



## EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

*14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood*

**9 August 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**

- 9th August    8.00am Worship **service via Zoom**                      Phil Looby
- 9.30am Holy Communion    Nicholas Fried  
                  Matthew 14: 22-33  
                  *'We are "boat people"!*  
                  我们是“船民”  
                  “ 우리는 ” 보트 피플” 이다 !  
                  **Sermon and Bible reading audio available on website**  
                  **Youtube link for communion, reading, prayers and**  
                  **sermon**    <https://youtu.be/5ft3nvBbj4w>
- 2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group
- 16th August    8.00am Worship **service via Zoom**                      Phil Howes
- 9.30am Worship    Nicholas Fried  
                  Matthew 15: 21-28  
                  *Does Jesus the teacher learn a lesson?*  
                  *(A foreign woman has great faith)*  
                  耶稣作为老师吸取到教训了吗? (这个外国女人有强大的信仰)  
                  교사이신 예수님은 교육을 하시고 계시는 것인가?  
                  (이방인 여인은 위대한 믿음을 가지고 있다)  
                  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>

Updates on services and news are also available on the Presbytery website: <https://sydneycentralcoastpresbytery.uca.org.au>

**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 Synod and Presbytery for review. 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**

Only those activities that have a Church Council approved safety plan are able to use the church premises.

**CONTINUING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UMBRELLA GROUP.** This Wednesday's online discussion looks again at the *Song of Songs*. The session starts at 8 p.m. Outline notes and discussion questions will be emailed/ distributed prior to Wednesday evening. Please contact the office or Nicholas for the link and notes.

**SYMPATHY** to family and friends of Verlie MacLean, who died on Sunday 2 August, a couple of weeks before her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Privately cremated.

**UCASE.** The next meeting will be 2pm, Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. Please contact Marion for the link if you would like to attend.

**WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD** 3 August to 8 November is available. Please contact the office Tues, Thurs, or Friday to get a copy. Cost \$5.

**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.

**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.

**FAIR TREATMENT CAMPAIGN.** Epping UC's Neighbourhood Night, Wednesday 26 August, 7.30 pm will be a Facebook live event (On the 26th just go to Epping's Facebook Page to join in). Stafford Sanders from Uniting Advocacy and Liz Gal from Somebody's Child will be



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Stephen Kemp

Friday

14th August

**JOB OPPORTUNITY.** Music Coordinator at Northern Beaches UC multi centre. Part time, 12 hours per week. For full job description, contact the Communications Officer, Stephanie La Greca: [comms.nbuc@gmail.com](mailto:comms.nbuc@gmail.com)

**LATEST COVID-19 GUIDANCE NOTE.** The NSW Government has announced that COVID-19 restrictions will tighten. Given the restrictions and curfew people of Victoria are facing reminds us the second wave is a real and very present threat to the health and well-being of people in NSW and the ACT.

Please pray for the people of Victoria, in particular in Melbourne as they face difficult weeks to come.

The Chief Health officer, Dr. Kerry Chant recently wrote to religious leaders highlighting the high risk face to face gatherings pose for further outbreaks. <https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/chief-health-officer-urges-church-leaders-to-be-vigilant/>.

In reminding us that ‘no border is impenetrable’, the Premier of NSW has said ‘I cannot stress how critical the next few weeks are.’

The Premier of NSW stressed that while these recommendations are not compulsory, they are made to keep people safe and minimise the risk of further outbreaks.

**As a result, the Synod of NSW-ACT** strongly recommends that:

- **All congregations** in NSW and ACT refrain from face to face gatherings at this time. Services should continue to be streamed or recorded to enable people to engage in worship.
- This includes Youth Groups, Kids clubs, Sunday Schools and other missional and social groups.
- Should any congregation or group elect to gather face to face, every participant should wear a face mask.
- No singing of any kind. This includes community, congregational or choir led singing. No singing applies even if people wear a mask.
- Baptisms to be postponed wherever possible.
- Third party hires and op shops remain under the oversight of the church council. In line with the Premier’s recommendation, every attention should be given to ensure masks are worn (where physical distancing is hard to maintain and in settings where there is a high risk of transmission) and strict hygiene followed.

