



## EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

*14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood*

24th May 2020

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO ARE WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME.  
MAY YOU EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE AS WE FIND DIFFERENT WAYS  
TO WORSHIP AND BE COMMUNITY**

- 24th May 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Nicholas Fried  
Acts 1:6-11  
*'Crossing boundaries'*
- 9.30am Worship Nicholas Fried  
Acts 1:6-11 & John 17:1-11  
*'Unity not uniformity (Yes—we're all in this together!!!)'*  
**Sermon and Bible reading audio available on website**  
**Also see Youtube link for video readings and sermon**  
<https://youtu.be/gKuSFucCfYA>
- 2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group
- 31st May 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Stephen Kemp
- 9.30am Worship Nicholas Fried  
*Pentecost— God's spirit blows into our lives*  
Acts 2: 1-21  
Remember to wear something red!  
**Sermon and Bible reading audio will be available on website**  
**A Youtube link for video readings and sermon to be advised**
- 2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group

欢迎所有第一次来参加崇拜的朋友们。

希望你们在和我们一起崇拜的时候感受到上帝的存在。

유나이팅 교회에 처음 방문해주신 모든 분들을 환영합니다. 함께 예배하는 가운데 살아계신 주님을 만나고 돌아갈 수 있길 소망합니다.

Nicholas has returned to work on a 50% basis, this arrangement is to continue until 15 July.

**WORSHIP RESOURCES** Bible readings and sermons for Sunday will be available by audio, on the church's website along with a video link. Printed copies will be delivered to those without internet access.

The Assembly website has a list of livestreaming and online worship services. <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/ministry-during-covid-19>

**PASTORAL CARE.** Please continue to keep connected with each other by phone, email, and text.

On 12 May Synod circulated an information update on Covid-19 about "gathering". In part, Synod affirms that "pastoral visits are permissible as long as no one is considered to be at risk. Should the Minister or Pastoral Visitor be in a vulnerable category, please make other arrangements." Lesley Bradbury and Nicholas have been tasked by Church Council to recommend "other arrangements", due to Nicholas being in a vulnerable category.

The full update from Synod, with notification about gathering for worship, is available on the church's website found under 'other resources'.

**SYMPATHY** to Mark and Catherine Leal on the death of Mark's dad, Warwick last Tuesday.

**THANK YOU TO JAN REEVE.** Emma Jarvis organised flowers delivered to Jan Reeve this week with this message: *Dear Jan, thank you for all you have done for us over the past few months. We wish you well for your coming placement. With love, Eastwood Uniting Church.*



**'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'**

Merrill B

Jason M

Sue H.

Margaret S

Pat E.

Liz M's mother Katy

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

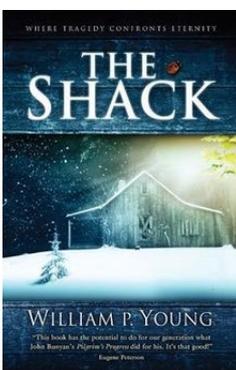
No worship services or activities are able to be held at the church until further notice.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** are seeking people to nominate to be part of the EUC Joint Nominating Committee for selection of a new minister. We need 4 or 5 people from EUC, hopefully that include a range of ages and interests, commitment to the church's Mission Plan and preferably at least one person from each of the 4 worship services (8am, 9.30am, 10.45am and 2pm) Please contact the church office or Linda Brunton.

**LIFE AND WITNESS CONSULTATION BY PRESBYTERY** The Life and Witness Consultation is under way. Thank you for completing the questionnaires for the team to gain some feedback from members about your life as a congregation.

The team is Rev David Reichardt (Team leader) Minister at Normanhurst Uniting, Mr Jim Mein from Thornleigh-Hillcrest, Carolyn Mallam from Epping UC and Rev James Aaron from North Ryde UC. They are in the process of meeting by Zoom and phone with all staff and key leaders of the Church. If you would like to speak to one of them personally, their contact details are here:

David Reichardt	<a href="mailto:dcreichardt@gmail.com">dcreichardt@gmail.com</a>	0419 164 329
Carolyn Mallam	<a href="mailto:carolynmallam@hotmail.com">carolynmallam@hotmail.com</a>	0408 747 880
Jim Mein	<a href="mailto:jimmein@bigpond.com">jimmein@bigpond.com</a>	0408 660 591
James Aaron	<a href="mailto:minister@nrcc.unitingchurch.org.au">minister@nrcc.unitingchurch.org.au</a>	0408 855 959



**THE CONTINUING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UMBRELLA GROUP** has selected *The Shack* as the next film. Instead of gathering as a group to watch the DVD prior to a discussion, please watch the DVD at home. Please contact the office if you wish to borrow the DVD. Discussion about the film will be at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 17 June. We anticipate this will be a Zoom discussion.



