



### Bible Readings for October 4, 2020

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

### Reflection From Ray

I don't know how often people would actually stop to read the 10 commandments. They are the sort of thing many people know about but do not know. Most people would be pressed to recite all 10. How many could you get?

Now I think it is true that the church has been for centuries doing more than its fair share of trading in guilt and sin and we could all do with more positivity. I am not sure abandoning one of our foundational traditions and key planks to our identity is the way to go. First, it helps immensely if we understand something of the context of the 10 commandments as they appear in our bible. We are not obliged to believe these words were either dictated directly by God or chiselled by laser beam on stone tablets by either God or Moses. Rather, they represent the accumulated wisdom of an ancient covenant community that had a number of law codes but found in this summary the core of the values fitting for a newly emerging community desperately clinging to what is distinctive in their relationship with God.



A reminder that there is another

congregational on line Zoom afternoon tea this coming Sunday, October 4 at 2.30pm. (see note on time on page 3) This is a chance to see some familiar smiling faces, and hear how we are all travelling through lockdown. Bring a cup of tea or coffee and something to munch. Here is the link to click and it should take you to the meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83929547442>

Shanti has asked that an update on her and her mother, Sita's, situation be passed onto the congregation. Sita has been receiving treatment for cancer and has relocated to Sydney for treatment and to be closer to family members. The treatment has concluded and Shanti has just made the decision to also move to Sydney to assist with the care of Sita. Coming from Victoria of course she has to be in quarantine for two weeks which she is now doing in a Sydney hotel. Most likely she will stay in Sydney. She asked for her mobile number be made available and is happy to have calls. Shanti's number is 0415 652.661 and she would love to hear from you.

Here again is the link to the Synod page that has the list of live streamed and pre recorded worship services

[live and recorded worship](#)





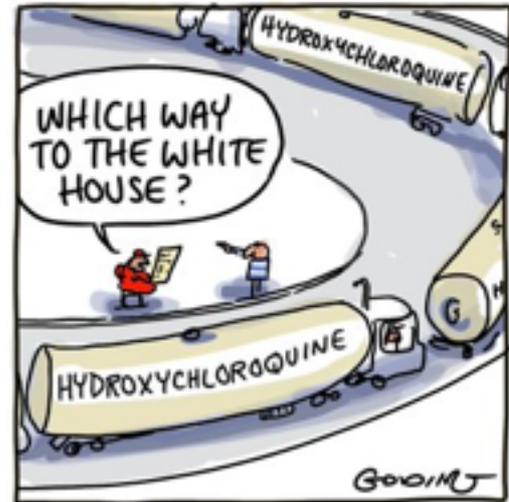
**Do  
Yourself  
A  
Favour**

We have had a series of very pure female voices, so time now to get down and dirty with another one of my favourite Irish artists - the disheveled manical, debauched, The Pogues. Ah the Irish... Van Morrison, Sinead O'Connor, U2 just to mention a few.

By demonstrating that the spirit of punk could live in traditional Irish folk music, the Pogues were one of the most radical bands of the mid-'80s. Led by Shane MacGowan, whose slurred, incomprehensible voice often disguised the sheer poetry of his songs, the Pogues were undeniably political -- not only were many of their songs explicitly in favor of working-class liberalism, but the wild, careening sound of their punk-injected folk was implicitly radical. While the band was clearly radical, they also had a wickedly warped sense of humor, which was abundantly clear on their biggest hit, the fractured Christmas carol "Fairy Tale of New York." The group's first three albums -- Red Roses for Me, Rum Sodomy & the Lash, If I Should Fall from Grace with God -- were widely praised in both Britain and America, and by 1988 they had earned substantial cult followings in both countries. Yet MacGowan's darkly romantic, wasted lifestyle, which was so key to their spirit and success, ultimately proved to be their downfall. (cont p. 3)

## Cartoon of the Week

Some people are very quick off the mark! Within hours of President Trump and the First Lady being diagnosed with COVID the following cartoon



### Prayer in Time of Pandemic

Your loving care

Lord Jesus,

when you walked with us on earth

you spread your healing power.

We place in your loving care

all who are affected by Coronavirus.

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

Bring relief to our sick,

console our bereaved,

protect those who care for us.

We lift our prayer to you Lord,

and trust in your infinite mercy,

as we wait for the daybreak.

