



**Bible Readings for
July 19, 2020**

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Reflection from Ray

For a number of weeks now we have been reading the unfolding saga of three generations of this family, even though there is no attempt to hide the fact that they are flawed. But equally scripture is clear - they have been chosen to be a blessing to all nations, ultimately to all humanity.

And front and centre in today's story is probably the biggest schemer of the lot. Jacob - who in one of those famous name changes becomes none other than ... Israel. And he is a crook. In one famous biblical story Jacob schemes to get a famished Esau to trade his birthright for a bowl of lentil stew but not satisfied with that in a later incident Jacob in cahoots with his mother Rebekah dresses up to appear as hairy Esau to deceive his blind father Isaac of his blessing. again. cont on page 3



Jacob's Ladder by William Blake

I trust we have all managed to survive the first week of the Lockdown mark 11. At time of writing the number of diagnosed cases of COVID-19 have gone beyond the 400 mark for the first time so I am not expecting we will be meeting in person for worship for quite some time.

Here again is the link to the Synod website that has the list of all Melbourne Uniting Church that have live streaming or recorded worship services on

UCA synod site with live and recorded worship

As always the Synod website and Cross light are the best place to find out information about the Church's response to the pandemic <https://crosslight.org.au/>





Do Yourself A Favour

Today's song is a personal favourite, even though it would be far from the Oil's most successful or best known song. But I still have strong memories of the hypnotic gaunt highly articulate Peter Garrett inspiring us young (allegedly radical) Christians in the anti-war movement.

Anthems For A New Generation by Alan Jones has the following comments on the song [Read full article here](#)

“A highlight from Midnight Oil's third album, 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 (1982), this is one of rock's most eloquent protests against imperialism, neo-colonialism, and forgetting. The first two verses consist of little more than a litany of passing references to mass atrocities. But the recitation builds in power as lead singer Peter Garrett reels off the stark syllables --- "Short Memory" perfectly suits his staccato, incantatory vocal style. The second stanza delivers a sardonic broadside against western modernity's homogenizing and deadening nature -- but also against Soviet imperialism (in Afghanistan), an important bit of balance in an otherwise western-focused critique. The overall effect of the song-chant is hypnotic. The chorus and closing call-and-response ("Short memory, must have a ...") is a magnificent self-negation: in singing of historical amnesia, we remember "The Oils' global breakthrough Diesel and Dust



A Stitch in Time to save lives

Members of Tuggeranong Uniting Church volunteering to sew face masks for Uniting community services in Victoria. Members of Tuggeranong Uniting Church volunteering to sew face masks for Uniting community services in Victoria.

Uniting Church members with sewing skills are stepping up to meet the looming demand for face masks in the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia.

Maxine Gray and her friends from Tuggeranong Uniting Church in Canberra's south are among the first to answer an urgent call from Uniting community service agencies in Victoria.

Maxine says eight people in her congregation are keen to get stitching. "Most of us have done a bit of sewing or dressmaking in our lives so we're all on board."

Uniting Vic.Tas is coordinating a national call for volunteers to make reusable, fabric face masks.

"An increase in demand for face masks is making it hard for many vulnerable and marginalised people in our communities to access them," says Uniting Vic.Tas CEO Bronwyn Pike. Volunteers are asked to register their interest via the Uniting VicTas website or over the phone with the Uniting team on 1800 668 426.

Finished masks can be mailed directly to the Uniting Op Shop warehouse in the Melbourne suburb of Dallas, which is using COVID-19 safety measures to receive and store items. Their address is: Uniting Vic.Tas 38-40 Phillip Street Dallas, VIC 3047

Masks will be distributed across Uniting Vic.Tas and Uniting AgeWell services.

Do You Reckon Sunshine Uniting Could Have a Go At This?

