



22 SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome

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

Lectionary readings

This week 22 September, 2024

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Next Sunday 29 September, 2024

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Worship next Sunday

Next Sunday morning we will be having a breakfast service around tables in the hall. This service will also include communion. More details are in Rev Gail's message on the back of the Grapevine

Hands And Feet Events

If you are interested in the work of Hands and Feet you might be interested in some events they are holding in the next few weeks.

Their annual Fundraiser event will be at Canterbury Leagues Club on October 17 from 7-10pm, and will showcase their work and the stories of some of their clients as well as a meal and live music, Tickets are \$89 (it's a fund-raiser after all!) and can be purchased through their website, handsandfeet.com.au

They are also hosting a conference on Wednesday 16 October at Kings Park Community Church, 1/13 Turbo Road Kings Park, from 7-9.30pm. The conference will look at ways churches can build strategies to help the people they serve develop and grow their relationships with Jesus. This evening will be free and includes supper and an opportunity to share with other churches about what they have learned through loving their community.

Register via the Hands and Feet website or via the QR codes on the posters on the back notice board.



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The Church as Salt

*Please note Holy Communion will be celebrated next week on the 29th September.

Today in worship we will continue thinking about salt as a metaphor for being the church, or as Rev. Sally describes us, a 'Jesus community'. Over the last few weeks we have considered the church as small yet powerful, like tiny grains of salt, and then thought about church as a safe place for salty tears, we were reminded that we are called to "weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice." This week we will focus on how the church embodies the qualities of "good, dark, salty wombs."

Next Sunday we will celebrate Communion together by partaking in a salty themed brunch so please come hungry enough to enjoy some light snacks. We will also sit around tables so that we can work together to make an artwork representing the church as salt.

Below is a recap of the last two weeks and some questions to get you thinking about the nature and purpose of being church.

The littleness of salt.

*the early church was not large or successful judged on modern day criteria, that is the false assumption that 'bigger is better'.

*the early church lived according to a counter cultural practice, 'radical generosity'.

* the core of being a worshipping community is to "build one another up in love and then go out to share this divine love in the world."

* we are not just Sunday Christians, we live out the core of being church wherever we are, at work, at leisure, at the supermarket, on the train or bus, everywhere, every day.

Salty tears.

*Jesus wept with his friends Mary and Martha as they mourned the loss of their brother Lazarus. Sitting with another's sadness requires no lofty words, advice or the need to be another's "Messiah". We do not need to fix one another, rather we can appreciate one another's brokenness and hold space to lovingly listen.

* We do not need to pretend "everything is awesome". Being sad does not make you a bad Christian or mean that your faith is second rate.

* Half of all the Psalms contain 'laments' which are prayers to God expressing deep sadness including things like, the grief of illness, being in the dark pit of depression, suffering insomnia, and the shame of being unfairly treated or victimised.

*God is the collector of our tears who promises to wipe every tear from every eye in the final reconciliation of all things. (Psalm 56:8-11 and Revelation 7:17)

Questions

What images traditionally come to mind for you when you think about the church?

What do you think is core to being church?

How might you, and your church community, engage with creating spaces for lament?