



Supply Minister: Rev Ken Wright (0.6 FTE)

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SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Scripture Focus

In Exodus 14:19–31 the storyteller shows that God is responsible for the freedom of the Hebrews. God's action frees and saves. The people see and believe. God's actions serve to continue the formation of the people of Israel, who grow in understanding that faith in God is well-placed.

Water is significant in stories of God's saving work. Water recalls God's work in creation. God's promise to Noah was to never again destroy with water. Water also is a physical barrier. Water-crossing imagery is found again in the story of Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. Crossing through water becomes a metaphor for transformation – a symbol of God's deliverance. Water, as a sign and symbol, is used in baptism today as a means to rehearse God's freeing love through Jesus Christ.

The Exodus stories explore God's relationship with the Israelites. They help to shape them into a people with mission and charge. These stories become a lens for understanding later events in their history, and shape their self-awareness, values, and faith. Their understanding of God as I AM ("I will cause to be") becomes clearer. The exodus journey is associated with God's grace, compassion, and salvation, and becomes a metaphor for hope as they affirm the importance of God's actions in the lives of the people at this time.

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

Services are recorded each week. To request a copy please contact the church office.

If you are away or not able to connect with us on Zoom you might find the Worship at Home resource a helpful alternative to use. This self-guided resource has been prepared by Rev Cheryl Wilson of Ascot Park Uniting and can be accessed each week at the following link: <https://sa.uca.org.au/worship-at-home/>

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday 24th September, following the morning service.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Working Bees

Over the coming weeks two working bees are being organised to occur on our church grounds and at the manse. Please mark these dates in your diary.

- Church grounds - Tuesday 3 October from 10am to 12 noon
- Manse – Tuesday 10 October from 10am to 12 noon

Those who have the time, the energy and the willingness to help would be very much appreciated by volunteering to do some tasks such as clearing up, gardening, painting, etc.

The Voice Referendum Polling Centre

Our church has been selected to offer a pre-poll voting centre for the two weeks leading up to the 14 October referendum. We will also be used as a polling booth on the Saturday.

This should not cause any major issues as we have advised the Electoral Commission of our willingness to co-operate so that both parties are able to function effectively during this period. Our involvement in both activities will have implications for our use of the building during these weeks and this may cause some disruptions to normal activities.

Please be aware of the following:

- The church office will be closed between 1st and 14th October and re-open on Tuesday 17th October.
- We will not be able to access the volunteer office during this time at all. Locks will be changed.
- Access to the church building will be impacted between 1st and 14th October. We need to limit access where we can so please try to arrange any drop-in visits, jobs or activities in the church building outside of this period if you can.
- Sunday morning Worship, Thursday evening worship practice and mid-week pilates classes in the lower hall will be able to run as normal during the pre-polling period. However, on the actual voting day, Saturday 14th October, only voters and AEC staff will be permitted access.
- Note that our calisthenics hirer has not been impacted as she is not holding classes over this period due to it being school holidays.
- Polling places may not display any material about the referendum not provided by the Australian Electoral Commission. This means that no political signage will be going up on our premises.
- If you haven't yet read the information fliers produced by the Uniting Church and you wish to do so, then please ensure you grab any information or fliers about The Voice from our pamphlet display in the foyer this Sunday, before we remove them from the display case and newsletter. Information can always be found on the Uniting Church webpages listed in Wider Church News section of this newsletter.
- Cleaning times have been adjusted over this period. VIP Cleaners have been booked to clean at the following times:
 - Monday 25th September, between 6 am and 10 am (as per usual schedule).
 - Sunday 1st October, anytime after 3 pm until late.
 - Sunday 8th October, anytime after 3 pm until late.
 - Monday 15th October, between 6 am and 10 am (cleaning times return to normal).

Referendum Cake Stall

We are going to run a cake stall on the Referendum voting day.

Are you available to help out with this cake stall by either making something or helping man the stall on the day?

Please let Meg Edwards know in person or on 0431 030 079.

This is a great opportunity for our church community to serve the local Athelstone community.

