



25 AUGUST 2024

Welcome

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

Lectionary readings

This week 25 August, 2024

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30,41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Next Sunday 1 September, 2024 (Fathers' Day)

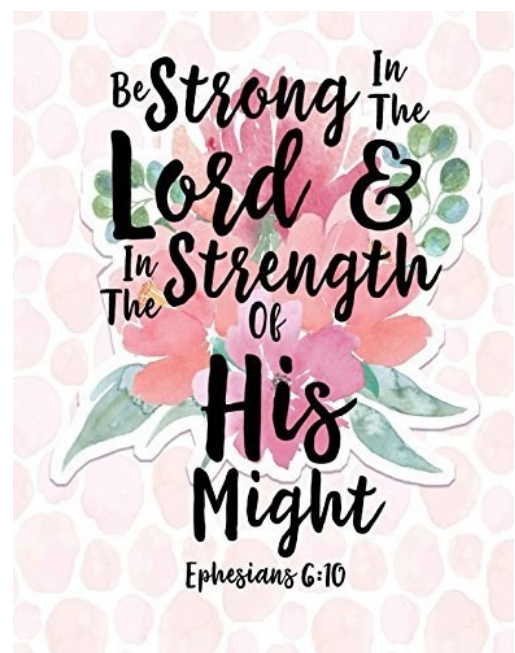
Song of Songs 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Fathers' Day Breakfast

Our Child Care Centre is hosting a Fathers' Day Breakfast this Thursday, 29 August, from 7.30am. This is a great opportunity to interact with the families of our Child Care Centre and we would encourage anyone who is available to come along and enjoy some breakfast and meet the families of our centre.

Soul Care Conference 2024

You're invited to 'Rediscover and Reimagine' pastoral care at this year's Soul Care Conference, 12-13 September at Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt St, Sydney. It's a time that promises to be rich in insights, shared understanding, practical take aways and wonderful fellowship with like-minded people. Great speakers like Kate Thornley and Dale Yardy are already lined up. You can find out more about the event and register at <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/soulcare-2024-12-13-september/>





Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162
revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au

Office Phone: 9636 3245

Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

You have the words of Eternal Life—John 6:68

This week we will read in John 6:66, that some of Jesus followers found his teachings too hard, too outrageous and too confusing. These perturbed disciples turn their back on Jesus and walk away because they had to make a decision either for or against Jesus; fence sitting was not an option, they had to be either all in or all out. Peter, however speaking on behalf of the other chosen disciples, affirms they are all in, "to whom would we go? You alone have the words of eternal life." Decision made! The extract below from Rev. Glenn McDonald provides an interesting insight into how it is we make the decision for Christ.

The power of getting off the fence is embodied by Henry Stanley, the American journalist who is chiefly remembered as one who, in 1871, having walked into a jungle clearing in central Africa, spotted a single, pale-skinned man and said, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

In his own right, however, he was also an explorer of uncharted territory in Africa. Until Stanley's extraordinary 1876 expedition, it is believed that no one – either inside or outside Africa – had ever been all the way down the treacherous Congo River, with its canyons, gorges, and cannibals. His trip took 999 days and was filled with unimaginable hardships.

One night was so difficult that Stanley realized he had to make a choice – either to keep going forward into the unknown, or to head back toward security. That night he approached his friend and helper Frank Pocock. "Now Frank, my son, sit down. I am about to have a long and serious chat with you. Life and death – yours and mine – hang on the decision I make tonight." What should they do?

Pocock and Stanley decided to flip a coin – an Indian rupee. Heads they would go forward; tails they would go home. The coin came up tails. Disappointed, they flipped the coin again. Tails. "How about three out of five?" Once again it was tails. The coin, in fact, came up tails six times in a row. The two men decided to draw straws – long straw to go forward, short straw to go back. Every time they drew, however, they picked the short straw.

Stanley and Pocock quickly realized that they had already made their decision. No matter what the coins or the straws "told them," in their hearts all they wanted to do was head down the Congo River into the Great Unknown. And so they did, making history in the process.

Peter didn't have to flip a coin or draw straws to determine whether or not he would follow Jesus. That was already settled in his heart.

"Lord, where else could I possibly go? The alternatives don't hold a candle to you. Count me in."

Way to go, Peter.

And may we be led to make the same choice.

<https://glennsreflections.com/index.php/2022/04/04/getting-off-the-fence>