



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

5 April 2020
Palm Sunday

We seek to be a prayerful and listening church

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>.

No birthdays or anniversaries this week...except April Fool's Day

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

Moderator's March Prayer

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

As we take up our Lenten journey again, Lord, may we be drawn closer to You,
and be freed of that which would ensnare our faith, hope and love.

Rev David Baker

Bible Readings

5 April 2020

Is 50:4-9a

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

Phil 2:5-11

Matt 21:1-11

Palm/Passion Sunday

God is sovereign Lord

God makes me righteous

To be like Christ we must humble ourselves

Jesus comes to Jerusalem as King

6 April 2020

Monday of Holy Week

Is 42:1-9; Ps 36:5-11; Heb9:11-15; John 12:1-11

7 April 2020

Tuesday of Holy Week

Is 49:1-7; Ps 71:1-14; 1 Cor 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

8 April 2020

Wednesday of Holy Week

Is 50:4-9a; Ps 70; Heb 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

9 April 2020

Maundy Thursday

Ex 12:1-4,11-14; Ps 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor11:23-26; John 13:1-17,31b-35

10 April 2020

Good Friday

Is 52:13-53: Ps 22; Heb 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

11 April 2020

Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14/Lam 3:1-9,19-24; Ps 31:1-4,15-16; 1 Pet 4:1-8; Matt 27:57-66

12 April 2020

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2,14-24; Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

Message from James: _____

"So Jesus set his face for Jerusalem, but before he passes through he stops in Bethage, at the Mount of Olives. Gethsemane is also at the Mount of Olives; there is always Gethsemane on the way." "He (Jesus) emptied himself, took the nature of a servant ..."

In these readings we discover two processions.

Read the Palm Sunday Stories in the Gospels

Phil 2:5-11

To be like Christ we must humble ourselves

Matt 21:1-11

Jesus comes to Jerusalem as King

Palm Sunday leads us into Holy Week, and with that we follow not a date or series of days, but we follow Jesus along a path of endurance, suffering and trust. In this time when we have never gone this way before, "unprecedented" is the word, we can follow Jesus, the human God to the "unprecedented" place of death and resurrection.

In my contemplations this week, as you may know Richard Rohr is one of my mentors. Into this week and into this world he writes:

"All great spirituality is about what we do with our pain. Creation has a pattern of wisdom; and we dare not shield ourselves from it, or we literally will lose our soul. We can obey commandments, believe doctrines, and attend church services all our lives and still daily lose our souls if we run from the necessary cycle of loss and renewal. Death and resurrection are lived out at every level of the cosmos, but only one species thinks it can avoid it—the human species.

I am afraid that many of us with privilege have been able to become very naïve about pain and suffering in the United States and the Western world. We simply don't have time for it. However, by trying to handle all suffering through willpower, denial, medication, or even therapy, we have forgotten something that should be obvious: we do not handle suffering; *suffering handles us*— in deep and mysterious ways that become the very matrix of life and especially new life. Only suffering and certain kinds of awe lead us into genuinely new experiences. All the rest is merely the confirmation of old experience. The suffering in Jesus Christ *handles us* with loving compassion.

It is amazing to me that the cross or crucifix became the central Christian logo, when its rather obvious message of inevitable suffering is aggressively disbelieved in most Christian countries, individuals, and churches. We are clearly into ascent, achievement, and accumulation. The cross became a mere totem, a piece of jewellery. We made the Jesus symbol into a mechanical and distant substitutionary atonement theory instead of a very personal and intense at-one-ment process, the very reality of love's unfolding. We missed out on the positive and redemptive meaning of our own pain and suffering. It was something Jesus did for us (substitutionary), but not something that revealed and invited us into the same pattern. We are not punished *for* our sins, we are punished *by* our sins (such as blindness, egocentricity, illusions, or pride).

It seems that nothing less than some kind of pain will force us to release our grip on our small explanations and our self-serving illusions. *Resurrection will always take care of itself, whenever death is trusted.* It is the cross, the journey into the necessary night, of which we must be convinced, and then resurrection is offered as a gift. "

It is a long walk to glory - but you have to pass through the gates.
Grace and peace, James, with thanks to Richard Rohr.

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/>

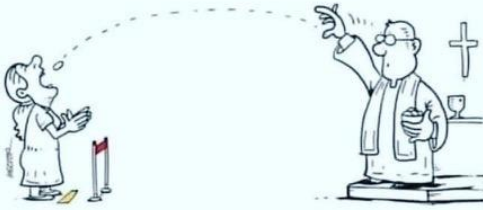
You may have to copy the URL above, paste the whole address in your internet task bar, and then hit

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).

For those who enjoyed "Les Mis" and Bible Study you might like this version of One Day More https://youtu.be/Nf4XxnL4IPk it takes 4 minutes but is quite entertaining
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Palm Sunday and Communion at Home

Next sunday:



More than anything at this time, we need to be reminded that we are indeed One Body, scattered, though we are many. There is One Lord, one Lord of All throughout the Earth.

We give thanks for the life of the Holy Spirit, and how true are the words of Jesus who in speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well, that you will no longer worship God on this mountain or in Jerusalem but in Spirit and truth; what a gift to us is this

Spirit of Jesus Christ in whom we see and worship God, in every time and every place- The Great Communion of the Saints.

This Sunday you are invited to prepare for communion at home.

A place has already been set for you by Jesus himself, and it is Jesus who invites us, so we come. Set for yourself your own sacred space where you may receive the communion to yourself. Prepare the elements of bread and wine (grape juice- or water if you don't) and whatever else may make the setting meaningful for you. Set up photos, symbols or offerings that you want include in the communion.

There will be a service for us to share sent out in the same way we have been doing.

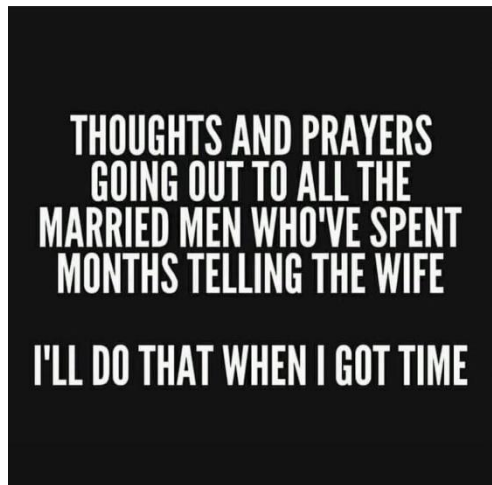
Grace and peace, James.

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 Maroochydoore 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/Maroochydoore-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.