October Newsletter Deadlines

Please take note of the revised deadlines for publication in the October church newsletters as outlined in the table below. Newsletter items for events or activities between Sunday 1st and 19th October need to be submitted to the church office (email: office@athelstonechurch.org.au) **no later than Wednesday 27th September at 5 pm.** There will only be one newsletter produced to cover all 3 of these Spring Sundays. Thank you.

Newsletter Date	Deadline for articles
Sunday 24 th October	Wednesday 20 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 1 st October	Wednesday 27 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 8 th October	Wednesday 27 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 15 th October	Wednesday 27 th September, 5 pm
Sunday 22 nd October	Wednesday 18 th October, 5 pm

MISSIONAL

September is Shoeboxes!

Remember that September is when we collect and fill our shoeboxes.

The October TOFS meeting will be for the ladies to pack as many boxes as we can.

Remember now is the time to go shopping if you haven't already done so.

I will have the boxes and pamphlets for you to take home each Sunday in September.

If you feel that you are unable to pack a box, there are other ways that you can help:

1. We still need donations, not only of goods, but also of money. It costs \$10 for each shoebox and our congregation has been wonderful in the past in helping to cover these costs for us.
2. You can now give boys and girls in need a tangible expression of God's love through a gift-filled shoebox packed from your computer or mobile device. Just follow this link:

<https://occdonations.samaritanspurse.org.au/product/pack-a-shoebox-online/>

Bless you all. Friederike

School Ministry Support Group

The Campbelltown School Ministry Group have have invited us to send some representatives to join them for lunch at Rostrevor Baptist Church on Thursday 28 September from 12.00 – 1.30 pm. The purpose of this lunch is to hear about what being involved in a support group means. Please let Jeff Dry, or the office know, if you would be prepared to go along to the lunch to find out more and/or to act as our church representative/contact for Schools Ministry. They do such amazing work in our local schools!

Missions

Here are just some of the mission projects, and how you can support them at Athelstone UC:

Uniting Communities	Please keep bringing in your donations and let's fill the giving table. Contact: Brenton Summers.
Aussie Breadtags for Wheelchairs	Bring them to church to support the charity Aussie Breadtags for Wheelchairs. You'll find a container on the giving table.
Sally Stamp	Bring stamps to the office to help with this ministry.
Samaritan's Purse	See note above re donations required for Operation Christmas Child in September.

CONNECT GROUPS

Wirra – Watch & Wonder



Enjoying the sunny days? Spring, wirltuti is on its way and is a perfect time to connect with nature. Take time to view the new information on the display board in the lower hall and enjoy the colours emerging in the wirra.

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

Joy and Bruce Stewart

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 & 3 rd Tues of the month at 9.30 am in people's homes	Office
Threads	2 nd & 4 th Tues of the month at 2-4 pm in Indigo Espresso Cafe	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 Tues of the month. 2 – 4pm. Venues vary.	Sheralyn Robertson

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

Prayer Requests

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

Prayer Chain - send an email to, or call Brenton Summers, 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 Ken Wright for individual prayer or one 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

Dernancourt Uniting Church Meet & Greet

Dernancourt is holding their next Meet & Greet event on Sunday 24th September 5-7 pm. This is an informal family evening including a shared meal, song, fellowship, faith sharing and reflection. They would be delighted to welcome members from local churches. Bring a plate of food to share.

Letter from the Moderator

Please see the following page to read a letter from the Moderator.

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/>



1st September 2023

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

Following the recent announcement by our Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, I felt the need to write this pastoral letter out of love and grace for all our church, especially as we prepare for the forthcoming Referendum for a First Nations 'Voice to Parliament.'

I am aware there has already been much discussion representing diverse and differing points of view, within both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Communities about 'The Voice.' At our recent Synod Meeting, we resolved (by Agreement) to 'support the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution to empower First Nations People to have a greater say in policy and legislation which govern their affairs.'

I know we are not of 'one mind' on this matter, and there are people struggling to understand and make sense of our Church's support of the 'Voice to Parliament.' The Synod Resolution was made considering the long-standing commitment we, the Uniting Church have in our Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal Islander and Christian Congress (UAICC). As we seek to embody this covenantal relationship, we are challenged with what it means to be a church that embraces justice, love, equity, and mutual respect.

We are being asked to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the country. Our Congress leadership is asking us to be part of this journey, in response to the invitation in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. This is a journey that has been decades in the making. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are invited to walk together, not only as First and Second Peoples, but as a family living in Christ.