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Geoffrey Gee	Wednesday	27th May
Kate Prowse	Wednesday	27th May

**WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD** 4th May to 2nd August is available. Please contact the office to get a copy. Cost \$5. Phone 9858 5732.

**2PM CHINESE SERVICE** use WeChat to maintain relationships and support. There is an online church prayer meeting at 10.30am every Friday and also online 2pm worship service every Sunday. All welcome, please call Tennyson 0411896274 for any inquiry.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH.** Sunday School and Youth Group have moved ONLINE. We are meeting each Sunday using Zoom at 2pm and 11am respectively. We are catching up with each other, playing games, and learning from a bible passage. All are welcome to join. Please contact Janine or the church office via phone or email, so that we can send you the link.

### **13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE**

**Worship and Pastoral Care:** CC thanked everyone involved for their work in preparing online worship services, activities and for maintaining personal contacts and information sharing since the closure of the church for physical gatherings. New information provided by Presbytery on church services and use of the church is provided on page 2 of the newsletter.

**Sunday School lessons and activities:** Thanks to Janine Joannou and others for the current online activities and socialising for youth and younger age groups. Larger numbers are participating than regular Sunday attendances. Contact Janine for further information about access to the online meetings.

**Life and Witness Consultation:** Wonderful response - over 80 surveys returned from the Congregation. Various Church members have been interviewed by the Presbytery consultation team and a draft report will be provided to Church Council within a few weeks.

**Joint Nominating Committee:** 5 congregation members (including from each weekly worship service) have been nominated and accepted by Church Council for the Joint Nominating Committee to call a new Minister to EUC. Further advice is being sought from Presbytery re suitable consultation process in COVID 19 times.

*Continued next page*

**Chinese speaking resource worker:** discussion of Tennyson's role during the church closure. A draft plan for future engagement with the local community is to be prepared by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Continuing Education Umbrella Group:** Current online bible studies and other planned activities - Check weekly newsletter for advice.

**Sydney Central Coast Presbytery:** Next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May (online). See website. <https://sydneycentralcoastpresbytery.uca.org.au>

**Property:** Roof repairs for the kitchen and waterproofing of Drummond storage room at Lakeside Road being examined. Awaiting subdivision plan from Ryde Council for Denistone East site.

**Finance:** Reduction in Church donations and hall rental payments has consequences for existing and future budgets. Federal Government Jobkeeper payments obtained for all EUC staff members.

Next Church Council meeting on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June.**

Linda Brunton, Congregation Chair.

**SCCP STRATEGIC PLAN** When the presbytery was formed in 2016, a gathering was held to shape the original strategic plan. Three years along the journey, SCCP have learnt much. SCCP would like to take some time in 2020 to hear more of the stories that shape, encourage and disciple us. They would like congregations to share what is working well in their ministries and how these might link to a refreshed version of the strategic plan. Please be involved and take the survey!

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCCPsurvey>

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.** If you would like to prepare prayers to be included in next week's news sheet, or future weeks, the office would love to hear from you. It's an opportunity to share with one another while we cannot meet together. Prayers can be sent to the office anytime before Thursday afternoon to allow time for printing and distribution.

During this time of the church's closure, many thanks for the thoughtfulness of people who have found ways to deposit funds to the congregation's bank account, or sent cheques to the PO Box. Your generosity and caring are very helpful at this time.

## **THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*from Marion Gledhill*

This week each year, between Ascension and Pentecost, includes several special observances, each with their own special day or week. Please use the following prayers as you would like, over the coming week.

### **PRAYERS for ASIA SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2020.**

***Theme 'God heal us as we are vulnerable'***

The Christian Conference of Asia invites us to observe Asia Sunday this year with these special prayers for the victims of the pandemic COVID-19. As of mid-May, people in 48 countries and regions in Asia have been affected by this deadly virus. The highest numbers of deaths are recorded in Iran, China, Turkey, India, and Indonesia.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, let all that is within me, bless his holy name, for he forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. (Psalm 103:1, 3)*

God, we pray for all those who are suffering from the spread of COVID-19, and we beseech your healing touch that they may receive care in their time of need.

