



# 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 10th May 2020  
Easter 5



**Be Strong, we will hug again**

# The Maroochydore Herald



*We seek to be a prayerful and listening church*

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## **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: Ian Watt (14<sup>th</sup>), Katrina Cotter (15<sup>th</sup>), Akanisi Katoa (16<sup>th</sup>)**

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

### **Lectionary Bible Readings**

**May 10 2020** Easter 5

Acts 7:55-60

Ps 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Pt 2:2-10

Jn 14:1-14

**May 17 2020** Easter 6

Acts 17:22-31

Ps 66:8-20

1 Pt 3:13-22

Jn 14:15-21

## Moderator's May Prayer

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



## **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).

## **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.

## Reflective practices during COVID-19

Rev Dr Jenny Tymms has written the fourth in her series of reflection pieces, entitled *For a time such as this*.

This week some of the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted: now we can travel up to 50 kms from our homes and we can visit a park or beach for more than just exercise. These small opportunities are worth savouring.

This reminds me of how the religious practice of asceticism (like fasting) is meant to help us. Rather than interpreting the withdrawal of an habitual enjoyment as a form of punishment, such a practice helps us grow in two ways. First, it gives us time to do our “inner work” which we often neglect as we become preoccupied with our busy activities in the outer world. The extra time provides us with the opportunity to deepen our friendship with God and to attend to the needs of our soul. We reflect on our real priorities and how they may have become skewed over time. The second purpose of asceticism is to cleanse our senses. When we haven’t eaten food for a while (or gone for a drive or for a walk along the beach or in the bush) we approach the experience with refreshed senses and with a more deeply-felt delight.

When Jesus reminded his followers to consider the lilies (Luke 12: 27-31) he was teaching us to trust God, to stop being so anxious about our lives and our bodily needs and to put first things first. But I like to think he was also reminding us about the sheer beauty of God’s creation which we so often pass by without even noticing!

So in the next days and weeks, why not ponder the possibility that these times we are living through are an opportunity for a kind of contemporary asceticism, for deepening our dependence on the God we can utterly trust and for renewing our appreciation of God’s creation (including our family and friends). Why not also make a conscious decision to go somewhere or do something you haven’t been able to do for the last few weeks. Plan it. Do it. Savour the experience. And give God thanks.

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](mailto:missionteam@ucareqld.com.au)

### **Upcoming video services and resources**

The Synod office continues to produce online services and resources to support the church. Here's what's coming up:

#### **Moderator services**

- Sunday 17 May (will be available online by early next week)
- Sunday 21 June: a whole of church anniversary service
- Ongoing services for the third Sunday of the month

#### **Chaplaincy Sunday**

With a theme of Living Faith in Uncertain Times, updated resources and small videos will be made available prior to Chaplaincy Sunday on 24 May for use as part of your own service.

#### **Pentecost Sunday**

The Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group is producing support resources for Pentecost Sunday on 31 May for use as part of your own service.

All services and resources will be available online at [ucaqld.com.au/uniting](http://ucaqld.com.au/uniting)

## The graciousness of uncertainty

“It doth not yet appear what we shall be” 1 John3:2

Naturally we are inclined to be so mathematical and calculating that we look upon uncertainty as a bad thing. We imagine that we have to reach some end, but that is not the nature of spiritual life. The nature of spiritual life is that we are certain in our uncertainty, consequently we do not make our nests anywhere. Common sense says – “well supposing I was in that condition”. We cannot suppose ourselves in any condition we have never been in.

Certainty is the mark of the common-sense life; gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways. We do not know what a day will bring forth. This is generally said with a sigh of sadness; it should be rather an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. Immediately we abandon to God, and do the duty that lies nearest, He packs our life with surprises all the time. When we become advocates of a creed, something dies; we do not believe God, we only believe our belief about Him. Jesus said “except ye.... become as little children”. Spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God, but uncertain of what He is going to do next. If we are only certain in our beliefs, we get dignified and severe and have the ban of finality about our views; but when we are rightly related to God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy.

“Believe also in me...” said Jesus, and not “\_Believe certain things about me...”. Leave the whole thing to Him, it is gloriously uncertain how He will come in, but He will come. Remain loyal to Him.

Oswald Chambers *My Utmost for His Highest* [29 April]

Rev Iain Watt (and Linda) has retired after almost 40 years of active service to the UC across several communities. Starting as a YEA student in Caloundra in 1984 and concluding as MOW for the Nanango, Yarraman, Blackbutt and Murgon congregations. To hear a final message from him go to:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZluLih2pDkk>

