



Supply Minister: Rev Ken Wright (0.6 FTE)

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Sunday 12th November

Welcome to worship this morning.

Scripture Focus

TENDING GOD'S LIGHT Matthew 25:1-13

Those who bear the light of Christ are called to give constant attention to tending the source of this light within. God's Spirit is the life given to each disciple. As we wait for the fulfillment of God's reign, we are to tend to the things that sustain and nurture our faith, and tend to the ministry and service to which God calls us.

Matthew 25 includes two parables about the coming of God's realm in its fullness. Parables are wisdom stories. Jesus' parables challenged the disciples to consider matters of faith through well-known, everyday experiences or cultural practices. Jesus' parables gave wise responses to this question of early Christian communities: How shall we live in God's reign in relationship with God and one another?

In engaging Jesus' parable in these verses, it is helpful to know that tradition required the bridegroom to arrive at the home of the bride's family, claim the bride, and take her to his own house. The bridesmaids waited at the groom's house, ready to welcome the couple and celebrate their new beginning.

Waiting for the bridegroom meant being prepared, not merely passing time. In this parable, some bridesmaids neglected their oil lamps. A trimmed wick ensured maximum light and minimum smoke. Having lamps that once burned well did not mean that they would burn well again. Constant attention to the lamps ensured the light would be available when required.

In Bible times, oil was associated with anointing and indicated the presence of God's Spirit with a person. Oil also was a metaphor for God's presence, displayed in one's compassion and acts of love and mercy.

The gospel of Matthew strives to keep the community of disciples grounded in Christ. The parable speaks to being ready whenever God's reign comes in its fullness. God's life is birthed in each person. Each person is responsible to tend the light of God's life within – one person cannot pass her or his inner spiritual strength to another. Jesus' parable speaks to God's desire for relationships with disciples that have continuing life and consequence.

An untended life of faith runs the risk of smothering the God-given flame within. Disciples can be seduced by religious "highs," particular teachings, even ministry and service. The life of faith is dimmed through inattention. Tending to our faith – having trimmed wicks and plenty of oil – means attending to the practices of faith that form and grow us into the faith of Christ.

Next Communion Service

There will be no communion on the first Sunday in December (Sunday 3rd December). Instead communion will be held on 26th November and led by Rev Ken Wright. Please let the office know if you can assist with preparing or serving communion on the 4th Sunday in November. Thank you!

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.

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/>

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council update from the 1st November meeting

1. Christmas Eve services will be Sunday 24 December at 9.30am and 6.30pm and Christmas Day Monday 25 December at 9.30am. There will not be a late Christmas Eve service.
2. As there is still no news from Placement committee on a new Minister, Council is seeking an extension for Ken Wright for a further 3 months.
3. Thanks to Ian and Tom Fry, the maintenance work at the Manse is being undertaken.
4. Our final submission for ACT2 has been formalised and will be forwarded this month.
5. With our property being hired to the Australian Electoral Commission for the Voice Referendum pre-polling and voting, the church has been paid a hire fee of \$6,000.
6. Following the visit from Sunny K (Frontier Services) an amount of \$400 was donated from funds raised at the Referendum Cake Stall and a further amount made up of funds received from the plant stall and retiring offering will also be donated. An update on this amount will be shared at a later date.

CONNECT GROUPS

Triple C's

December Meeting will be on 6th December (First Wed of the Month). I have provisionally booked for 16 Chaps to attend The MARCHE CLUB for christmas lunch as in past years at a very moderate cost of \$18.00 each. I will check for actual numbers mid November, so meanwhile give consideration and plan to attend.

Regards Ray

Wirra – Watch & Wonder

We know the wirra is loved! Whether it's referendum volunteers enjoying a relaxing lunch, children during school holidays drawing, playing rock noughts and crosses, bird "hide and seek", or Messy Church obstacle courses, wirltuti weather has encouraged us to enjoy this special space.

The wirra continues to need maintenance and promotion, so we would love you to join us 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. See note above.	Sheralyn Robertson

MISSIONAL 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.

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS Messy Church in 2024

Messy Church is an important part of our intergenerational ministry for our young families at Athelstone.

The 5 values of Messy Church are: Christ centred, all age, creativity, celebration and hospitality. What does this look like? Well we meet 6 times a year, from 4-6pm, and we spend time getting creative with different activities, sharing in a celebration time and a meal together.

But Messy Church isn't JUST for young families, this is a service that allows time for conversation and learning about our faith between the generations and in a fresh and different way, no matter your age.

We would love for you to join us in 2024! To help this service continue we need some support for our amazing team, who has been doing this for over 5 years now. We would love some new faces in the team - whether it is helping out in the kitchen or sitting at a table leading an activity and engaging in conversation, it really is that easy!

If you are interested or want to know more please speak to Meg Edwards

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 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

Wimala Presbytery Youth Event – Sunday 19th November 4-7 pm

Wimala Presbytery are holding an event for all youth within the Wimala Presbytery. Ages: High school & Young Adults (especially leaders who are young adults). When: Sunday 19 November, 4 – 7 pm at Campbelltown Uniting Church. Come along for games, food and fun. Contact Rebecca Purling for further information (and with approximate numbers). Rebecca 0407 993 526 or minister.campbelltownunitingsa@gmail.com

Payneham Road Uniting Church Organ Concert

Payneham Road Uniting Church is having its annual organ concert to showcase our beautiful 100 + year old pipe organ for a fundraiser event to support the PRUC Organ Scholar. Featuring Organ Scholar, Casey McEwan and a host of other supporting artists. Please see noticeboard for flier. When: 25th November 2023 – 7 pm. Where: 343 Payneham Road, Marden. Tickets may be bought at the door, or can be purchased online at www.trybooking.com/CLSP2 Cost: \$25 adults, \$10 children or \$50 family. All ages event.

Wider Church News - Links

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 13th November	10.00 – 11.00 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Monday 13 th November	4.45 – 6.00 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Monday 13 th November	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Tuesday 14 th November	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Tuesday 14 th November	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wednesday 15 th November	9.30 – 10.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Thursday 16 th November	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Thursday 16 th November	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Saturday 18 th November	9.00 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall	GM Pilates
Saturday 18 th November	9.30 – 11.30 am	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics

SUNDAY WORSHIP ROSTER

Role	12 th Nov	19 th Nov	Role	12 th Nov	19 th Nov
Prayer with Preacher	Lee O'C	Jeff D	Tick & Flick	Brenton S	Brenton S
Worship Leader	Robyn S	Lynton N	Door	Gus R Jan R	Stella W Jayne N
Preacher	Ken W	Emilia Haskey	Notices	Don B	Lee O'C
Singers	Lynton N Ann B Bob S	Allan A Janet L Friederike A-W	Count Offering	Paul H Bob S	Gus R Friederike A-W
Sound Desk	Noel M	Don B	Bible Reader	David W	Jean R
Data Projector	David W	David W	Flowers	Di C	Carole W
Chair Steward	Paul H Bob S	Janet L Glen L	Zoom Production	Paul H	Tara S
Building Steward	Paul H	Eric 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.

Athelstone Uniting Church Postal Address: PO Box 307, Athelstone, SA 5076 : **Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs: 9.30am – 12.30pm : **Office Phone:** (08) 8336 9905 : **Office Email:** office@athelstonechurch.org.au : **Web:** athelstonechurch.org.au : **Newsletter Items:** Please submit to the office by Wednesdays at 5 pm for next newsletter.