We pray for those in sickness, bringing them to you who understand people's fear and pain before they speak of them. Surround the frightened with your tenderness, give strength to those in pain, hold the weak in your arms of love, and give hope and patience to those who are recovering.

***God, in your mercy, heal them as they are vulnerable.***

God, we are intimately interconnected no matter where we reside on the earth. We pray for all those who are affected in different parts of the world; and so we plead for healing, good health care, relief, and wholeness for all God's people in all the places where this virus has made its appearance. May God grant the afflicted the strength and courage to sustain their faith and hope, and continue their fight against the epidemic. May our collective care, effort, resources, and love bring an end to this epidemic.

***God, in your mercy, heal them as they are vulnerable.***

We pray for the lives of all those who have died of COVID-19. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. We pray for those who mourn the loss of their dear ones. May God almighty grant them comfort and solace as they continue to build up their shattered hopes.

***God, in your mercy, grant them eternal rest.***

We pray for all those who have put themselves at the service of their communities, educating others about how to reduce the risk of infection. As both infection and fear spread, we ask for courage and protection for healthcare workers risking their well-being for the sake of others.

We pray that you grant wisdom and knowledge to government officials entrusted with decision-making, and to medical experts who are working to develop a cure and combat the spread of COVID-19. May they all find the strength to continue this vital work, even at situations when they lose hope and trust, and are pushed to despair. May they rightly discern what needs to be done to treat those already afflicted and prevent others from falling sick.

***God, in your mercy, help them to take decisive and effective actions to combat COVID-19.***

God, source of life, we as vulnerable beings of your body confess that your strength is our strength, your health is our health, and your being is our being. Grant us your wisdom in our work, your love in our pain, and your peace in our hearts. Send your blessing on all those who care for the sick, and those whom they serve, and give us the joy of everlasting love.

*We believe you are our strength and our shield; in you our hearts trust, so we are helped. Our hearts exult, and with our song, we give thanks to you. (Psalm 28:7)*

***God, in your mercy, heal us as we are vulnerable.***

Holy Spirit, please breathe peace and new life into everyone. May you grace us with a strong sense of social responsibility to do the necessary, and to be prudent and considerate in our actions. Bless all people to work together as one family of God and to be compassionate to one another. In the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we pray. ***Amen.***

## **NATIONAL SORRY DAY, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

Every year, on National Sorry Day, we remember the Stolen Generations, the survivors of past government policies that allowed for the forcible removal of Indigenous children from their families.

This day was established in response to the 1997 'Bringing them Home' report by the Australian Human Rights Commission, which recommended that a National Sorry Day be held each year on the 26th of May "to commemorate the history of forcible removals and its effects."

There are more than 17,000 Stolen Generation survivors in Australia, and it is estimated that 1/3 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders today are descendants of Stolen Generations.

### **A prayer for National Sorry Day** *(written by the Aboriginal and Islander Commission National Council of Churches in Australia)*

Almighty and loving God, you who created ALL people in your image, Lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past. You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.

We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced. We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children from their families.

We are sorry and ask God's forgiveness.

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and inflicted and heal their spirits. In your mercy and compassion walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future that is just and equitable.

Lord, you are our hope. **Amen.**

**RECONCILIATION WEEK, 27 May – 3 June, 2020.**  
**2020 theme: In this together**

Reconciliation Week begins the day after Sorry Day (May 26th) and includes the anniversary of the 1967 referendum (May 27th) and finishes on June 3rd, sometimes known as 'Mabo Day', the anniversary of the High Court's 1992 Mabo judgement which was a major landmark in the recognition of Indigenous land rights in Australia. It also recognizes the covenant relationship with the UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress) of the Uniting Church in Australia.

**Prayer for reconciliation**      *(From Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide)*

God of love and justice,  
 Of wholeness and reconciliation,  
 You call us to share in Christ's ministry –  
 Praying and acting such  
 That your reign may blossom.

We pray for those in Parliament:  
 That you may guide our elected representatives  
 To act in the interests of all the people of this land,  
 And work towards a reconciled Australia.