It is vital that each of us do what we can to protect the people in our care and communities. Please pray for one another as we look forward to the day when we will be together again – healthy and safe.

With a heavy heart, I provide this further Guidance Note.

Every blessing as you traverse the coming weeks.

Bronwyn Murphy | Associate Secretary | Secretariat | Synod Office

***PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF BEIRUT.*** The message below from Graham Perry was included in this week's SSCP e-newsletter

*Dear Friends*

*Please continue to pray for the people of Lebanon and particularly Beirut at this time. Our two Armenian Ministers, Rev Krikor Youmshajekian and Rev Hagop Sarkissian, are both Lebanese Australians with family and friends in Beirut and the region; add to that the Rev Gaby Kobrossi at Bankstown Uniting Church who is also a Lebanese Australian. Moreover the explosion in the port area of Beirut was very close to the Armenian quarter; Armenian Schools, Churches, Church Schools and Preschools, Homes and Businesses have been badly damaged. Fortunately it is the summer vacation time in Lebanon and no schools or preschools were operating, however the damage and injuries will be significant for all the people of a country that is so badly affected at this time. Please continue to pray for the people of Lebanon and Beirut, and especially for our Christian Armenian friends in that part of the world and here.*

*Blessings,*

Graham Perry | Presbytery Minister | Ministry Wellbeing

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.*** If you would like to prepare prayers for the news sheet, the office would love to hear from you.

***THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS*** prepared by Marion Gledhill

**Matthew 14: 22-33 - 'We are "boat people"!**

Yes God, we feel we are caught in the stormy seas of COVID-19

We fear what extended not-normal time is doing to us. We miss our friends and we miss the enjoyment of the activities we used to do.

We fear the economic consequences of the restrictions.

We fear that Victorian peak numbers may also be seen here.

We fear for our families.

We fear for people without work and for businesses that may close.

God, when we feel close to sinking beneath the waves of our fears, give us courage and trust to take the hand you hold out to us, remembering Jesus who reached out to hold Peter.

We pray, dear God, for people who are ill with the virus, their families and health professionals that they will discover they too can take your hand, and find the reassurance and care you offer.

We pray for all involved in aged care, in Victoria and in all parts of Australia, that they will find the resources needed to give proper care, and we pray for aged care residents fearing infection.

We join with UnitingCare Australia to pray that the government will lead the development of a COVID-19 National Response Plan for Homeless People Sleeping Rough.

We pray for all those seeking asylum in our land, for their supporters, and for the Australian Government, that asylum seekers' dignity as fellow human beings may be respected, and that a resolution to their long-term future may be found.

We pray that those seeking asylum and their families may be given all the resources Australia has to offer to live a life of human dignity while the processes around their future are followed through.

Gracious God, at this time when National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day has just passed, we acknowledge the deep hurt experienced by the children and the families of the Stolen Generation. We pray for those who as children suffered terribly from forcible removal from their family and community.

We pray for those children who grew up away from their own culture, contributing to the loss of their own sense of self-identity. We recognise that these sufferings cause intergenerational trauma. May Your healing presence be felt by all impacted by this trauma.

Help us to celebrate the lives of children as you taught us in scripture "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Lord, please hear our prayers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. We pray these children learn their culture from Elders. We pray these children grow to be strong leaders in their communities. We pray they grow to feel empowered. We pray they grow to know their voice counts. We pray they always encounter Your grace.

We thank you for the work of Nungalinya College in Darwin, where the Anglican and Uniting Churches together offer education in Christian life and theology to Indigenous young people and adults. We join with the staff and students to praise You for provision and protection during COVID-19 times, and thank you for comfort and guidance to students through times of suffering and sadness. Please bless and guide the staff as they plan long-term directions.

We pray for the Congregation of Eastwood Uniting Church. May all our people reach out to take the hand you offer. Help us to remember that no matter how stormy the sea, you are, and always will be, with us.

May our Church Council, Nicholas, Tennyson and Esther be strengthened and guided as they rely on You. We pray for any of our Congregation who are unwell, grieving or struggling to cope. Bless them, gracious God.

Thank you for the guidance provided by the Synod and the Assembly of the UCA, and please hold their leaders firmly in your hand.

