



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

5 July 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**

5th July 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Jason Masters

9.30am Worship

Nicholas Fried

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

'A love that creates community'

爱可以创建社区

공동체를 형성하는 사랑

**Sermon and Bible reading audio will be available on
website**

Youtube link for video sermon and readings

https://youtu.be/6Eh_KttN-Lc

2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group

12th July 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Steve Kemp

9.30am Holy Communion

Nicholas Fried

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

'Behaving as though there is no tomorrow!'

要好像没有明天那样去表现!

내일이 없는 것 처럼 행동하기

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 are available by audio, on the church's website along with a video link. You can go to Youtube and type 'Eastwood Uniting Church' in the search bar to find the current worship service and past weeks services.

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.

RE-OPENING CHURCH PREMISES - SAFETY PLAN Synod has stipulated that **every group** that either meets in the name of Eastwood Uniting Church (including Bible studies in a home) or uses the Church premises for any activity, **must provide Church Council with a safety plan** that complies with regulations and guidelines set out by both the NSW Government and the NSW/ACT Synod. Chris Wakefield has kindly agreed to be our contact person with Synod on behalf of Church Council. **ALL** groups are required to complete and submit a safety plan to Church Council. Safety plans will be forwarded to Presbytery. Complying with all the current regulations is very complex and expensive. Until further notice the Church buildings remain closed. More information about Synod's updates is available on our website under "other resources".

INSIGHTS MAGAZINE Winter Edition is now available.

'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.

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



SOCIAL ZOOM each Friday at 7.30pm Janine organises a 'Social Catchup' on Zoom. It is a very relaxed meeting. If you would like to join please contact the church office for the Zoom log in.

JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Phil Looby, Emma Jarvis, Janine Joannou, Catherine Leal, John Brunton and Edward Lin, have been elected by the Congregation to be our members of the JNC for the call of a new minister for Eastwood Uniting Church. We are awaiting Presbytery to nominate their members and chairperson for the JNC.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE. If you would like to prepare prayers for the news sheet, the office would love to hear from you. It's an opportunity to share with one another while we cannot meet together.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Weekly envelopes for this financial year are now available. They have been delivered to current users. 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.



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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jackson Shi
Pat Davey

Today
Tuesday

5th July
7th July

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

God of love, help us to see through your eyes the light and the dark around us, and to hear your call to dance and to heal. May we learn of you, God of our life, and rejoice to walk with you, linked in love to your people. Thank you for your community of love.

God, we bring to you the need and distress in our local communities. Every week we hear about more businesses closing, more people losing their jobs – retail stores, manufacturers, Qantas, the ABC. Our hearts go out to all those personally affected – those who face the loss of their employment, and boards and management who have had to make these difficult decisions. Sustain them, we pray, physically, mentally and spiritually.

We have been worried to learn about the spread of coronavirus in many suburbs of Melbourne. We pray for comfort and healing for the sick, and strength for health workers caring for them, trying to protect others and to prevent further outbreaks. We pray that people will observe requirements to keep others safe. May concern for the wider community take priority for everyone.

Hear our prayers for leaders in our national, state and territory governments. Please help them as they strive to discern what is best for people at this time.

God, hear our prayers for the world's poorest countries, where the virus is spreading rapidly. We pray for the people of southern Yemen, Sudan's war-torn Darfur region, India, Pakistan and Indonesia. We pray that they may have an adequate supply of badly needed hospital beds and equipment. Comfort and strengthen those stricken by the virus, and their families, particularly when families must give all the care themselves.

We are deeply disturbed by reports this week that lead us to pray for the human rights of the citizens of Hong Kong and the Uighurs of China. We have heard too about Australia's planned increase in defence spending.

God, keep national leaders from intensifying tensions between nations. May greater efforts be made by all to use dialogue and relate more cooperatively.

