



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

26 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**

- 19th July 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Nicholas Fried
- 9.30am Worship Nicholas Fried
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
'The kingdom of God is like a wonderful surprise!'
上帝之国就像一个美妙的惊喜
하나님의 왕국은 불가사의 한 놀라움 같다
Sermon and Bible reading audio available on website
Youtube link for video sermon and readings
<https://youtu.be/aW0q9Yxa-m8>
- 2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group
- 2nd August 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Chris Wakefield
- 9.30am Worship Nicholas Fried
Matthew 14: 13-21
'What is in your basket?'
你的篮子里 有什么?
당신의 바구니엔 무엇이 있는가?
- 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.

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>

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".

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

'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'

Merrill B

Jason M

Sue H

Margaret S

Liz M's mother Katy

Kerrie S

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

CONTINUING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UMBRELLA GROUP has commenced a series of 4 Wednesday evenings for online input and discussion.

Wednesdays 29 July continues looking at the book of *Judith*.

Wednesdays 5 and 12 August will be looking at the *Song of Songs*.

Each session starts at 8 p.m. Outline notes and discussion questions will be emailed/ distributed prior to each evening. Please contact the office to express interest in participating. Contact Nicholas for more information.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE). Due to Covid-19 restrictions, none of our regular SRE teachers is available for weekly lessons at either Eastwood PS or Denistone East PS. If you are able to assist until restrictions change, please contact the office for further information.

RESUMING WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH. Church Council discussed safety plans that have been submitted so far by groups from Eastwood UC and the wider community. Church Council has agreed to 8 a.m. worship resuming 26 July. It is anticipated that the 9.30 a.m. worship will recommence at the church mid-August, depending on an approved safety plan. The monthly 10.45 a.m. worship is provisionally resuming on Sunday 5 September, and provisionally in the worship centre. The 2 p.m. worship has no provisional resumption date at this stage.

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.

2PM CHINESE SERVICE use WeChat to maintain relationships and support. All welcome, please call Tennyson 0411896274 for any inquiry.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jack Ferris	Tuesday	28th July
Sean Harjoprasko	Tuesday	28th July

16th July 2020 Church Council Zoom Meeting Update

- **COVID19Safe return to premises:** When the church buildings are reopened for activities and services, all individual events, hirers and church groups (however small) using the premises will be required to comply with the adopted EUC COVID19 Safety Plan, Attendance Register and Cleaning Guidelines and to provide their own consistent COVID19 safe plans (including cleaning) for Church Council (CC) approval. COVID19Safe Plans were approved for 3 private hirers to return to use of the church halls and rooms in late July.
- Opening the church buildings for use incurs a large increase in consumables and daily cleaning costs to meet the government cleaning guidelines. Where possible, this additional cost will be passed on to external users with proportional rent increases.
- New protocols have been implemented by EUC for use of the premises, such as entry times and locations, limitation on numbers of people in each room etc. All items ie chairs, tables, boards, books that are in spaces to be used will require cleaning after use - hence many of these have been removed and stored to make cleaning viable. Plastic chairs have replaced the worship space chairs for ease of cleaning. Food will not be permitted on the premises (except the office), nor the use of the kitchen by hirers or church groups. Use of the foyer area will not be permitted where alternative entry points to halls and rooms are available.
- **Worship:** A COVID19Safe Plan was approved for the 8am church service in the worship space. Further consideration to be made for other church services after review of 8am service when it restarts at the church. Online worship to continue for all services and activities. New information or changes to current arrangements regarding use of the church premises will be provided in the newsletter.
- **Sunday School lessons and activities:** Continuing online on Sundays for youth and younger age groups. Contact Janine Joannou or office for access to the online meetings.
- **Chinese speaking resource worker:** Workplan for Tennyson for remainder of 2020 adopted by Chinese Worker Umbrella Group

Continued next page

meeting in 14th July and endorsed by CC. Update on utilization of funding grant to be sent to Lane Cove, UME, SCCP and Uniting Resources.

