



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

Sunday 3rd May 2020
Easter 4



We seek to be a prayerful and listening 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: **Neville Biggs 8th May**

Please send any notices for next week's 'Herald' to janstrudwickart@gmail.com by Wednesday afternoon

Moderator's Prayer

- 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're calling us to be.**

MODERATOR REV DAVID BAKER



Lectionary Bible Readings

May 3 2020 Easter 4

Acts 2:42-47

Ps 23 1

Pt 2:19-25

Jn 10:1-10

May 10 2020 Easter 5

Acts 7:55-60

Ps 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Pt 2:2-10

Jn 14:1-14

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).

Reflective practices during COVID-19

Rev Dr Jenny Tymms has written the third in her series of reflection pieces, entitled *For a time such as this*. These pieces are designed to support ministry agents and members of the church on your spiritual and mental health journey during COVID-19.

The Apostle Paul was a man accustomed to being in control of his life and at home in the world of travel and energetic leadership. But he discovered that even as a disciple of Jesus, not all of his own hopes and plans would succeed. Much to his frustration he found himself confined to prison, first in Caesarea, and then under a form of “house-arrest” in Rome.

The Church at Philippi learned that Paul was imprisoned and sent Epaphroditus to support him and his work, and to bring gifts to help out with his material needs. But Epaphroditus became desperately ill and after his recovery Paul sent him back to his home congregation earlier than planned. Epaphroditus took back with him a letter of thanks and encouragement addressed to the church. It was the “Letter of Paul to the Philippians” that we know so well from the New Testament.

Paul felt conflicted about the situation in which he found himself. He knew that he was playing a valuable role as a witness to Christ to those around him. At the same time he wanted to be freed from his confinement in order to be more useful to the wider church on the outside. He didn’t know whether it would be better to live in fruitful labour for Christ or to die and be with Christ. Yet it was while he was imprisoned that he wrote his joy-filled letter. It includes the magnificent hymn/poem about the humility of Jesus. This poem, together with his hope-filled words of encouragement and challenge, have sustained Christians for almost 2000 years.

Some of the restrictions on our own movements might soon be lifted. It is a good time to reflect on our experience of the past few weeks. What have you found most difficult or frustrating? Are there events or circumstances that have brought out your crankiness or your tears? Have

there been unexpected gifts or moments of surprised joy? What are you learning about yourself and your faith during this time? You might wish to journal your reflections and bring them before God in prayer. Why not also take the time to read and ponder the letter to the Philippians, especially chapter two.

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.
- for our Playgroup Mums and children, and for the people who uphold them
- for all those who use the hall as a gathering place, and who are missing being with friends

Are there prayer points you would like to include. ?

Webinar: Navigating grief in times of crisis

It is important to learn how to care for yourself and those around you during times of loss and grief.

Rev Peter Armstrong is co-hosting a webinar with Lifeline on Thursday 30 April from 11am–12.30am and Thursday 7 May from 11am–12.30am on understanding grief and how to respond. To register, email

peter.armstrong@ucareqld.com.au or call 0418 433 193.

Online course: Foundations in discipleship

Trinity College Queensland is holding a short course on foundations in discipleship from 11–13 May. This online 3 day course focuses on the biblical understanding of discipleship in both the personal and collective sense. The course will focus on developing discipling communities. It will also look at various practices that enhance the growth of a Christian in their relationship with Christ.

For more information or to register visit the [website](#).

Keeping connected at UnitingCare

How do we reach out to lonely people, when we ourselves need to stay at home? Blue Care's new Keeping Connected program offers a beautiful opportunity to reach into the lives of those most vulnerable in this season.

Can you write letters to connect with someone lonely? Can you make or send cards to bless someone you may not even know? Can you make phone calls or video messages to chat or pray with an aged care resident?

If you have some time and a lot of love, you can reach out and help connect aged care residents with the spirit of fellowship that is valued in the Uniting Church.

To find out more or be a part of the Keeping Connected program, email missionteam@ucareqld.com.au



at 4:43 AM

Waiting for new Aussie slang to be born in the next few months.

Early guesses:

Sanny - hand sanitiser

In iso - self isolation / lockdown

the Rona - self explanatory

Magpie - supermarket hoarder

In a sentence:

Me boss tested pozzi for the rona so now I'm in iso.

Popped down to woolies for some sanny but it's been

magpie'd.

It appears that autocorrect has become my worst enema.



Something for the ladies to ponder upon: Care of Heather Farrell ...

Have you ever noticed how in the scriptures men are always going up into the mountains to commune with the Lord?

Yet in the scriptures we hardly ever hear of women going to the mountains, and we know why — right? Because the women were too busy keeping life going; they couldn't abandon babies, meals, homes, fires, gardens, and a thousand responsibilities to make the climb into the mountains!

I was talking to a friend the other day, saying that as modern woman I feel like I'm never "free" enough from my responsibilities, never in a quiet enough, or holy enough spot to have the type of communion I want with God.

Her response floored me, "That is why God comes to women. Men have to climb the mountain to meet God, but God comes to women wherever they are."

I have been pondering on her words for weeks and have searched my scriptures to see if what she said is true. God does indeed come to women where they are, when they are doing their ordinary, everyday work.

He meets them at the wells, where they draw water for their families, in their homes, in their kitchens, in their gardens.

He comes to them as they sit beside sickbeds, as they give birth, care for the elderly, and perform necessary mourning and burial rites.

Even at the empty tomb, Mary was the first to witness Christ's resurrection, She was there because she was doing the womanly chore of properly preparing Christ's body for burial.

In these seemingly mundane and ordinary tasks, these women of the scriptures found themselves face to face with divinity.

So, if — like me — you ever start to bemoan the fact that you don't have as much time to spend in the mountains with God as you would like. Remember, God comes to women. He knows where we are and the burdens we carry. He sees us, and if we open our eyes and our hearts we will see Him, even in the most ordinary places and in the most ordinary things.

He lives.



Why Did JESUS Fold the Napkin?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this.... The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. . The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!' Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stopped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes! In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.. Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm finished.." But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because..... The folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!"