At this time of remembering the start of the Korean War, we join with the UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer to pray for the people of the Korean Peninsula, recognising their feelings of loss and dislocation spanning generations of Korean people around the world. We pray especially for members of the Korean National Conference of the Uniting Church at this time of remembrance for them. We also pray for our partner churches in Korea, as they seek to be peacemakers in the way of Jesus.

We have been shocked by allegations and reports about the behaviour of Dyson Heydon, a previous judge of the High Court. Thank you for the bravery of complainants, and that publicity of their allegations has led to exposure of unacceptable behaviour in wider legal circles and offices. We pray that better processes will be put in place to handle such allegations, and that this exposure will lead to safety for all working in the law, particularly women. Grant insight to those against whom allegations are made, who seem unaware of the effects of their behaviour.

We pray for ourselves God – for our Church, for our families, for our own personal needs.

You know the aches of our hearts, and our hopes for the future. Take all we are, and may we know and believe that you are with us always.

Amen.

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle calls us to pray this week with and for the people and churches in **Eritrea and Ethiopia**.

We are **thankful** for:

- the long centuries of Christian history in Ethiopia and Eritrea
 - the current witness and work of Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical churches amid difficult circumstances
 - those who have provided humanitarian aid, especially during times of drought and hunger
- those who have worked for peaceful relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

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We **pray** for:

- victims of human rights abuses
 - greater understanding and respect among the many ethnic groups
 - lasting peace and reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea
 - the emergence of more democratic governance that respects human rights and furthers justice for all ethnic groups and minorities
- Eritreans who have fled to Ethiopia but who now find refugee camps planned to close. Amen.

Prepared by Marion Gledhill

You call me to love

All Together Whatever 491

1 You call me to love and You show me the path,
you tell me the burden is easy:
“Love is so simple, just be like a child;
trust me for all that you need.”

2 You call me to love if I'm old or I'm young,
you tell me, you show me its meaning:
it's not what we do but what God has done,
sending his Son for us all.

Chorus

*If I could sing like an angel, if I had faith to move mountains,
nothing would change, death would remain
nothing would change without love.
Nothing can live without love.*

3 You call me to love, to be patient and kind
never jealous or boastful, but humble.
Love isn't selfish or angry or rude,
Love doesn't count others' wrongs.

4 You call me to love, to rejoice in the truth
to be loyal and faithful forever.
Fill me with hope, keep me growing in you -
help me to love as you do

Chorus

Robin Mann (c) 1998 Robin Mann,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uin9GLZijUc>

Comfort, comfort all my people Together in Song 647

*Chorus: Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people:
all your sins are taken away.*

1 Though your tears be rivers
running,
though your tears be an ocean
full,
though you cry with the hurt of
living:
comfort, comfort.
Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be
smoother:
comfort, comfort.

Chorus

2 Though your eyes see only
darkness,
though your eyes can see no
light,
though your eyes see pain and
sorrow:
comfort, comfort.
Every night will have its morning,
every pain will have an end,
every burden will be lightened:
comfort, comfort.

Chorus

3 Though we build strong walls for
prisons,
Though we feast while others
starve,
Though we fill this world with
weapons:
comfort, comfort.
Every prisoner will be rescued,
Every hungry mouth be filled,
Every gun will rust, forgotten:
comfort, comfort.

Chorus

4 Though we fracture God's
creation,
Though we stand so far apart,
Though we fail to love each other:
comfort, comfort.
Every wall will crack and crumble,
Every stranger will be a friend,
Every one embrace another:
comfort, comfort.

Chorus

Woza Nomthwalo Wakho (Come, Bring Your Burdens to God)

Come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say “No”. (These are the English lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgSHi1OsIXk>

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest; TIS 595
(verse 1 only)

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.’
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74kyfROS4q8>

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Why do you think the religious leaders reject Jesus?

你认为为什么宗教领袖们排斥耶稣？

당신은 왜 종교 지도자들이 예수를 거절한다고 생각하는가?

What are the burdens you are glad to have lifted?

你对哪些被解除的负担感到开心？

당신이 기쁘게 받아들일 짐들은 무엇인가?

What is the rest you most need?

