



17 NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome

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

Lectionary readings

This week 17 November, 2024

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Next Sunday 24 November, 2024

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Christmas is Coming!

The Hands and Feet Volunteer Team invites you to spread some Christmas Cheer this year by donating a Christmas treat, such as chocolates, shortbreads, puddings etc. to go into our clients baskets on 11th December.

There is a box at the back of the church for your donations.

Ladies Bible Study

The final Ladies Bible Study for this year will be on Tuesday at 3pm in the chapel, and they will be looking at Study 8 in their series on Proverbs.

Room to Let?

We have had an enquiry from a lady coming to teach at Holroyd High next year, who is looking to rent a room or granny flat in Holroyd. Please see Sue if you can help.

Op Shop Sale

The Op Shop is having a half-price sale next week, so why not drop in grab a bargain.

Praise God
It's a **\$2 BOOK**


SALE

In conjunction with our
CRAFT SALE
Handmade by members of our Local Craft Group

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 30 **2024**
8.30am - 12.30pm

All proceeds to Hands and Feet to provide fruit, vegetables and bread to those doing it tough in the local community.

Greystanes Uniting Church
Cnr Cumberland and Eldridge Roads, Greystanes





Greystanes Uniting Church

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God's purpose is to bring together all things in Christ

Ephesians 1: 3-14

In the opening page of his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, Paul is so excited about the meaning of Christ Jesus that there is no stopping his outpouring of words. At the heart of Paul's excitement was his conviction that in Jesus the secret of the universe has been revealed. Not discovered by us, but disclosed by God.

Paul speaks of something which we have not done for ourselves. He speaks of our salvation, our relationship to God. Paul opens his letter by saying that God has blessed us - God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless, and God has adopted us as family members and lavished on us the riches of divine grace.

Paul is singing about what God has done, how God has chosen, adopted, forgiven us. And that is where we are to begin also - with the remembrance of what God has done for, and given to, us, before we launch into any exploration of what we ought to do for God. We love because God first loved us. We sing praise because we have been blessed.

Everything flows from that. Our lives as Christians are our way of saying thanks to God. We may be the only song to God that many may hear, let's make it a song worth singing, a song with so catchy a tune that others may pick up the beat and sing it as well. Paul says that God's purpose in creating the world was so that God could share his love with us, it is his love that holds us together and gives us hope for the future.

Sadly much of the world prefers the arrogance, injustice and greed that divides, denigrates, deprives and destroys. Misunderstanding, suspicion, fear, division, and alienation, run counter to the work of Christ Jesus, that reconciling mystery which has now been openly revealed. No matter how much alienation flaunts itself, it is not the end to which all things are driven. We are being drawn together by the God of Christ Jesus. The secret mystery of life is now open to all. God is the steward of history and the way of inclusive love is the real future.

We are called, through our praise, to be a sign, pointer and witness, to that love - our worship is not simply a sign of the coming kingdom. Here that kingdom becomes tangible and visible.

God's secret purpose is *"to bring together all things in Christ; things in heaven and things on earth."* It is as simple yet as remarkable as that. All things are to be brought into harmony. Cohesion. Unity. Friendship. Community. Sharing. Peace. Wholeness.

For God has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time: to unite all things in him, all things in heaven and on earth. Ephesians 1:9-10. – based on a sermon by John Massard