- Pastoral concerns: EUC carers and Nicholas are maintaining regular contact with church members. Please contact your carer or Lesley Bradbury. Friday zoom chat meetings run by Janine Joannou, contact the office for details.
- Communications: CC asked for the weekly newsletter to be emailed. It will continue to be delivered to those without the internet.
- Continuing Education Umbrella Group: Uppity women of the Bible series (Judith and Song of Songs) proposed for July and August. Check newsletter for advice or contact the office for zoom meeting details.
- Life and Witness Consultation: The Presbytery Report on EUC has been submitted to the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee. Next step is for Presbytery to appoint their members to join EUC members (Janine Joannou, Catherine Leal, Edward Lin, John Brunton, Phil Looby, Emma Jarvis) on the Joint Nominating Committee to commence process to call a new Minister for EUC.
- Religious education in primary schools: Resumes term 3. However, all of EUC's existing scripture teachers are currently not able to go into schools. If anyone is able to assist with this outreach to children, please contact Nicholas (training and accreditation required).
- Tertiary Chaplaincy at Macquarie University to resume on campus in August.
- Property: Kitchen floor replaced under insurance from flooding.
- Finance: Presbytery advice that CC approval of Budget 2020/21 is adequate at present. Reduction in Church donations and hall rental payments and increased cleaning costs has consequences for existing and future budgets. It is most heartening to have the continued support of those who have maintained their giving during this difficult time for the church and community.
- Next Church Council meeting on Thursday 13th August.

UNITING'S CLIMATE PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE: CHRISTIAN TRAINING IN CARE, COMMUNICATION & ACTION Register at www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/ for this year's conference (30 July - 1 August) online via ZOOM. Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Cost is \$30 for the full 3 sessions. Contact Jon O'Brien 9407 3225, joobrien@uniting.org.

MACQUARIE CHAPLANCY Mikali Anagnostis concludes his role as a mission worker at Macquarie University at the end of July. A closure of ministry will take place Sunday 26 July during Epping UC's 9.30 a.m. service. The service will be available on Zoom using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/969005918pwd=ZktPVE1mcXJNVVFJWg9oejZGZWMzQT09>

FAIR TREATMENT CAMPAIGN. Epping UC's Neighbourhood Night Wednesday 26th August 7.30 pm will be a Facebook live event (On the 26th just go to Epping's Facebook Page to join in) We will be discussing the campaign with Stafford Sanders from Uniting Advocacy and Liz Gal from Somebody's Child (more details on both organizations are in the comments section) The Fair Treatment Campaign was formed by the Uniting Church NSW/ACT and Uniting, and now includes more than 60 partner organisations.

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.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

prepared by John Court

Great God of the Surprises, we come to you today to be surprised – wonderfully – as we look again at the parables Jesus told about Your Kingdom. These vivid cameos paint simple yet suggestive pictures for us of the surprises that await those coming to the Kingdom of Heaven: the mustard seed; the yeast; the hidden treasure; the valuable pearl, the drag net – all tantalising and enticing promises of something much greater to come. And it will come partly through our participation with You. But there is also our awareness that it is with You, The Great Judge, that we finally have to do.

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The growth of the mustard seed and yeast just happen in Your goodness; how reassuring they are in their encouragement for us to be part of the wonderful time to come. Thank you God, for this enticing taste of being part of Your surprising kingdom. But to lay hold on the hidden treasure or the expensive pearl, we need to do something more than just want them. Help us to make the total commitment that they call for – help us to give our all. And, God, we also respect the sombre note of the dragnet, reminding us of inescapable accountability, nay judgement, before You for what we do in Your service.

As we ponder again the richness of the parables, help us to explore Your Scriptures and to take new and old things from that wonderful storehouse. In particular we thank you for Matthew, your servant of old, who delights us in his Jewish way of finding things new and old in the Bible. We are happy to discover the unexpected surprises of Your Kingdom as Matthew leads us to glimpse them.

Oh merciful God, we all need your help in this frightening time of pandemic. We have not in our lifetimes known this. We tremble. Be with us, help us to be strong. We know that You are always there, but we know that so is the plague, the pandemic, COVID 19. Re-assure us of Your presence, Great God, as we do what we can to contain and avoid the scourge that besets us.

