



**29 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us. This morning we are having brunch during the service and also celebrating Holy Communion. We will also be looking at what we have learnt from the last four weeks looking at The Church As Salt.

## Lectionary readings

### This week 29 September, 2024

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

### Next Sunday 6 October, 2024

Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
Psalm 26  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

## Thank You

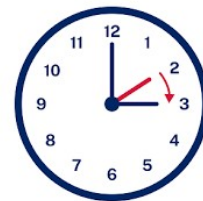
Thank you to Rhonda, one of our Op Shop & Hands & Feet volunteers for donating a new urn for the kitchen.

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon in the chapel at 3pm. They will be looking at Study 7 in their series, "A Humble Heart" Proverbs 30:1-33.

## Daylight Saving Reminder

Daylight Saving starts next Sunday 6th October so remember to put your clock forward on Saturday night, or you might be late for church!



People don't enjoy salt. They enjoy what is salted. We are the salt of the earth. We do not exist for ourselves.

John Piper

quotation



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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In the book, *The Church as Salt*, Rev. Sally writes about our call to serve God in the margins. Jesus, she reminds us, chose "again and again to go to the margins, feasting with and befriending those who (were) considered the nobodies and the failures." Taking inspiration from Matthew 25:31-46, a parable in which Jesus identifies with the those on the margins, (outsiders, the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the poor and the imprisoned), Sally tells the following story:

A young ministry candidate Natalie Dixon-Monu was struggling with her call to ministry and "felt bamboozled, wondering why she hadn't been taught theology in church before and what ministry was really about". Natalie was placed as a student in a Parish mission, a centre that served people experiencing homelessness and mental illness.

Natalie, feeling unsure about so many things, prayed to God,  
"Where are you God? I don't even know where you are anymore and how the hell am I meant to be here, as a student minister on placement, somehow embodying your presence to these people, when I don't even know if you exist anymore? Do you exist? I don't know? Where the hell are you?"

As Natalie was in the middle of having this conversation with God, a guy entered the centre and bounced up to Natalie. She immediately recognised signs of Schizophrenia...When Natalie greeted him, asking 'how are you?' He replied,

Good thanks. I have just seen Jesus.

Looking back now, Natalie reflects on her lack of experience at the time "I must have given him a look of 'oh somebody is probably not very well". In response the man stopped and looked at Natalie and spoke with unnerving clarity and wisdom, He said to her:

No, no , no, no. You look at the eyes of the people in this room and tell me you do not see Jesus.

Natalie says, "I was told."

I was told, "You want to know where I am? I am right in the very people in front of your eyes. That is the embodied Christ. From that day on, that has been my experience throughout ministry.

Sally goes on to conclude that "To engage in being church on the margins is to recognise that God is already there. We do not take God in a box with us. We are not the heroes.

Instead with utter humility and openness, we are called to be tuned in to Christ's presence and to what the Spirit is already birthing on the edges and to humbly join in."

Amen to that! Peace, Rev. Gail.