



Sunshine Uniting Church

Bible Readings for August 9, 2020

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28
Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Reflection from Ray

Today we are continuing our series on the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which as we have noted more than once is also largely the saga of one extended family. With the emergence in today's text of Joseph, which takes up a surprisingly large part of the book of Genesis, and takes us into a fourth generation.

There are some pretty glaring shortcomings here in this family. We have already come across a number of these family traits over the past Sundays. Jacob plays favourites and sows the seeds of animosity among his own children. Note well it is the favouritism of the father that stirred up the deep seated animosity and jealousy between his children. And all that bristling, toxic animosity is starkly symbolised by that famous, (if mis-named) Coat Of Many Colours.
(cont page 3)



Church is always the people, not the building. We are called to be open to the Spirit for new ways of ministry and mission in this time of physical distancing and social connection in different ways. During this disruption we are finding new ways of being church to ensure we live into the call of being “sign, foretaste and instrument” of God’s kingdom in our world.

As many of us are forced to consider new ways of doing and being church from our homes, the metaphor of “home” can offer life-giving perspectives and starting points for our new ways of gathering, care and mission.

God’s offer of Jubilee in Leviticus 25 sets out a program of pause and reset, every 50th year. God calls his people to justice, liberty and security for all. The land is left to be left fallow, to rest. “You shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family”. (Leviticus 25: 10) It is a time to more actively care for kin and neighbour.

While the ancient economic program of Jubilee does not equate with our current experience of pandemic, we have seen our Church’s response to this time “sheltering at home” characterised by care for the vulnerable, the marginalised and the unemployed. As we continue to work and worship from home, God’s Spirit is at work in us and among us for the wellbeing of our communities, our families and the whole Earth community. May we be active participants of Jubilee in our communities, and in our world. (Appears on Synod website)

**Do Yourself
A
Favour**



We are giving the Aussies a break for a while but the last two weeks

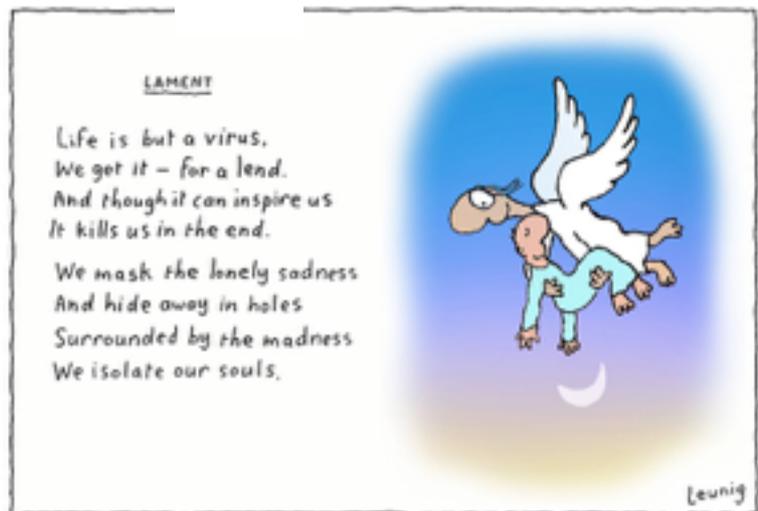
featured two of the best Australian frontmen in rock... The Oil's (I see they are in the news this week with their first new song for 18 years) Peter Garrett and INXS's



Michael Hutchence. Which got me pondering other great bands with an iconic singer. Stones with Jagger, Queen with Mercury, Led Zeppelin with Plant (interesting all English bands that came to mind first). So lets go with an American band with a mesmerising lead singer. The Doors with Jim Morrison and Riders on the Storm.

This was the last song Jim Morrison recorded. He went to France and died a few weeks later. The single was released in June, 1971, shortly before Morrison's death.
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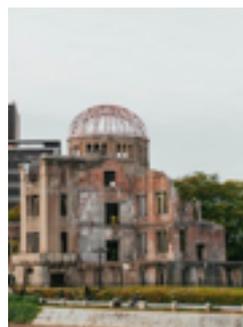
Cartoon of the Week



Hiroshima: 75 years On

Moderator Rev Denise Liersch reflects on this week's 75th Anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bomb and shares her experience visiting the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park three years ago. "The whole park is a memorial telling stories of the suffering that comes when aggression is met by aggression, when violence is met by violence," she says.

