, that all attendees over 16 have proof they are fully vaccinated or medically exempt. (see p4)

*As of 28/10/2021*

## Do face masks have to be worn at all times during worship?

Yes. Masks are currently mandatory in all settings, apart from at home, unless an individual has a valid reason for not wearing one. Ministers or other faith leaders may remove their masks whilst leading worship, as teaching/broadcasting/public speaking are valid exceptions.

## Can we gather for morning tea afterwards?

Yes, providing all attendees are fully vaccinated and density quotients are observed. All food and drink should be served, rather than available buffet style.

*As of 28/10/2021*

## Can we sing?

Singing is permitted, but facemasks must be worn at all times.

*As of 09/08/2021*

## Weddings

- **if all attendees are fully vaccinated**, the number of people who may attend an indoor wedding is determined by the density quotient of one person per 4sqm. Up to 500 people may attend an outdoor wedding subject to 1 person per 2sqm density.
- **If the vaccination status of all attendees is not known**, a cap of 30 people per wedding plus the marrying couple and those necessary to conduct the wedding. Children aged under 12 months are not included in the cap. A density quotient of one person per 4sqm applies.



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



## Hidden promises

### Mark 13.1-8

The disciples are so positive about how amazing the Temple looks, but Jesus warns them about what is to follow. He explains that there will be difficult times ahead. The disciples are keen to know when this might be and Jesus encourages them to always be looking out for these times of difficulty and always to be prepared.

Now read **Mark 13.1-8** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

We may find ourselves in difficult times in life. We know that life may not always be easy, but we also know that God will be with us at all times. Often, the difficulties we face have been faced by others before us, and we can benefit from their experience and support.

## A-MAZE-ING

Have you ever done a maze puzzle – or been in a real maze? Did you manage to get through it? Did you take any wrong turnings along the way or hit a dead end? Have a go at some maze puzzles – there are lots to try out, and you can print them too.

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/games/mazes.html>



Sometimes we may feel as though life is like a maze: we may not be sure which way to go or where to get help. Can you think of things that make you feel as if you've reached a dead end? Or where you are not sure which path to choose? Talk to God about those things, asking for help to guide you on the right path and/or find the right people to help you.

## LIGHT UP

Find out about this memorial cairn (do an internet search for 'Aignish cairn'). Why is it important to remember past events?

Do you have a light/torch on your phone? Each day, turn on the light/torch, sit by it and say these words (from Psalm 119): God's word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. If you don't have a phone, you could use a small torch, or a battery-operated tealight, or a bedside lamp. Ask God to help guide you on your path of life. If you write a journal, note down the times you have felt God guiding you.

## YOUR SHOES

On Remembrance Sunday, we think of the soldiers – and others – who faced very difficult times indeed. Part of soldiers' uniforms are the strong boots they wear to help them on their difficult paths. On a sheet of paper, draw round your shoe. Inside the shoe outline, write or draw times in your life that have been hard. Put a circle round those where you have known that God was with you, or when God provided someone to help you, or similar.



Create a path in your home or garden, using soft clothes or toys to make the edges. Make some parts narrow, others wide, with bends and straights. Put a few 'bumps' in the road to represent the difficulties in life that we may face. Walk your path from start to finish, slowly, heel to toe, stepping over the bumps. How many steps does it take you? What if you take bigger steps? Ask other people in your household or friends/neighbours to walk it – how many steps does it take them? Think about how you feel when you faced with the bumps (difficulties) of life? How might you ask God for help?

## WALK

Reach for your coat (it is November!) and go for a walk. Along the way, how many different colours can you see? Notice bright colours among the darker ones. Thank God for the world, for creation. Tell God about things happening in your life. Ask God to help you see glimpses of hope around you, and for people to walk with you in your darker moments. Pray for others facing difficult times.

# Children's Activities



## Mark 13.1-8

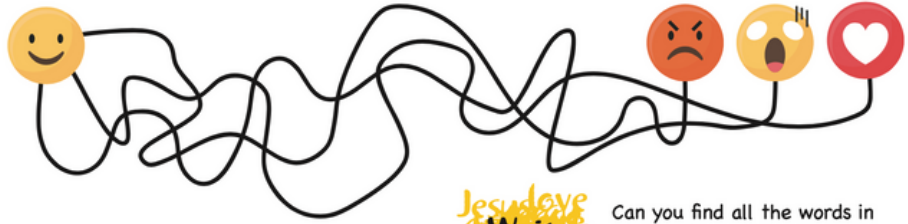
Jesus explains that there will be difficult times, but there is better to come.



Can you follow and colour in the path through the obstacles? Colour the obstacles in too.



When we face difficult times, we might get scared or angry. But God promises to always love us and never leave us, and this helps us through. Find the line that leads to God's love.



What does Jesus tell us not to be in difficult times? Colour the areas with a dot to find out.



Can you find all the words in the word search?

end, temple, difficult, beginning, fighting, afraid

t	l	w	n	b	e	o	h	n	a	i	n
q	o	e	l	e	n	u	y	a	g	l	i
z	a	m	n	u	d	z	s	g	o	m	n
t	e	m	p	l	e	b	n	x	p	f	y
a	n	z	a	f	l	i	l	t	n	i	g
q	s	s	s	y	n	m	o	n	u	g	h
x	k	w	t	n	w	a	h	a	j	h	t
n	a	o	i	u	a	h	b	i	d	t	v
o	h	g	t	l	u	c	i	f	f	i	d
d	e	b	t	f	l	a	k	r	e	n	e
b	v	n	a	f	r	a	i	d	p	g	c



**A**s they were leaving the Temple, one of Jesus' disciples said to him, 'Isn't this place amazing? Look at the size of the stones and the huge buildings!' Jesus replied, 'Don't be impressed by the way things look. These stones and these buildings won't last for ever. They will all be destroyed.'

Later, Peter, James and John came to Jesus privately and questioned him about what he had said.

'What did you mean when you said the Temple would be destroyed?' they asked. 'When is this going to happen?'

'Things are not always what they seem,' Jesus explained. 'Many will come pretending to be acting and working for me – and many will believe them, but you must not. They will come with warnings that the end of the world is coming and that my kingdom is close at hand. Indeed, it will seem so, for there will be terrible wars and fighting, and earthquakes and famines. But do not be afraid, for these things must take place, and the end won't happen immediately. These are just the birth pangs, the beginning of what is to come.'

Mark 13.1-8

### Did you know?

- A grand new Temple (place of worship), built by King Herod, was started in 19 BC but only completed in AD 64.
- When Jesus says, 'kingdom', he doesn't mean a place, but the power of God's love in people's lives.