



30 JUNE 2024

Welcome

Welcome to church this morning. We will be looking at the pastoral life of our church and through some fun games we will get to know our pastoral cluster leaders.

These leaders are people you can reach out to for prayer and support. We will also be enjoying a delicious brunch as part of the service.

Lectionary readings

This week 30 June, 2024

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Next Sunday 7 July, 2024

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Rev. Gail on Study Leave.

Gail will be on mandatory study leave from 1-12 July, attending a course on Intercultural Ministry in Australia. For urgent matters please contact Sue at the office and/or leave a message on Gail's mobile 0407269162.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet this Tuesday at 3pm in the chapel. They are looking at Study 1: The beginning of wisdom, Proverbs 1:1-7.

Excerpt from Hand & Feet Newsletter June 2024

In my time at Hands & Feet, one amazing benefit of churches being involved in our programs that often goes unnoticed or unspoken about is the change in community perception.

Unfortunately, the church in Australia as a whole has had a lot of negative media, and some people see Christians as being hateful or discriminatory. We know that as Christians we are meant to be a representation of Christ on earth and these mercy ministries are changing people's perceptions back to being more Christ-like.

People are noticing that their local church is helping those in need, that their local church is loving people, and that their local church is concerned with the well-being of their community. But people aren't really noticing the food program. What they are noticing are the fruits of the spirit being lived out. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

They are noticing a group of people loving their community, joyfully and patiently serving, bringing peace to stressful lives. The community sees kindness and goodness for each hamper handed out, they see the churches turning up faithfully for the community with a gentleness and self-control that is rare in today's world. When a church is actively loving and serving its community the community sees Christ.

What an amazing opportunity to serve our communities and live out our faith in a real and practical way as we shine our lights so that others may see Christ

- Reuben Torrence



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Micah 6:8

What does the Lord require of us? Three things. That's all. To do justice. To love kindness. And to walk humbly with your God.

Walk Humbly with Your God

It starts there, doesn't it? With a personal relationship with God. With knowing in our heart of hearts that we are loved by God, and with wanting nothing more than returning that love. We spend time with our God; in prayer, in our daily devotions with God's Word and in worship. We look forward to those times when we are simply with God. But we do this humbly, recognizing that we don't deserve it. It is a gift. It is what God wants.

Love Kindness

We are meant to be in relationship, not just with God, but with one another. But not just any kind of relationship. A relationship built on love and kindness. Our words, our actions, they are always planting seeds. But what kind of seeds? Seeds of discontent? Of judgment? Of ridicule, or hatred, or division? Or seeds of kindness? Of love and unconditional acceptance? Seeds born out of a desire to listen, and to learn, and to understand those around us?

Do Justice

It's not enough to love God and to love our neighbour. We also must work toward justice for our neighbours who are being treated unfairly; who are being discriminated against; who are being judged and condemned, simply because of what they look like, or where they are born. Doing justice means that we can't just love people who look like us, and live like us. We are called to love all people, and we can't do that faithfully until we are working toward justice for all.

None of these three things, that the Lord requires, are any less important than any others. They all need each other and feed each other. God didn't require all three of these to make life more challenging. God required all three because they depend on each other. And when we are doing all three of these, we find we are blessed. We can rejoice and be glad. Because we are doing what the Lord requires.

And because it turns out that doing justice and loving kindness and walking humbly with God are not just what the Lord requires; they offer us a path to a meaningful and blessed life. The only life that is truly worth living.

James Laurence - mypastoralponderings.com