



# The Maroochydore Herald

Maroochydore Uniting Church\_

The Uniting Church in Australia



Uniting in Christ  
acting with love  
living with hope  
witnessing in faith  
working for justice

12 April 2020

Easter Sunday



*We seek to be a prayerful and listening church*

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*Good morning, welcome to worship at Maroochydore Uniting Church*

**Please Contact us**

6 Millwell Rd (POX 357)

**Maroochydore Qld. 4558**

Church Office: 5443 2441

*Find us on Google search:*

Maroochydore Uniting Church

**Minister: Rev James Stevenson**

M: 0427 106 531

Minister's Office: 5443 2441

E: jamesbstevenson10@gmail.com

**Worship Services Normally**

English Language Sundays, 8.30am

Korean Language Sundays, 11am

**Korean Leader: Ps. Gil Park**

M: 0413 836 557



Thank you for the ongoing support for the Ministry, & Ministry of our Church. A reminder that direct deposit offering is available.

Our Church Banking Details: **UCA Maroochydore Uniting Church**  
**- St George Bank. BSB 334 040: Account No. 553864 511**

**Uniting Church Links - For Information from the Wider Church**

**Qld Synod Information - <https://ucaqld.com.au/>**

For links an information to Synod Resources and Activities.

**National Assembly News - <https://assembly.uca.org>.**

Birthdays: Wayne Grady (12<sup>th</sup>), Heather Webster (12<sup>th</sup>)

Please send any notices for next week's 'Herald' to [janstrudwickart@gmail.com](mailto:janstrudwickart@gmail.com) by Wednesday afternoon

**Moderator's April Prayer**

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*- Please join us in praying together each Monday at midday:*

Lord, we bless You that our times and seasons are in Your hands; with that confidence may we be the blessing You are calling us to be.

Rev David Baker

## **Bible Readings**

### **12 April 2020**

Acts 10:34-43

Ps 118:1-2

Col 3:1-4 or

Jn 20:1-18 W /Jer 31:1-6 14-24

Acts 10:34-43/Mt 28:1-10

### **April 19 2020 Easter 2**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Ps 16 1

Pt 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31

**Message from James:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Holy Days of Easter**

In a different time and a different place Easter would be celebrated widely, publicly, inviting people into the passionate humanity of Jesus, who unsettles even his own "religion" about how "God" should be and act, and being heralded throughout the world in glorious celebration and resurrection praise.

Spare a thought for the first Easter, for in those times and in those places there was a disturbance going on amid the brutal rule of the Roman Empire. Especially if you were not a Roman citizen, or if you were poor, disabled, diseased or a child. It was on that night that politics of Rome and the religion of the Temple conspired to put down a disruptive religious pretender called Jesus of Nazareth. It was not until the days unfolded, and another disturbance turned the disrupted themes of Advent into the joyfilled hope of the resurrection. This is the story we are called into. It will take us on the rollercoaster of life, but that is true humanity where God in Jesus Christ, born into our Christmas world, now leads us through the other boundary of life which is death where it is a boundary no more.

Happy and Holy Easter.

Grace and peace, James and Kris.

From the Moderator

7 April 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

This Easter will be quite unusual for many of us. No family camping trip, no Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service in our local church buildings, no sunrise service at the beach or lookout. It will be an Easter with a difference, and many of us may feel that difference keenly.

There are some things, however, that won't change. The ubiquitous chocolate Easter bunny seems immune to lockdown orders, and that will delight the younger ones among us. More importantly, we have the opportunity to gather as God's people with our communities, even if only in electronically connected form, as we walk through the season of Easter. From the darkness of Friday, to the depths of Saturday, to the coming of the light on Sunday let us be reminded and encouraged, refreshed, knowing that Jesus, light of the world is present among us this Easter. The darkness will not overcome the light of Christ.

Perhaps this unusual Easter presents a unique opportunity to notice, name and celebrate Jesus, light of the world, in new ways. Perhaps it provides space for some among us to have time to use new ways to encounter Christ anew and afresh. Quiet prayer and worship with those with whom we live. A chance to read one of the gospels right through, or one of the letters of the New Testament. Can we find a way to commune meaningfully in these days of social isolation?

