



**16 JUNE 2024**

## Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary readings

**This week 16 June, 2024**

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
Psalm 20  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 4:26-34

**Next Sunday 23 June, 2024**

1 Samuel 17:(1a,4-11,19-23), 32-49  
or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16  
Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 133  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel. The study will be no. 6 "The 'secret' of true happiness".

## Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner

This year's Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner will be on Tuesday 27 August at Merrylands RSL in the Swan Room, commencing at 7pm. The guest speaker will be Angela Shanahan, freelance journalist and columnist with The Australian. Tickets are \$50 per person and include two-course meal and soft drinks. Please RSVP with dietary requirements by 13 August to Holroyd Combined Churches 9896 2514 or hmf@hnlc.org.au. Tickets can be purchased using the QR code on the brochure on the back notice board or at <https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/2024-cumberland-community-prayer-dinner>





### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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### **Being fully known and truly loved.**

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretence, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.”

— Timothy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*

In this week’s reading from 2 Corinthians Paul tells us that as a believer and follower of Christ he is truly known by God (2 Cor 5: 11). This is of great comfort to Paul who had been disregarded by the church he nurtured into existence at Corinth. When flashy charismatic preachers came into town many of the people at Corinth compared them to Paul and found him seriously lacking. What a betrayal.

This early church would have felt like his baby, and the way he speaks about them and to them often sounds just like a loving mother who both builds up and chastises her beloved children. If some of the believers had forgotten how sincere and caring Paul was in his ministry, his consolation was knowing that he was fully known by God.

As Timothy Keller rightly points out in the quote above, all of us need to feel fully known and truly loved to become the truest version of ourselves, secure in our own being and liberated from pretence. Throughout life and particularly in our younger years we will wear many faces. We will wear a certain face at home, at school, at work and at play and sometimes even at church. We often feel we need to behave, act and dress in a certain way to fit in, and we may pretend to be something we are not in order to seek approval, admiration or love. This never works out because it is absolutely exhausting trying to be someone you are not.

When we accept God’s all encompassing love we no longer have to compare ourselves to others, or try to be something other than our true self. We come to realise that God has made us perfectly unique, quirky and diverse. This, as Keller states above, means we lose any sense of self-righteousness, which is merely a prop to fill the ache of ‘not being enough’. How wonderful it is to be fully known and loved by God. God knows our hearts, and our true intentions, God even knows all about those things we may not ever wish to be brought out into the light and loves us still. Amazing!

You could say that we must lose the pretence and the false self that we create, in order to become a new person, liberated, humbled and fortified.

It is almost as if we cast of ‘ourselves’ as a butterfly casts of its cocoon, in order to become our true self. Jesus said as much, “If you want to follow me, you will have to die to self daily, and by dying, you actually live”.

