



Sunshine Uniting Church

Bible Readings for November 22, 2020

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Reflection From Ray

This will be the last reflection from Ray as from here the reflection will take the form of Sunday's sermon again.

Today is the last day of the Christian liturgical calendar and next Sunday (when I am on holidays!) we commence a new church year together with the First Sunday of Advent.

We conclude this year striking pretty much the same note as we commenced the year – anticipation and expectation because we know who we are, and whose we are. As I have been hammering away for the whole time I have been at Sunshine Uniting (five and a half years) Christianity is far more future oriented than past oriented. It was born in an outpouring of barely containable anticipation and has only taken on the role of genteel preserver of a revered past when it has lost its vision and urgency of the coming of the Lord of Creation who challenges every worldly pretender to authority.

This day has been designated Christ the King (Reign of Christ) only since 1925 and has been picked up in the Protestant church even more recently than that.

We are back! Last week the 10.00am group was able to meet with the 20 person limit and other COVID-19 precautions in place. And on Sunday November 22 the 11.30am group will also make a welcome return to face to face worship. We were able to use the new Audio-visual system last week at worship. There were certainly a few bugs in the system but hopefully this Sunday it will all go without a hitch. Be patient as we are learning a new system.

As has been previously announced Ray's last service at Sunshine Uniting will be on December 27 when the Chairperson of the Port Phillip Presbytery, the Rev Bruce Watson will join us to lead the "severing of the pastoral ties" part of the liturgy.

Next Sunday for Advent 1 and the following Sunday we will be welcoming the Rev Val Johnson who be leading worship at the 10.00am service.



And an early reminder that as we do each year the Christmas Day service for the 10.00am group will be held at the earlier time of 9.30am. See Penaia for details of the 11.30am worship group Christmas services.

New Editor Required for The Harvest

With Ray moving on at the end of the year we will need someone to take on the role of preparing the congregation's weekly news sheet. Now that we are back to face to face worship we will return to using the older style of news sheet with the weekly bible readings on the back cover. That will make it a lot easier than the electronic version of The Harvest we have been using during lockdown. I estimate it would take an hour or two to do the simpler Word document style and it can be printed off in the minister's office.

And you could have a trial run over the next two Sundays while Ray is away.

Mental Health Matters

Fiona Bottcher

Some years ago, I was asked to tell a story, impromptu, that painted a picture of my future ministry. I took a deep breath:

“People are gathered around a fireplace. They sit in a circle; the red warmth of the flames reflects on their faces. They break bread. They tell stories. The breeze weaves around them, gently brushing their cheeks. God’s spirit touching skin and filling lungs and hearts”.

In the small garden of the Sunshine Adult Acute Psychiatric Unit, we gather around an outdoor picnic setting, secured to a block of concrete. We share stories and some share a ciggie. The warmth of the sun touches skin through the cracks in the shade cloth. The gentle breeze moves hair and cigarette ashes.

“Oh! Look at that gorgeous little bird!” Sally* suddenly exclaims, and we all turn to look at the New Holland Honeyeater foraging in a banksia bush nearby. “I think it’s come for you Sal” says Nick* gently, “I think it wants you to know that God is near you”. We are all silent for a moment, watching the delicate little bird feeding. “I think you might be right” Sally replies softly.



Youth Centre News

Check out the new website of the Sunshine Youth Space, Samita, our Youth Centre co-ordinator has done a great job in updating it and it looks fantastic. Here is the link <https://www.sunshineyouthspace.com/>

Sunshine Youth Space in collaboration with Youth with Love has organised the African Fusion Dance Christmas Special- an online event made possible with a grant from the Victorian government.

Below are the details:

Event: African Fusion Dance Christmas Special

Date: 21/12/2020

Time: 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86975982688>

Prerecorded dance practice videos with the dance steps will be posted on www.sunshineyouthspace.com and social media on 7th December. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions



CROSSLIGHT

copy one and will be able
December.

the free Uniting Church magazine produced bi-monthly has only been available in the on line version during lockdown but is thrilled to announce the December edition will also be a hard to be picked up from our church in early



Cartoon of the Week

Our Presbytery of Port Phillip West has asked us this week to pray for

- Officials in South Australia dealing with their Covid outbreak
- People who are still too scared to venture out of their homes
- Ministers and churches as they begin to open their doors for worship again
- Uni and school students for their end of your exams
- Families still separated by border closures
- People who are isolated as groups and clubs are still not open

Loving and Compassionate God, we pray that your love, mercy and strength be with all these people and Holy Spirit come and sustain them with your power.

Narelle Collas (Presbytery Minister)

Reflection from Ray cont It remains an open question whether the church either in 1925 or today has fully grasped the audacity of what it was doing in calling its members to the very same declaration that got Jesus executed by the state as a subversive. I struggle with the name of this Sunday every year. Kingship is not a particularly democratic concept. In fact the calling this last Sunday of the liturgical year “Christ the King” scores poorly since it manages to tick both boxes of being elitist and sexist.

We could choose to abandon the name – or even the concept of referring to Jesus as King or Ruler – and I have some sympathy for that thinking - but we had best first understand how the gospels think of Jesus before we change some of this basic language.

Christmas Bowl envelopes are available from church from this Sunday. Each week we will be playing a short video that highlights one of the projects your offerings will be supporting.

In a serendipitous occurrence we received a request from the Sunshine Christian School to run the above ad. Many of you will know the school occupies a church building that was part of the then Sunshine parish which was running a school. The building needed a lot of work to keep it at a safe standard and the decision was made to sell. The sale of the church to the Lutheran church generated the Property Sales Proceeds (PSP) that the congregation is using now to do up the Devonshire Rd site and install the new Audio-Visual system in our church. So we are more than glad to help out and revisit the memory of those faithful people who were part of our journey of faith. Go well Sunshine Christian



Sunshine Christian School



Providing a Christian Education in the community for over 35 years

Enrolments available in Years 2 – 6 for 2021 and beyond.
Please visit our website or call 9312 1253 to register interest.



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Living as children of the light

*Loving God
Loving Others
Loving Learning*