I am conscious of the many who are working hard in our name this Easter, to bring light to a world that feels a little dark. Those who serve and minister in our aged care facilities or hospitals, who work with other groups of vulnerable Queenslanders for example, will be working harder than ever. Let us together pray for them, and others like them working right across our state—for safety, for health, and for wisdom.

I am praying for you, and for our church at this time—that we know Jesus, light of the world, as the rock upon which we can stand. I hope you will join me in those prayers.

Every blessing,

Rev David Baker Moderator Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod

## THIS LENTEN WILDERNESS

**Dr Paul Jones**

Lent has traditionally been associated with following Jesus into the wilderness. In one sense, this year is no different, although the world is a very different place to what any of us has ever experienced before. The call to isolation certainly feels less metaphorical this year.

Having arrived back in Australia only days ago, I am currently in quarantine with my family. Needless to say, self-isolation is a wilderness experience of sorts. The parallels hardly need spelling out.

Wilderness means distance from the familiar. It is a place where we are forced to recognise that we are not in control, that we never have been.

It is a place (and time) of preparation, because what follows is the resurrection life of Easter, filled with hope, new life and promise.

It is a place where wanderers attain greater self-understanding as fear and resentment bubbles to the surface and we are confronted by inner demons.

Wilderness is a place where pride is driven out to make space for humility. And if the experiences of Israel and Jesus provide a template for our own experience, it is a place of temptation.

Temptation to what exactly?

Well, let me ask you a personal question: what happens to you when you find yourself 'wandering' in isolation? And before you read on too quickly, take a minute to think on what temptations you're facing right now ...

Do you resort to escapism, going from one film or game to the next, hardly giving yourself time to think about who've been and who you are becoming?

Do you retreat inside yourself, offering very little (perhaps even nothing) to those around you?

Do you release those inner demons of anger or bitterness, excusing their presence because, after all, life's not treating you fairly?

Or do you, quite in spite of your newly barren context, simply forge new paths to self-promotion?

These are just some of the temptations that have been known to badger well-meaning folks passing through the wilderness.

In Deuteronomy 8.2, Moses calls the Israelites to attention: “Remember the entire path that the LORD your God caused you to walk for this 40 years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what is in your heart: would you keep his commandments or not?”

They did not.

What is remembered of Israel’s time in the wilderness is neither obedience nor humility, but rebellion. To borrow the Bible’s language, the Israelites hardened their hearts. (Ps 95.8; Heb 3.8,15)

By contrast, Jesus fulfilled Israel’s calling in the wilderness by humbling himself, resisting temptations of all kinds, and by choosing obedience (Luke 4). In a remarkable turn of phrase, the writer to the Hebrews states that Jesus, the champion/leader/pioneer/author of our salvation, was ‘made perfect’, or ‘brought to completion’, through his sufferings (Heb 2.10). Isn’t that a wild notion? That Jesus was made perfect through suffering!? And in what follows, the author continues to use that phrase of those who follow Jesus.

So here we are ... isolated in this lenten wilderness, awaiting the promise of resurrection life.

But the testimony of Scripture is that our present experience ought not overwhelm us. Nor should it be aimless. On the contrary, like Israel and Jesus, we are being led through this arid wilderness by the life-giving and remarkably creative Spirit of God, whose breath inhabits dry bones, and whose light overcomes the darkness.

We may be isolated from one another for a time, but together the church continues to follow Jesus into this Lenten wilderness. And as we are being

brought to completion, let's continue to pray this simple prayer from Psalm 143.10:

*Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
Let your good Spirit lead me  
on a level path.  
Amen.*

**Dr Paul Jones**

Principal of Trinity College Queensland and Lecturer in Old Testament and Homiletics

## **Worship options around the Church**

For information for live streaming options -click on this link to show the particular church and what they are doing.

<https://ucaqld.com.au/coronavirus/live-streaming-worships/>

You may have to copy the URL above, paste the whole address in your internet task bar, and then hit

This is an opportunity to see what other Uniting Churches are doing across Queensland during this time. There are a variety of ways to "connect" (given that connect is the word for the time-being. There is also Facebook, Utube, vimeo, radio links, email texting ... livestreaming ...all of which are an invitation to a new challenge).

