



16 MARCH, 2025



Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 16 March, 2025

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17 -4:1
Luke 13:31-35 or
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Next week 23 March, 2025

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Hani's Ordination

Hani has received a call from Hurstville parish to become their minister and so her ordination will be here on Saturday 29 March at 2pm.

All are invited to attend and share this special day with Hani and Paul and their family. Afternoon tea will follow the service. If you are coming and could bring a plate of food to share for afternoon tea, that would be appreciated.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel, and all ladies are welcome. They are looking at Study 4: "Delivered from judgement: The Exodus" Exodus 12 and Luke 22.

THE LORD IS
MY LIGHT
and my
SALVATION
WHOM SHALL
I FEAR
PSALM 27:1



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The Law in Old Testament Times

Why did God give Moses the Ten Commandments (aka the Law)?

God gave the Ancient Israelites the Ten Commandments for their own well-being. Through Abraham, Sarah and their descendants God created a nation to be a witness to God's goodness and glory and like any nation on earth, Israel needed rules. Rules within a society are extremely important, for example imagine what driving around Greystanes would be like without road rules! Even though many drivers seem oblivious to the road rules or deliberately disobey them, the rules give us a guideline and help us identify wrong behaviour. The Ten Commandments gave God's people the most important guidelines for living in community and allowed them to identify their own sin and need for forgiveness.

As the nation of Israel grew in number and complexity, the rules also expanded. According to Jewish sources, in Jesus day the number of rules amounted to 613. You can read many of these in the Books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, which include odd prohibitive laws such as avoiding eating shellfish or never weaving fabrics together out of two different yarns. I don't want to go down a rabbit hole explaining these oddities, as fascinating as they are, for now let's just say this has everything to do with the historical and cultural context.

When Jesus summarises the whole of the Law into the two greatest commandments, that is, love God, love people, some people may have sighed with relief and appreciated this great spiritual insight.

Many Pharisees however may have sighed with disgust and felt disgruntled. The Pharisees and Teachers of the Law led externally righteous lives following all 613 rules to the letter. It is interesting to note that out of all the people Jesus met and came into contact with, only the legalistic, hypocritical Pharisees receive his criticism.

Food for Thought

What do you make of the statement 'Love before the Law'? Read Matthew 12:1-8

Do your own standards of right behaviour cause you to condemn others who fail to live up to your expectations? Read 23:34 and Luke 13: 34, Matthew 18:22 and Hebrews 8:10.