I am calling our Church to engage with the question being put at this Referendum, with a desire for hope and healing that reflects our experience of God's love and mercy.

Will you pray for our nation, for our church, your local community, your family and friends? Will you individually, and in your services of worship, make this a time of prayer in which we would bless each other in the name of Jesus Christ, regardless of any differing point of view. Rev Dr Aunty Denise Champion reminded me today, that we are family and that as family we don't always agree with each other, however we are still family.

I pray God's peace for you, your families and communities.

God's Blessings,

Rev Peter Morel
Moderator

A banner with a dark background featuring a stylized rainbow and a pattern of red and green dots. The text 'Voice to Parliament Resources' is written in white.

Voice to Parliament Resources

On October 14th, Australians will be asked to consider supporting a Voice to Parliament for the First Nations of our country. Through this referendum we will be asked to support a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice.

Rev Mark Kickett, National Interim Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress notes: 'A constitutionally enshrined Voice will shape and guide the relationship between First and Second Peoples in this country by enabling our people to have a say in the decisions that impact our communities.'

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. We hope this page will be a helpful resource as you consider your response.

New Uniting Church Resource

A new resource on the Voice to Parliament is now available for congregations to use and share. In two pages, it explains how the referendum is an opportunity to consider a change in our constitution that will recognise First Australians and give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a say in matters that affect their lives. It explains why the Uniting Church supports the change, references what the Bible says and provides helpful starting points for a conversation. Download here [A Voice to Parliament in 2 pages – Uniting Church Australia](#) or pick up a copy on Sunday from the pamphlet display case.

Assembly FAQs

The Uniting Church has prepared some simple answers to common questions.

Check out the new page on the Assembly website: <https://uniting.church/faq-about-the-voice/>

You'll find responses to common myths and misconceptions around what a Voice is, how it will work, and what the Uniting Church has said.

Synod Resources

The Uniting Church Synod have gathered some resources here: <https://sa.uca.org.au/voice-to-parliament-resources/>

Statement from the Heart

A study guide for congregations and other small groups on the Statement from the Heart, is available to the whole Church. Produced by Tim Molineux for the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

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

Community Toolkit

The Australian Government has launched information to help Australians be informed about the referendum, including a [community toolkit](#) with translated and accessible resources. <https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit>

SUNDAY WORSHIP ROSTER

Role	17 th Sept	24 th Sept	Role	17 th Sept	24 th Sept
Prayer with Preacher	Lee O'C	Jeff D	Tick & Flick	Brenton S	Brenton S
Worship Leader	Jeff D	Meg E	Door	Robyn F Jean R	Jenny R David R
Preacher	Ken W	Brian Polkinghorne	Notices	Worship Leader	Brenton S
Singers	Jeanine D Lyndon R Friederike A-W	Robyn S Allan A Bob S	Count Offering	Bob S Ray W	David W Gus R
Sound Desk	Don B	Noel M	Bible Reader	Sylvia M	Friederike A-W
Data Projector	Paul H/David W to prepare	David W	Flowers	Raelene A	Jenny R
Chair Steward	Bob S Jeff D	Janet L Glen L	Communion Prep	N/A	N/A
Building Steward	Paul H	Eric H	Communion Servers	N/A	N/A
Zoom Production	Paul H	Paul H			

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.

CHURCH BUILDING – BOOKINGS

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

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Monday 18 th September	4.45 - 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Monday 18 th September	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Tuesday 19 th September	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Tuesday 19 th September	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wednesday 20 th September	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Thursday 21 st September	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Thursday 21 st September	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday 23 rd September	9.00 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Saturday 23 rd September	9.30 – 11.30 am	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mon, Wed, Fri	9.00 – 3.00 pm	Top hall	AGPN (Medical HQ)

Postal Address: PO Box 307, Athelstone, SA 5076

Office Coordinator: Carol Lang

Office Email: office@athelstonechurch.org.au

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Minister Email: minister@athelstonechurch.org.au

Office Phone: (08) 8336 9905

Newsletter: newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au

Web: athelstonechurch.org.au

Please email newsletter items to newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wednesday unless notified otherwise.