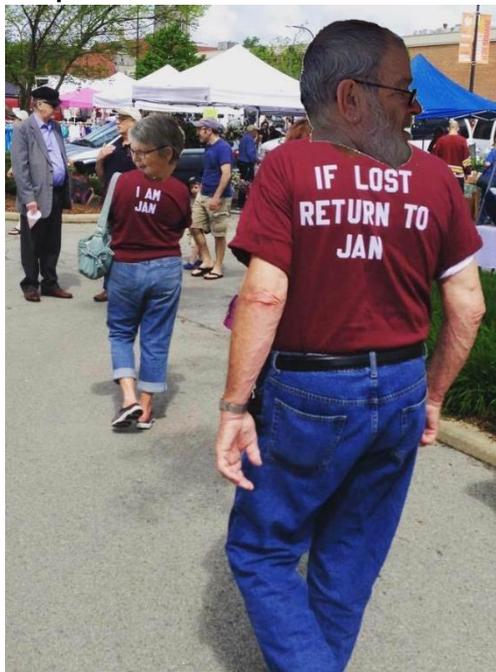
**General Notices**

**-School Holidays (and Easter Break)** First Term ends Friday 3 April 2020 and school holidays continue through to Monday 20 April. Please pray for our schools and all places of public gathering during this trying time.

**-Our FaceBook site:** if anyone knows who created our Maroochydore Uniting Church FaceBook content could you please let Jan Strudwick know. We would like to be able to add content to it, and invite others to contribute, but unless we know who created it, and therefor has Moderator rights, we can't use it. The address is as follows:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maroochydore-Uniting-Church/162857217063609>

**-Request**



So.....as we are in new territory here



we would like to ask congregation members to take part in what the Herald can offer us each week. If you have contributions we would

appreciate them and like to publish them for all to read. For example, has Daisy had her baby yet? Does anyone know? Has anything good happened to you this week? Do you have need of something that you know other people have, but you can't get. Do you know where we can get some toilet paper? Is there a congregation member you are worried about, but haven't been able to contact?

## Prayers for our world and our people

-for everyone experiencing the serious impacts of the *coronavirus* - we pray for calm, that the virus will pass

-for all congregations as they seek to manage the impact and disruption.

-for our communities becoming overwhelmed by the constancy of media messages, may we find calm in the centre, and reassurance from one another.

-we pray for Jan, Barb, Iain, Asho & June, Rita, Laurie, Daisy, Joyce.

Are there prayer points you would like to include. ?



What a time to be alive! And who would have ever predicted that introverts would have the tables turned, and that being isolated /having your own isolated cocoon would become the status quo....yay!

So.... We have no limit on how much can go into the Herald at the moment as it won't be getting printed. If you want anyone in our congregation to know of God's grace to you this week, or in coming weeks

let the Herald know or maybe write it in the Maroochydore UC's facebook page.....

....I (Jan S) had God's unmerited grace bestowed on me on Monday. As I parked in my Dr's last teeny tiny car parking space, with 4 wheel drives on both sides. One had its door open in my space and the other was actually parked over its line in my right hand space, and when I got out the owner of the brand spanking new VW Amarock said to me "Do you realise you just hit my car?" I had felt nothing, but I could see a white line scraping right along his new tyre and hubcap. (Duco from my car).

As I am the world's best driver (just ask my husband) I didn't know what to do (as I am maintaining that I have never had to sort out an incident that I have caused) I said to him. "I'm so sorry. What do we do now?"

And he said "you know what, this is your lucky day, forget about it!" I 'd had a medical emergency with my mother that morning, and was more than a bit distracted, and this fellow had obviously seen what was going on in the world and thank God, had decided this wasn't worth trifling with, given others things that have been happening. I thanked God all the way home.

## Texting for Seniors



Since more and more Seniors are texting and tweeting there appears to be a need for a STC (Senior Texting Code). If you qualify for Senior Discounts this is the code for you.

Please pass this on to your children and grandchildren so they can understand your texts.

ATD	At The Doctor's
BFF	Best Friend Fainted
BTW	Bring The Wheelchair
BYOT	Bring Your Own Teeth
CBM	Covered By Medicare
CGU	Can't get up
CUATSC	See You At The Senior Center
DWI	Driving While Incontinent
FWB	Friend With Beta Blockers
FWIW	Forgot Where I Was
FYI	Found Your Insulin
GGPBL	Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low!
GHA	Got Heartburn Again
HGBM	Had Good Bowel Movement
IMHO	Is My Hearing-Aid On?
LMDO	Laughing My Dentures Out
LOL	Living On Lipitor