Lord, in your mercy: **We pray for wholeness and reconciliation**

We pray for our Church:  
 That through the Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
 Christian Congress  
 We may continue what has begun and stand together to see it through.  
 Lord, in your mercy: **We pray for wholeness and reconciliation**

We pray for ourselves, all the people of Australia:  
 You taught us to love our neighbour.  
 Help us to see in each other  
 Your righteousness, your justice, your love,  
 And humbly seek to reflect the same  
 Lord, in your mercy: **We pray for wholeness and reconciliation**

We pray for Reconciliation:

That the wrongs of the past may be recognized,

That our awareness of the journey so far be awakened,

And that the Spirit move us

To see through what has been started.

Lord, in your mercy: **We pray for wholeness and reconciliation.**

**Amen.**

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 24 – 31 May 2020**

**Theme: “They showed us unusual kindness” (Acts 28:2)**

This year’s theme calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action. The international resources for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by colleagues in Malta. The 2020 theme, “They showed us unusual kindness” (Acts 28:2), remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta and calls us to a greater generosity to those in need.

**Prayers of the People**      *(from the National Council of Churches in Australia)*

We cannot face the storms of life alone. A boat moves forward when all row together. In the face of difficulties we recognise the need to pull together and to unite our efforts.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, heal the painful memories of the past which have wounded our churches and continue to keep us apart.

**Hear our prayer for Reconciliation.**

Gracious God, teach us to fix our course on Christ, the True Light.

**Hear our prayer for Enlightenment.**

Gracious God, strengthen our confidence in your providence when we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life, whether they be sickness or misfortune for ourselves or our loved ones.

**Hear our prayer for Hope.**

Gracious God, transform the many separations amongst our churches and faiths into harmony and our mistrust into mutual acceptance.

**Hear our prayer for Trust.**

Gracious God, give us the courage to speak the truth with justice in love and so be the voice of those in our community who have no opportunity to speak out.

**Hear our prayer for Courage.**

Gracious God, dismantle the barriers, visible and invisible, that prevent us from welcoming our sisters and brothers who are seeking refuge from persecution, hunger and starvation.

**Hear our prayer for Hospitality.**

Gracious God, change our hearts and the hearts of our Christian communities, that we may speak out on behalf of those held in detention by Australia, and so be agents of your healing love.

**Hear our prayer for Conversion.**

Gracious God, open our eyes to see the whole of creation as your gift, do all we can to stop the exploitation of our land and preserve our natural resources.

**Hear our prayer for Generosity.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

One in Jesus Christ, let us pray together in the words he taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**SING A NEW CHURCH**

Tune: Nettleton TIS 392

1 Summoned by the God who made us  
rich in our diversity,  
gathered in the name of Jesus,  
richer still in unity.

Let us bring the gifts that differ  
and, in splendid, varied ways,  
sing a new church into being,  
one in faith and love and praise.

2 Radiant risen from the water,  
robed in holiness and light,  
male and female in God's image,  
male and female, God's delight.  
Trust the goodness of creation;  
trust the Spirit strong within.  
Dare to dream the vision promised,  
sprung from seed of what has been.

3 Bring the hopes of every nation;  
bring the art of every race.  
Weave a song of peace and justice;  
let it sound through time and space.  
Draw together at one table,  
all the human family;  
shape a circle ever wider  
and a people ever free

Delores Dufner, OSB © Oregon Catholic Press CCLI 65422

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h69\\_DRq-MFA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h69_DRq-MFA)

**HEAR MY PRAYER FOR UNITY**

Gifts of Love 17

Tune: Hollingside TIS 211(ii)

1 "Hear my prayer for unity," Jesus prayed for all his own.  
"May these ones you've given me live the love that I have shown.  
Mine are yours and yours are mine; in them I am glorified!  
Now I send them as a sign; so may they be unified."

2 God, we live in great discord, torn by issues we hold dear;  
 Even as we call you Lord, we still cling to pride and fear.  
 Bound together, we'd be free; we could join in serving you!  
 For the best theology starts when love makes all things new.

