



Supply Minister: Rev Ken Wright (0.6 FTE)

Phone: 0417 801 847

Email: kenandsuewright@gmail.com

Sunday 30th July 2023

Scripture Focus

Sunday's Readings: Genesis 29: 15-28 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sometimes Jesus' teaching used familiar images in unfamiliar ways to help disciples understand the extraordinary value and unexpected shape of the reign of God, which is among us now and is also yet to come. God's way is full of surprises, bringing forth great things from small beginnings. Such treasure is for everyone.

Today's focus passage (Matthew 13:31–34, 44–52) includes short, sharp parables that expand Jesus' teaching about God's reign (the kingdom of heaven), perhaps intended to be heard as one teaching.

Jesus' images may astonish and challenge. Mustard can be considered a weed. One seed quickly produces sufficient plants to overwhelm a field. Would a careful farmer plant a weed seed in a productive field?

Yeast – a potentially poisonous fungi – leavens flour to make bread, yet makes it spoil faster. Also, in Jesus' time, yeast was a symbol for corruption. The yeast is hidden in a generous amount of flour – three measures would be about 25 kilograms/50 pounds. How can yeast leaven so much?

Hidden treasure has value when shared. Who could keep it to oneself? A merchant, seeing the fine pearl, might recall prudent financial practice – spread investments to minimize loss. Would an experienced merchant place one's total wealth in a single investment?

Fishing for every kind of fish breaks all conventions. Nets are woven to catch particular species. Sorting through the full range of species to pull out what is edible would be unnecessarily time consuming. Would fishermen break with expected practice?

These images support each other in conveying that the presence or reign of God is not what people expect, yet it is of the greatest value. God's grace is world-shattering and overwhelming!

The expansion of God's realm to all humankind is grounded in the hope-filled treasure of God's grace and compassion. Matthew's writing is confident that such a treasure should not be ignored or refused.

Worship Online or at Home

If you wish to join in our online Zoom service on Sunday mornings at 9.30am, you can view the service as it is happening, using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88191652947?pwd=M1pMZCtXY2FGOENtaGN3M3EwcVh6Zz09>

or enter this Meeting ID: 881 9165 2947 and passcode: 7777

Worship resources are emailed out each Saturday. Services are recorded each week.

To request a copy please contact the church office.

Please be aware that our worship services are live streamed on ZOOM so if you are not comfortable in having your image captured then we encourage you to sit in the back row of the church in front of the creative tables.

CONNECT GROUPS

At Athelstone Uniting Church we encourage everyone to find ways to find connections within our church community. Here are some of the Connect Groups you might consider joining:

Connect Group	When/Where	Contact
Book Club	1 st and 3 rd Tues at 9.30 am in people's homes	Office
Threads	2 nd & 4 th Tues 2-4 pm. Indigo Espresso Café	Office
Triple Cs - Men's Group	2 nd Wed of the month at 10.30 am. Venues vary	Ray Walter
TOFs Fellowship Group	1 st Tuesday of the month, 2 pm – 4 pm. Venues vary	Sheralyn Robertson

TOFS Tuesday 1st August

Our next coffee and cake afternoon is Tuesday 1st August at 2pm. We will meet at Baretto Café Bottega, 10 Forest Ave, Rostrevor. All are welcome. No RSVP is needed.

Sheralyn Robertson

WIRRA – WATCH AND WONDER

Celebrations for National Tree Day commence with School Tree Day on July 28th and culminate on August 6th. Get involved by planting a tree with a community group or visit the wirra and pull a weed, pick up rubbish, hug a tree or simply sit and BE.

The wirra continues to need maintenance and promotion, so if you are interested in assisting, please make contact.

Bruce and Joy Stewart



UPCOMING WORSHIP

Communion

Church Council wishes to advise you that from Sunday 6th August, we will be returning to our pre-pandemic method of serving Communion, using fresh bread and grape juice elements rather than pre-packaged communion packs.

Worship Rosters

It will soon be time to start processing the worship rosters for September, October and November 2023.

Please log in to Elvanto and update your unavailable dates for the next few months (or email them to the office) preferably no later than Sunday 6th August so that the office can start the rostering process.

To enter your Unavailability Dates in Elvanto yourself

- 1) Log in to Elvanto
- 2) Go to your My Profile page and then click on the unavailability sidebar.
- 3) Once there, simply select the range of dates and times that you'll be unavailable, and click 'Submit'.
- 4) Your upcoming unavailability will appear in a table on the page.

To remove a unavailability, select the upcoming unavailable times that you are now available for (by clicking on their check boxes), and select 'Delete' in the drop-down menu that appears at the top of the table once you've selected something. To perform the delete on all selected times click the 'Perform Mass Manage' button.

MISSIONAL

Missions	How to support them	Contact
Uniting Communities	Please keep bringing in your donations and let's fill the giving table	Brenton Summers
Aussie Breadtags for Wheelchairs	Bring them to church to support the charity Aussie Bread tags for Wheelchairs. You'll find a container in the Church Entry. More details here: https://ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au/	Office
Sally Stamp	Bring stamps to the office to help with this ministry. The group also suggests that people consider asking local businesses to save their stamps, with doctor's surgeries being one of the best sources of stamps! Any donations of private collections no longer required are also gratefully received. Pick up can be arranged in metropolitan areas. Contact: Maxine Haines (Convenor), Phone: 0427 972 417.	Office

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

Prayer Requests

Please note that Brenton will be away on holidays from Friday 28 July 2023 to Wednesday 16 August 2023 inclusive, so please refer any Pray Chain requests to Ann Brown via email or mobile 0413 581 554.