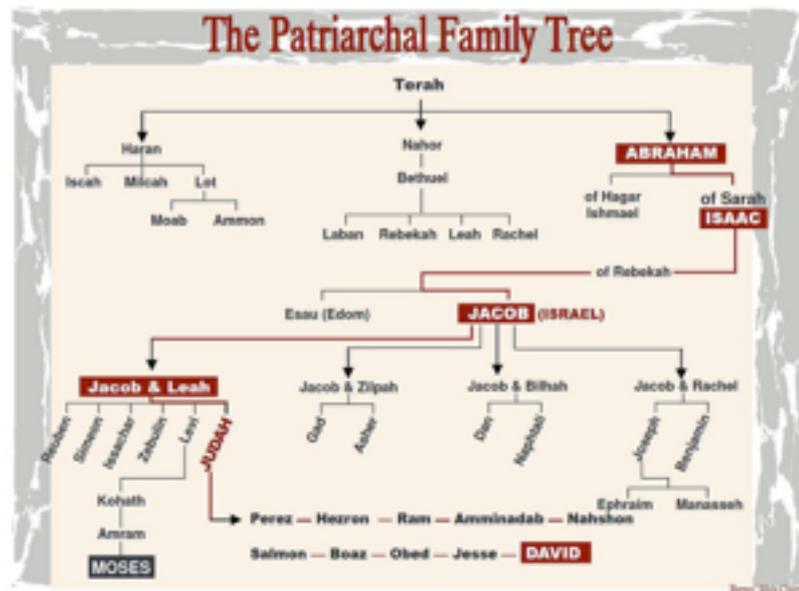
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Reflection from Ray (cont. from page 1)

By now Jacob is a fugitive, on the run, fleeing from disastrous relationships and the deception and cheating he has carried out. He flees towards the old homeland of his grandfather Abraham. He arrives at a place that is no place and he stops there for no other reason than it has got dark. Nothing about it at all to distinguish it from any other place. And at the big nothing the wondrous happens. It is a dream of these creatures reaching to heaven and heaven reaching to us. What the celts call a “thin place” a sacred space upon the earth where the veils that separates heaven and earth becomes thin, where the veil may be lifted and just a skerrick of the divine seeps into the mundane earth. A place where people are touched, transformed, have to face themselves and the deception and vanity they thought they were fleeing and had left behind in another place, only to discover the place it dwells is within. People often think they seek these thin places because they seek an anointing of God, but more often they

would flee also from this place if they knew what God was going to bring up, confront them with. You think Jesus had a ball in his 40 days in the wilderness?

You been in that place? Where you have learnt something, experienced something from being somewhere you had not chosen and maybe did not want to be? Jacob wakes and says, ‘God is in this place and I did not know it’.

Jacob experiences is not the end of a long and anguished spiritual search. He has done all he can to scheme for his own betterment in this family, he is never known to be a prayer, a God observer, a man of faith at all. There is hope for us! and now he comes to this non descript place. It is all grace. But lets be clear this dream is not the focus, it is but a visual aid to the main big idea which is the renewal of the covenant. Covenant is at the heart of God’s relationship and actions and nothing and no-one can derail God’s surge towards justice and the renewal of humanity.

Do Yourself a Favour (cont. from page 2)

(1986) was still several years away, and "Short Memory" never made an international splash as did "Beds Are Burning". But it's just as essential an anthem. The melody is as catchy as anything the group recorded, and the playing throughout is sublime. 10-9-8 ... found the Oils jelling as the greatest rock and roll unit Australia has produced. Jim Moginie's elegiac keyboards mesh beautifully at the outset with the Martin Rotsey, and the the jazzy-dissonant Drummer Rob Hirst combination of throughout. One whole scat-singing, improvisation around polemic: "If you read you'll see the same and again / Repeat they've all got it / When are we going to play it again / Got a short, got a short ...," et cetera.



filigreed guitar work of two combine again in instrumental break. provides just the right subtlety and crash could also build a drum-thumping Garrett's closing the history books things happen again repeat short memory

Peter Garrett went on, of course, to become an Australian member of parliament. In 2010, some cited this song in accusing Garrett of having a "short memory" himself, when he declared his support for the US-Australia military alliance that the Oils had once pilloried in songs like "US Forces" and "Hercules". “

Here is the link to the original (remastered) version of the song [here](#). But because that version has no visuals you may want to do yourself an extra favour this week and check out this live version at a concert at Sydney Harbour [the sydney Harbour version](#)

The UCA Assembly is asking us to JOIN IN PRAYER FOR: •

Those newly diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus and their loved ones, and the health and community service workers caring for them.

- All those across our Church membership and our community service agencies who are responding compassionately and in practical ways to the pandemic.
- Members of the Assembly Standing Committee who meet remotely this weekend.