



30 MARCH, 2025



Welcome

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

This morning we will be having a breakfast service around tables in the hall. This service will also include communion.

Lectionary Readings

This week 30 March, 2025

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Next week 6 April, 2025

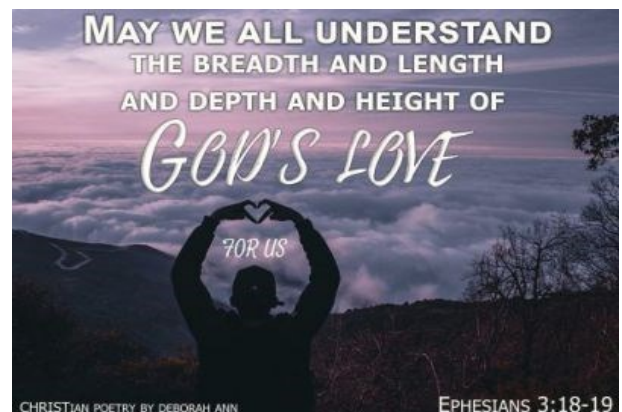
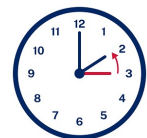
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

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 5: "Ever-reigning King: King David".

Daylight Saving

Don't forget that daylight saving ends next Saturday 6th April, so put your clock **back** on Saturday night and enjoy the sleep in !





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Rev Gail's Message

This week in worship we will play with the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Is it right and proper to have fun and enjoy ourselves in worship? I think so, for a number of reasons, which I will go on to explain, however, I imagine our grandparents and great grandparents would most likely disagree.

When we play we learn in the most natural way. Think about the way young animals play with their litter mates, learning how to run, stalk, ambush and wrestle. Think about the way our own children play using their imaginations to explore the world. My own daughter played endless games with Shane and I, creating dramatic scenarios filled with moral dilemmas and the battle between good and evil. The good barbies (the blondes who wore pink) hung out with Ken and Action Man but the bad Barbies (all the brunettes) hung out with Dr. Evil and caused no end of mischief. And do not be concerned, Amber has since understood that ones colouring does not determine ones moral character.

In a book that changed my perspective on worship *The God who Plays* by Brian Edgar, the author writes the following:

A life of Christian ministry, service, sacrifice and worship that does not embody, as part of it, the joy and delight of a playful relationship with God will become a duty bound and moralistic life that will have difficulty in developing a close intimate relationship with the One who is our chief and best friend. In the absence of such a relationship we run the risk of dullness, complacency and potential burnout.

Someone asked me during the week if the mess the world is in and the evil we see being inflicted upon the earth and its people gets me down. Without hope it certainly would. I can rejoice and play, laugh and enjoy the created world and the people who come into my life because of my sure and certain hope in Christ.

Knowing that there is an end purpose to all things, knowing that God has promised to welcome us all into paradise allows me to bring this promise into my everyday life. The Apostle Paul says as much when he speaks of being joyful in all circumstances (Romans 8:28, Phill 4:11-13) Paul keeps the joy alive by contrasting the suffering of this life to the overwhelming joy of the next. He comes across as being intense and incredibly serious in his letters but I like to think he could crack a good joke and enjoyed having a laugh with his brothers and sisters in ministry. I hope and pray we all feel the joy this Sunday as we play to the glory of God.