



6 OCTOBER 2024

Welcome

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

Lectionary readings

This week 6 October, 2024

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

Next Sunday 13 October, 2024

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Save the Date

We are planning another **Book Sale** for Saturday 30th November from 8-12. As well as books, we will also be selling items from the craft group and a collection of dolls donated by craft group members. Please put the date in your diary and plan to be there.

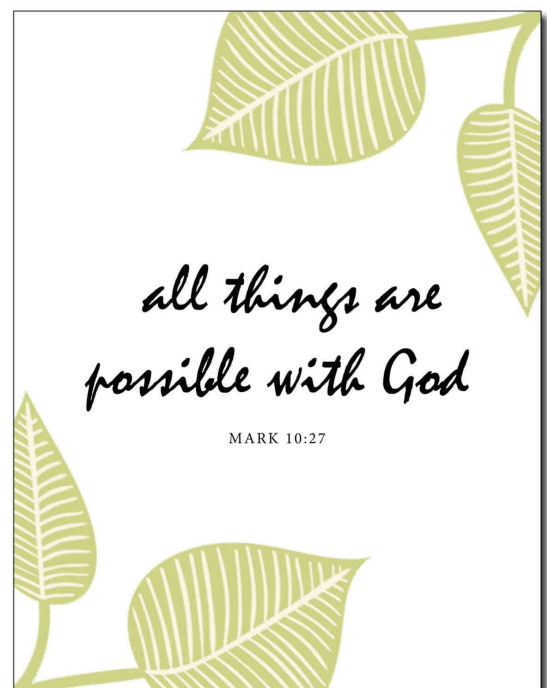


You are invited to Bidwill Uniting's
ANNUAL CELEBRATION
Monday 14 October, 6:30-8:00pm
Join us in celebrating the Bidwill Uniting Community and the work we have achieved together.

 **Bidwill Uniting**
Faith in Community
An activity of Uniting Church in Australia

6:30-8:00pm, Bidwill Uniting,
26 Bidwill Square, Bidwill
smart casual, light supper provided.

RSVP by Wednesday 9 October
to bec@bidwilluniting.org.au or call 9835 2970





Greystanes Uniting Church

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Sweaty Conclusions (a summary of the last chapter in Rev. Sally Douglas' book *The Church as Salt*.)

In the last few pages of Sally's book she refutes the mantra that the 'church is dying', instead she suggests "it is being refined." With the dismantling of Christianity as a ruling empirical power we can now set about being the "church that Jesus calls us to be."

Using Jesus' metaphor of being salt over the last four weeks we have thought about the power and goodness of salt despite its smallness. Jesus does not call us to "maintain huge buildings, or to offer shiny on trend programmes that will gather crowds." What a relief!

We also learnt that the church can be a space to hold tears. Jesus calls us to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. In doing this "we defy our culture's destructive obsession with being happy, positive and *#living my best life*."

"In the metaphor of salt, we rediscovered the biblical imagery of good, dark, salty wombs...in this womb imagery we were challenged to think about growth as vulnerable, hidden, unpredictable and uncontrollable."

During our Breakfast Worship Service last week, we briefly looked at salt as a preservative. A salty church preserves the divine love disclosed in the person of Jesus. We are not called to preserve human cultural habits and traditions. We also learnt that we are to be like salt as seasoning. We are not the main substance, Jesus is the main meal, the core of our faith. We are however, called to be a "salty seasoning presence" in a "world made stale by selfishness and fear. Through embodying the kindness of Jesus, our salty presence as a church might-yet- draw out the beautiful for us and all things."

Sally finishes by noting that our sweat is also salty; when we work hard, we sweat. "If we engage seriously with the imagery of being salt, it will be hard work." Sally concludes, "Let us be messy, humble communities of compassion together- who try and fail and who forgive and try again. Let us know that we are not alone and that we are not called to do this in our own strength. Instead, each step we take into being salty people, Jesus- the word- the story of God in person- who could not be contained by our violence, despair and death, is with us and will nurture us along the way."

I hope you have enjoyed the last few Sundays as we have explored the theme of the church as salt. Remember that there are eight copies of Sally's book in circulation. If you would like to borrow one please let me know.

God bless you good salty people!
Rev. Gail