By 1990's Hell's Ditch, Spider Stacy and Jem Finer began singing the bulk of the Pogues' material. Despite positive reviews, Hell's Ditch was a flop, and the group wasn't able to support the record because of MacGowan's behavior. Consequently, he was asked to leave the band in 1991; three years later, he returned with a new band, the Popes. For subsequent tours, the Clash's Joe Strummer filled in as lead vocalist, but by the time the band recorded their comeback, *Waiting for Herb*, in 1993, Stacy had become the permanent vocalist. *Waiting for Herb* was kindly reviewed, yet was also ignored, as was 1995's *Pogue Mahone*. The following year, the Pogues announced they were disbanding after 14 years in the business. They stayed dormant for the rest of the '90s while MacGowan's work with the Popes slowly came to an end and other members sought their own creative avenues. In 2001, the group made amends with MacGowan and reunited for a short British tour. This goodwill carried through the next decade as the group continued to play short international tours and make one-off appearances eventually releasing a box set of rarities (*Just Look Them Straight in the Eye and Say...POGUE MAHONE!!*) in 2008 and a live album (*The Pogues in Paris: 30th Anniversary Concert*) in 2012. Just prior to the release of their career-spanning *30 Years* box set in 2013, the group's longtime guitarist Philip Chevron passed away from esophageal cancer. Chevron was the author of one of the Pogues' most revered songs, "Thousands Are Sailing," and had become a sort of unofficial spokesperson for the band in its later period. So Do Yourself a Favour and this week listen to lots of The Pogues and you could do worse than begin with the raucous good time song "If I Should Fall From Grace With God" [listen to If I Should Fall](#)



**Just another thank you to those people who have been making electronic deposits of their weekly offering into the church account, or passing on their weekly offering envelopes. Here are church account details again for any who are able to keep offerings going during these challenging days.**

**Sunshine Uniting Church BSB 083 430**

**Acc. No. 515591719**

Usually we are all keenly aware of when Daylight Saving begins and ends as we want to get to worship at the correct time. This year we can all be a little more relaxed but if you want to get to the Zoom afternoon tea at the right time you will want to move your clock forward an hour at 2.00am on Sunday October 4. Or perhaps it would make more sense to do it before you go to sleep.

That is a theological point here that has something to do with preaching the gospel of grace from the Law of Moses. Any depiction or rendition of the 10 commandments that omits the words that open the 10 commandments, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" is going to seriously run the risk of placing us under law and God will end up being the severe Judge and Lawgiver and little of the liberating God or the loving parent.

In looking at the 10 commandments - the New Testament is clear that Christians are to follow the Torah, the Law. But what does this mean? Well, as Christians we follow Jesus' interpretation/embodiment of the Torah. In summary form, Jesus describes his interpretation of the Law:

Matthew 22.36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

In compressed form, Jesus identifies the Law with love. Thus, Jesus-followers understand Torah obedience to be the commandment to "love one another." But far from flinging aside the law Jesus ups the ante by taking it deep into the heart of each individual. So it is not enough to say you have kept the commandment of not killing. That commandment is motivated by a reverence for life, for a belief in the inherent dignity of each person. Do you hold all life in reverence? Have you believed and acted as if you valued each and every person as a child of God, bearing the divine image?



For Jesus it is not enough to say I have not committed adultery. Have you been true to your commitments and responsibilities in relationships? Are you a person of your word, who acts with integrity? Do you build up people, including your family, who most intimately surround you? Now this puts the emphasis upon the positive intent or motivation behind the 10 commandments.

Why were they not expressed with this positive note. Well, they were the law code of a community and sometimes you do have to draw a line in values or behaviour below which we will not go; just so people know where that line is. You can do what you like above this line; but we all agree nothing below this line is

acceptable. A bit like the difference between saying "touch things with your hands that are life enhancing and going to build up both you and the community". That is nice, but sometimes we just need to be told specifically, "Don't

touch the handle of that pot; it has just come off the stove and will burn you".

We have been reminded today that the opening line of the Ten Commandments is "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery..." It is not, "I am the Lord who created everything, so this is for everyone." It is "I am the Lord who has rescued you." It is for us who have been found in slavery, oppressed by sin and darkness and futile attempts to get ourselves back on track. It is for us who have been rescued by the one who has offered himself in love and taken the full force of the world's violent negatives in his own body to protect us from them, and who has led us to safety in the promised land of resurrection life and love. It is for us, so that we might be able to express our love and gratitude.