Can we support you in prayer? Here's how:

Prayer Chain - send an email to, or call Ann Brown, who will pass your prayer request on to a group of people who faithfully pray in response to Prayer Chain emails.

Confidential Prayers - if the issue is more personal you are invited to contact Linda Driver for individual prayer or one of the members of the Pastoral Care Oversight team (Lee O'Connell, Brenton Summers, Ann Brown, Bob Stevenson). All prayer requests going to the team will be kept strictly confidential within this team.

Prayers for Others (Sunday Worship) If you have something you would like to be included, please let Brenton Summers know. "We are all called to pray for one another, and so we are all encouraged to offer to pray for, or with others, especially if they share a concern with you." (James 5:13-16)

Offering

Why do we give? We give to support the ministry and mission of the Church. We give in response to all that God has done for us. Giving is an act of worship.

How much do we give? We give as we are able. Pray for wisdom on how generously you are called to give. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)

How do we give? Regular electronic giving and one-off donations can be made using the following details:

Account name: Athelstone Uniting Church Account **BSB:** 704 095 **Account number:** 110043

Application forms for setting up regular e-giving through UC e-give are available at: <https://ucinvest.com.au/forms-and-information#page=page-1>.

Cash Offerings are received on Sunday mornings in the Offering Box on the Giving Table. Contact Glen Luestner for more information.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Act-2 Report

A new Act-2 Report: Act2: In Response to God's Call is now available to read in full on the Act2 website.

You can find the report here: <https://www.act2uca.com/act2report>

An extensive engagement phase will run until the end of November.

From June until November the Act-2 team will host fortnightly online sessions which will provide an opportunity to go deeper on the latest Act2 report. These sessions will alternate between focussing on the directions about local communities of faith, and the options for our future governance and resourcing.

Register and choose your sessions here: <https://www.act2uca.com/dropins>

Linda's Induction at Brougham Place Uniting Church

You are invited to Linda's induction at a service of worship at Brougham Place Uniting Church at 2pm on Sunday 6th August. The service will be followed by afternoon tea.

Voice to Parliament Resources

During this year, Australians will be asked to consider supporting a Voice to Parliament for the First Nations of our country. Through a referendum we will be asked to support a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice. Our Uniting Church members, along with other Australians, are engaging in the conversation about a First Nations Voice and The Uluru Statement from the Heart. For a list of helpful resources as you consider your response, please pick up the information sheets from the pamphlet display in the entry foyer, or consult one of the links below:

<https://sa.uca.org.au/voice-to-parliament-resources/>

<https://uniting.church/a-voice-to-parliament-in-2-pages/>

<https://uniting.church/faq-about-the-voice/>

<https://uniting.church/statement-from-the-heart-study-guide/>

<https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit>

Wider Church News

Uniting Church in Australia: <https://uniting.church/>

Uniting Church in South Australia: <https://sa.uca.org.au/>

To receive SA UC E-News personally, subscribe at <https://sa.uca.org.au/uc-e-news/>

The New Times is available online at: <https://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/new-times-print-edition/>

Wimala Presbytery website: <https://wimala.ucasa.org.au/>

Frontier News: <https://frontierservices.org/news-media/our-resources/frontier-news/>

CHURCH BUILDING – BOOKINGS

Special Event or changes to regular bookings or location are highlighted in bold.

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Monday 31 st July	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates (Instructor: Julia Potter)
Monday 31 st July	4.45 - 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Tuesday 1 st August	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates (Instructor: Julia Potter)
Tuesday 1 st August	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wednesday 2 nd August	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates (Instructor: Julie Potter)
Thursday 3 rd August	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Lower Hall	GM Pilates (Instructor: Julie Potter)
Thursday 3 rd August	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday 5 th August	9.00 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Saturday 5 th August	9.30 – 11.30 am	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mon, Wed, Fri	9.00 – 3.00 pm	Top hall	AGPN (Medical HQ)

Note: Our pilates hirer, Nic Crocker, has arranged for a substitute instructor to run her classes from 24th-29th July whilst she takes leave and there are some changes to class times. The guest instructor is Julia Potter.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ROSTER

Role	30 th July	6 th August	Role	30 th July	6 th August
Prayer with Preacher	Jennifer C	Di C	Tick & Flick	Trevor C	Trevor C
Worship Leader	Di C	Robyn S	Door	David R Jenny R	Robyn F Stella W
Preacher	Ken W	Ken W	Notices	Lee O'C	Sylvia M
Singers	Ann B Allan A Jean R	Bob S Sylvia M Eric H	Count Offering	David W Paul H	Bob S
Sound Desk	Noel M	Don B	Bible Reader	Ann T	Lee O'C
Data Projector	David W	Sam W	Flowers	Di C	Carole W
Chair Steward	Sharon T Scott T	Bob S Paul H	Communion Prep	N/A	Friederike A-W
Building Steward	Paul H	Eric H	Communion Servers	N/A	Paul H Ros H Robyn F
Zoom Production	Paul H	David W			

If you cannot take your turn, please swap with someone, or if late notice contact the worship leader or Rev Ken Wright for that service as appropriate. Thank you.