At the A-bomb World Heritage reminded: "At morning of 1945, the first used against exploded about above Shima u t t e r l y



people and property below it. Among the burned ruins stood the skeletal remains of the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall (now the A-bomb Dome), a grim reminder of what had been ... to remind future generations that this neighbourhood was erased by the atomic blast."

Read the story by going to [crosslight](#)



Do Yourself a Favour Cont from page 2

This evolved out of a jam session when the band was messing around with “Ghost Riders In The Sky,” a cowboy song by Stan Jones. It was Jim Morrison’s idea to alter the title to “Riders On The Storm.” Ray Manzarek used the electric piano to create the effect of rain. If you listen closely, you can hear Jim Morrison whispering the lyrics over his own singing, which causes a kind of creepy effect. This was Morrison’s final contribution as a rock star. Ray Manzarek told Uncut magazine September 2011: “There’s a whisper voice on ‘Riders on the Storm,’ if you listen closely, a whispered overdub that Jim adds beneath his vocal. That’s the last thing he ever did. An ephemeral, whispered overdub.” The single was shortened for radio play. Some of the piano solo was cut out.

Morrison died on July 3, 1971, another tragic member of the 27 Club. In the official account of his death, he was found in a Paris apartment bathtub by his girlfriend Pam Courson. Pursuant to French law, no autopsy was performed because the medical examiner stated that there was no evidence of foul play. The absence of an official autopsy has left many questions regarding Morrison’s cause of death. I visited his grave in Pere Laichaise Cemetery Paris and almost missed it as it is pretty low key. Oscar Wilde is also buried there. Listen to all glorious 7 min 14 sec of [riders on the storm](#)

And I think there was a glitch with last week’s link to Jailbreak. No-one complained but I spotted it so here is another go at the link. [jailbreak](#)

Crosslight available

Our plans to print and of the latest edition of curtailed by the Stage 4 Reluctantly, as was the case



tomorrow

distribute hard-copy versions Crosslight have been lockdown in Melbourne. in June, we are only able to

publish the magazine as a digital version. However, you will be able to download a PDF and print it out if required. The expanded 45-page August edition will be available on August 7 at the [Crosslight website](#).

And here is the Synod website link to find online worship services to attend [on line worship services](#)

Reflection from Ray cont from page 1

Old Jacob gives his son this coat that no-one else can have. And it reappears in the story to be presented back to Jacob covered with blood. Animal blood but Jacob thinks it is Joseph's.

Well surprise surprise... Jacob's parents played favourites. His father Isaac favoured Jacob's twin Esau while Rebekah favoured Jacob. How often do we see entrenched systemic behaviour passed down the generations? How challenging to break out of these patterns. And not just for our own sake. For we do come to realise our actions have this ripple effect. You act a certain way over here but you cannot contain it to that small area. It will spill over and poison (or nurture and strengthen if our acts and words are positive and life giving) other parts of your life. Thinking of your life as a kid and those of you who are parents what patterns have you inherited and what ways have you been able to break out of?

Joseph and Peter in today's gospel reading both share experience of descending/sinking - for Joseph a pit that is fortunately for him actually dry at the time and Peter beneath the waves when he loses his focus and attention upon Jesus. Both rise from their experiences, have them reversed, to become leaders and visionaries for God. Great stuff! But today's story is one of hope, although we do not get to see this fully played out until next week when Joseph does forgive his brothers who sold him into slavery. Nevertheless it is there today and we live as Christians with the hope for forgiveness. That God can reach into those places in our hearts that have become hardened and calloused over the years and we can find a new freshness and tenderness growing that will allow us to both forgive and accept forgiveness. This whole series has been a call to allow reconciliation to reign in our lives, for the restoring and gracious power of God to rule our hearts and lives. For a powerful reminder that there is nothing and no situation that is beyond the redemptive power of

Church Council Met Last Sunday

Church Council crashed through the technology barrier (with one or two hiccups!) and met online last Sunday afternoon. It was good to be able to see each and a few people rang in to the meeting. Fiona is now an official member of Church Council and immediately copped the job of taking minutes for our meeting! In other matters... the physical Men's Shed (ie the actual garage, not the program) will most likely transfer from Uniting to the congregation, the 11.30am group is having a number of activities via Zoom, Simon is to take over from Chris being the congregation representative to Presbytery. Church Council members will remain in their positions until we can meet in person and have an election at a congregation meeting. Importantly Council voted to proceed with the installation of the Audio Visual equipment we have been talking about purchasing for some time. We are investigating if this can happen during lockdown.