你最需要什么安稳?

당신이 가장 필요한 것은 무엇인가?

Who in your neighbourhood is feeling particularly isolated and lonely at present?

目前你的社区中谁尤其会感到孤立而孤单?

당신 이웃들중 누가 특히 고립되어 있거나 현재 외롭다고 느끼는가?

What might you do to show love, compassion and hospitality?

你可以做什么来展现爱、怜悯与好客?

당신은 사랑, 긍휼과 환대를 보이기 위해 무엇을 해야 하나?

***WE HAVE BEEN CALLED, NEVER FOR OUR OWN,
BUT FOR CHRIST'S SAKE***

The celebration of forty-three years is neither a noteworthy birthday, nor an anniversary of particular moment. The importance of our Uniting Church anniversary is not the number, but the reminder of why God called us to unite, and the purpose for which God has called us.

As our community and our world try to navigate the new paths bulldozed by COVID 19, we are also caught up in the vital and ongoing crisis of racism. People are trying to distance themselves socially, while seeking to register their voice and presence about how we must give value to the majority of the world's population – those who are not fair-skinned.

As Jesus' disciples, we are in the midst of this. We must be.

It is not simply about missing each other in our congregations. It is far more than debates about whether or not we can sing when we gather. It is about the witness that we bear.

The Church's call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself. Basis of Union, Para. 3

The one we follow, Jesus Christ, leads us into the midst of the community in which we live. So we are called to stand with all who experience the obscenity of racism, and stand before all those who would seek to decry its potent weight. When someone asserts that #BlackLivesMatter, we challenge those who would parse the language to avoid responsibility, and seek to raise the voices of those whose lives are accustomed to being silenced.

When Jesus Christ died and was raised for each and every person in history, the last became the first.

While we learn what our renovated social life looks like, avoiding handshakes and hugs with our serially-washed hands, we must address deeper concerns – caring for the frail and elderly in our community, learning again how to live and celebrate and grieve and worship – because fear and anger bear fruit faster than reason or science.

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We will attend to those for whom home was unsafe; we will support those for whom isolation resulted in brokenness, or despair; we will live out justice and compassion for those who felt discarded, or lost when a virus changed everything.

We bear witness as a community which offers hospitality and mercy, which is precisely how we found life in Jesus Christ.

Our Church was formed during the Cold War, just after the war in Vietnam had ended. The world was changing rapidly, and the worldwide church was facing headwinds for which it was not prepared. The Australian political landscape was scarred from the dismissal of the Whitlam Government, and we were facing waves of refugees, born of our catastrophic misadventure in South East Asia.

The last, first. Voices for those silenced. Valuing those who appear different. Hospitality. Mercy.

A community in which Christ may work and bear witness to himself.

A risky, costly, wonderful calling.

Some of us might dream that we could return to what church and life were like before the virus. More of us might want to seek refuge within our church and close our eyes and hearts to those whose lives are beyond our doors. A few of us might even wish to travel back four decades and start again (or not start at all!)

We find our life neither in shelter, nor in nostalgia. We find our life in one place – Jesus Christ.

Our Uniting Church finds its life when it “preaches Christ the risen crucified One and confesses him as Lord to the glory of God the Father”. We have been called, never for our own, but for Christ’s sake.

Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

May you discover the new life to which Christ calls you, each and every day.

Rev. Simon Hansford

The Moderator, Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT

We are all ministers in Christ's name

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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	
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P O Box 324 Eastwood 2122		
Website: 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 수 있고
 Relevant 相關的 적절하고
 Active 積極的 역동적이 될 것이다

LECTIONARY READINGS:

July 5 Pentecost 5: Gn 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67, Ps 45:10-17 or
 Song 2:8-13, Rom 7:15-25a, Mt 11:16-19, 25-30
 July 12 Pentecost 6: Gn 25:19-34, Ps 119:105-112, Rom 8:1-11,
 Mt 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Banking Details for Direct Giving:

BSB: 634 634

Account #: 100020668