Help us to see new horizons and dreams amid the desolation. Help us to be Your people, Your servants, learning how to follow Jesus in new and exciting ways in these strange time. Oh God, we believe in YOU; help us to see beyond present troubles! Oh God whose Kingdom is so full of great surprises, hear us now.

We pray for our leaders in the Christian Church at this time, and in particular the leaders of our Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT, Simon, Jane and Bronwyn.

Be with us here at Eastwood: our Minister, Nicholas, our Pastors Tennyson and Esther, our Church Council and our Office and all who work in Your Service here in the Eastwood community. May the Spirit guide us, support us and strengthen us in the difficult days ahead. We pray your blessing and guidance on those commissioned to lead us in discerning our future here in Your work at Eastwood, the Life and Witness Consultation Team and the Joint Nominating Committee.

We are nostalgic for past glories and enjoyments that are gone, but are hopeful as we look to Jesus in a new and unknown future.

Finally, we turn to you, Dear God, as to our loving divine parent. We remember before You those of our dear ones, our friends and people we know who need help, comfort and protection at this time: they may be mourning and sad; they may be sick and ailing; even travelling; facing a personal life crisis; perhaps rejoicing a family event; they may be depressed and anxious, especially in the isolation of lock-down; they may be setting out on a new life adventure. Be with them in Your loving grace as we name them privately and individually before you, God of Love.

We end our prayers today, longing for the wonderful Kingdom to come, in the words that Jesus gave 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.

BRING MANY NAMES

Together in Song 182

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=treES3dAILE>

1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory,
living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna,
bring many names!

2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation,
genius at play:
Hail and hosanna,
strong mother God!

3 Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled:
Hail and hosanna,
warm father God!

4 Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad with good surprises,
wiser than despair:
Hail and hosanna,
old, aching God!

5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice,
giving all you have:
Hail and hosanna,
young, growing God!

6 Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing,
everlasting home:
Hail and hosanna,
great, living God!

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FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE
(Faith like a mustard seed)

All Together Again 181

1
Faith like a mustard seed,
power so small:
word growing into deed,
reaching tall,
gift for all.

2
Hope making all things new,
vision grand:
Christ's dream which shall come true,
in our land,
near at hand.

3
Love larger than the world,
Christ's new song:
power from which death recoiled,
love so strong,
we belong.

4
Faith, hope, and love are free,
boundless store;
new heaven and earth shall be
without flaw,
evermore.

CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uwz03sajqKc>Tune: Hyfrydol
TIS 217(i)

- 1 Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment;
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring;
to fulfil God's chosen end.
- 2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer;
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together;
gracious gifts from God enfold.
- 3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
let us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action;
make us colleagues, free and fair.
- 4 So God grant us for tomorrow,
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

Questions to ponder**沉思一些问题****숙고해야할 질문들**

What modern images would you use to describe the kingdom of God?

你会用什么现代图像来描述上帝之国？

하나님 왕국을 묘사하기 위해 현대적 이미지는 어떻게 사용되나?

What thoughts and hopes do you have when you pray “Your kingdom come”?

当你祈祷“愿你的国降临”时你会有什么想法与希望？

“하나님왕국의도래”를 기도 할 때 어떤 생각과 희망들을 가지는가?

Where have you seen the kingdom of God in your life? In the church? In the world?

你在自己生活中的什么地方看到过天之国？在教会？在这个世界上？

하나님의 왕국을 살면서 어디서 본적이 있는가? 교회에서? 세상에서?

What random acts of kindness might you do during Covid-19 restrictions?

在新冠疫情限制期间你可以做什么随缘善举？

코로나 바이러스 19 제한 기간 동안 당신은 어떠한 호의적인 일들을 하는가?

What “new truths” and “new treasures” have you discovered in Matthew 13?

你在马修13章节中发现了什么“新真相”和“新珍宝”？

마태복음 13장에서 어떠한 “새로운진실”과 “새로운 보물”을 발견했나?

We are all ministers in Christ's name

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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 26 Pentecost 8: Gn 28:10-19a, Ps 139:1-12, 23-24,
 Rom 8:12-25, Mt 13:24-30,36-43

Aug 2 Pentecost 9: Gn 32:22-31, Ps 17:1-7, 15 Rom 9:1-5
 Mt 14:13-21

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