



24 NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome

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

Lectionary readings

This week 24 November, 2024

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

Next Sunday 1 December, 2024

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

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 which we will be collecting until Sunday 8 December.

Advent 2024

Next week we begin our journey through Advent. Each Sunday we will be adding native foliage to our Advent Wreath.

This is an activity everyone can participate in by bringing in Australian Native seed pods for Advent 1, Sunday 1st December. Suggestions include, gum nuts, banksia or bottlebrush seed pods.

Op Shop Sale

The Op Shop half-price sale continues this 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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What is truth?

This Sunday we hear a reading from John's gospel, in which Pilate interrogates Jesus. Pilate is regarded by some as a man of strong moral principles who struggled with his decision to hand Jesus over to the Jewish authorities, others regard him as weak and servile. In the works of ancient Roman historians Pilate is recorded as being "a headstrong strict authoritarian leader who, although both rational and practical, never knew how far he should go in a given case." Pilate eventually caves in to the baying crowd and his name is known to us forever more both in the Gospels and in the Apostles' Creed (in the affirmation that Jesus Christ "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried").

Pilate is also remembered for asking Jesus an incredibly pertinent question, "What is Truth?" In this century and particularly over the last three decades truth has become more and more a matter of choice. Worldwide people spend hours each day scrolling through Social Media platforms, being fed a diet of 'news' and advertising that appeals to their own political, moral and cultural views. Conspiracy theories that we used to scoff at decades ago as the fantasies of a small group of fanatics and lunatics now seem to attract more and more apparently rational people. What is truth in 2024 and where do we find it?

When Pilate had Jesus standing in front of him, I believe he must have sensed Jesus' authority, integrity and intelligence and he finds himself confronted and confounded by the ultimate truth, found in Jesus Christ, a truth we as Christians testify to. God's revelation of Godself in Jesus is the only truth we can rely upon, it is a stronghold, a sure footing and a rock of refuge. Social Media and its claim of truth needs to be regarded with suspicion and caution. Scientific data, facts and figures appear to be truth but can be corrupted by hidden agendas and propaganda, particularly if big business is involved. Politicians always tell the truth (just kidding), we all know they are well schooled in avoiding honest answers. Even our closest friends and family will avoid speaking the truth if it will come back to bite them.

Jesus is the truth because his way of love, grace and mercy is the only thing that makes sense in this crazy world of ours. We can see the truth, wherever people act towards each other with respect and acceptance. We can see the truth in action when people are slow to judge and quick to forgive. We can recognise love in the qualities of kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and we know that Love will one day be the order of the day when God's Kingdom is fully and finally unveiled and inaugurated upon Jesus' return. In just over four weeks we will celebrate Jesus first entry into the physical world, but it is good to remember the truth, that in God's good time Jesus will return. That is something worth celebrating every day.