3 By your Spirit, make us one; so the world will come to know  
 All the love of Christ the Son, all your joys that overflow.  
 Help us put aside our strife; give your church a humble mind!  
 Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, strengthen now the ties that bind.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3juMJOgIXRs>

***THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS*** As one voice 1:130

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
 and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

*Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians  
 by our love, by our love.  
 Yes, they'll know that we are Christians by our love.*

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
 and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

*Chorus:*

3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
 We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
 and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

*Chorus:*

P Scholtes\_© 1966 FEL Publications Assigned to Lorenz Corp 1991

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6k\\_mwNqFdQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6k_mwNqFdQ)

## **QUESTIONS TO PONDER**

How connected do you feel to other Christians (beyond your congregation/ denomination)?

你认为你跟其它基督徒们有多大关联?

당신은 다른 기독교인들과 어떻게 연계가 되어있음을 느끼는가?

How connected do you feel with those of other faiths?

你认为你跟其它宗教信仰的人们有多大关联?

당신은 다른 신앙을 지닌 사람들과 어떻게 연계가 되어있는지 느끼는가?

How connected do you feel with all of creation?

你认为你跟所有造物有多大关联?

당신은 다른 창조물들과 어떻게 연계가 되어있다고 느끼는가?

John 17:1–11 contains the prayer of Jesus as remembered by the early followers.

What things might Jesus pray for our community?

如果耶稣要为你的社区祈祷，应该包含哪些东西呢?

예수님은 당신의 공동체를 위하여 어떤 기도를 하겠는가?

We live in a world of increasing diversity....

我们居住在一个多元化渐增的世界...

우리는 다양성이 늘어나는 세상에 살고 있다...

where do you see diversity causing problems?

...你认为这从哪些方面导致了问题?

...당신은 문제를 야기하는 다양성을 어디에서 알 수가 있는가?

where do you see diversity providing opportunities?

...你认为这从哪些方面带来了机遇?

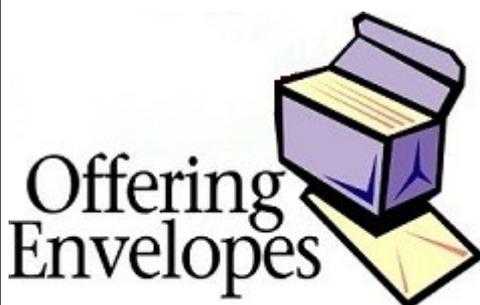
...당신은 기회들을 제공하는 다양성을 어디에서 볼 수가 있는가?

How can we take these opportunities, and challenge these problems?

你，作为个人或一个教会，是如何拥抱这些机遇并挑战这些问题的?

당신은 이러한 기회들을 취하고, 또 이러한 문제들을 어떻게 해결 할 수가 있는가?

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING.**



Weekly envelopes for the next financial year are now available. Current users will receive new envelopes shortly. If you would like to start using weekly envelopes or start using direct debit or switch to direct debit for your giving, please contact Andrew Weatherburn or

the church office. For direct transfers the congregation account details are on the back page of the notices.

## We are all ministers in Christ's name

Minister:	Phone:	Email:
Rev Nicholas Fried	0415 252 550 9874 2089	nicholas@euc.org.au
Tennyson Chan 陳志偉牧師	0411 896 274	tennyson@euc.org.au
Esther Shih 莊娜麗傳道	0411 128 069	

**Office:** 9858 5732 secretary@euc.org.au  
 P O Box 324 Eastwood 2122  
 Website: [www.euc.org.au](http://www.euc.org.au)

### Please send all notices to the Office



**Mission:** Witness to the gospel and spread the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.

**Vision:** Engage and connect with our diverse community through active discipleship.

**Values:** Visible 可見的 비전을 가질 수가 있고  
 Inclusive 包容的 포괄적이 될 수있고  
 Relevant 相關的 적절하고  
 Active 積極的 역동적이 될 것이다

### LECTIONARY READINGS:

May 24 Easter 7: Acts 1:6-14, Ps 68:1-10,32-35,1 Pt 4:12-14, 5:6-11,  
 Jn 17:1-11

May 31 Pentecost: Num 11:24-30, Ps 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Cor 12:3b-13 or  
 Acts 2:1-21, Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 7:37-39

**WEEKLY NOTICES**, and **SUNDAY SERVICES** for Eastwood are available for viewing on our website. So, if you are away on any Sunday you can catch up at [www.euc.org.au](http://www.euc.org.au)

**Banking Details for Direct Giving:**

**BSB: 634 634**

**Account #: 100020668**