With the World Council of Churches and Churches across the world we continue to pray for African nations and their Churches. This week we pray for Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

We are thankful for:

- the heritage of ancient trade routes, rich oral traditions and nomadic practices of people in the lands these countries now occupy
- humanitarian work to improve food security and livelihoods, especially for women
- pro-active efforts to preserve the environment in these desert lands
- welcome and provision for those who often must flee across borders.

We pray for:

- those impoverished who lack basic needs and rights, that these will be met
- desperate children and others who turn to crime or begging or become enslaved
- effective response to the frequent droughts and hunger in this area
- more stable political rule in these countries to stem violence and provide for all.

Amen.

**DEAR GOD**

written by Elizabeth Cotton

'been travelling up a steep road  
with, once accepted, not so heavy a load.

You tell me

It's not just me.

I nearly forgot  
to stop every now and then  
to really get  
a look from how up I've been climbing

'thought I would today  
and if I may  
share it with friends  
with similar problems.

We've had drought  
but a flood to break the drought.  
We've had bushfires to an alarming extent  
yet our prayers and our faith we've not bent.

And we may have wondered why,  
looked for a bright side,  
or just liked asking why  
ride the tide.

We've all had some rest  
Some 'do I really have to?' test of a quest  
And many have been lonely  
like a real test of integrity

We've always had droughts  
and a dry sense of humour  
so we can't say it's all about  
the greenhouse effect and what we've been about

We've often had floods  
but not so threatening bushfires.  
So with mixed blessing came the flood  
and out went the bushfires.

As a church member I see  
God is bigger than the present enemy.  
Yet I wonder if this problem focus  
doesn't have to be the only focus

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Like the way many more animals  
die everyday, as more animals  
are eaten on the plate everyday ;  
than died in the bushfires.

Is this a Lamentations way  
to find good anyway?

If there's still more people with aids  
than the corona virus  
Does it remind us  
of inner happiness?

If going without  
as with church we've had to go without  
can help us find  
our own sense of innocence or peace of mind.

As people become more friendly  
when logic and rationality  
would warn us to not be  
I wonder if this is God's victory

In looking after our health  
have we really been able to give—more of ourself?  
In not being 'just social'  
have we been allowed to think how we'd like to be social .

As weeds grow  
and enemies flaunt  
It's also true the wheat grows  
and their help is so well meant

As winter comes  
and self exertion doesn't seem that fun  
There seems a chance to  
feel, and care about inner-intelligence too.

To reflect  
on all the reflecting  
And still sow seeds  
faithfully and generously  
not expecting to be too intelligently

## **GOD WHOSE WILL IS HEALTH AND WHOLENESS**

1 God whose will is health and wholeness,  
 hear your people as we pray:  
 many now are facing illness;  
 more face sickness every day.  
 As we lift our song toward heaven,  
 may we use the gifts you give —  
 science, justice, and compassion —  
 to help others safely live.

2 Jesus taught that your commandments  
 call for us to use the mind.  
 May we use the gifts of science  
 to seek health for humankind.  
 Bless the ones who work for healing;  
 bless the ones who seek to be  
 builders of a health care system  
 that protects society.

3 God, you call for love and justice,  
 yet our laws are far from wise:  
 Many don't have good insurance;  
 lack of health care threatens lives.  
 Many workers must keep working,  
 sick or not, to pay the bills.  
 Turn us round when we have sanctioned  
 greed that leads to greater ills.

4 Loving God, we ask your blessing  
 on the sick and those they love,  
 and we pray for those now grieving  
 as they lift their cries above.  
 There is trouble all around us;  
 illness causes pain and fear.  
 Give compassion, love and kindness  
 as we serve your people here.

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Permission is given for use of this hymn in local churches.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNPIsM14Bik> Tune: Abbot's Leigh TIS 153

## **WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE SURROUND US**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h69DRq-MFA> Tune: Nettleton TIS 392

- 1 When the storms of life surround us,  
and the world seems dark and cold,  
when the rain beats down upon us,  
and the lightning stabs our soul,  
In a whispering distant thunder,  
comes a voice like morning calm:  
“Fear not, I am with you ever,  
‘til the world shall see its end.
- 3 He is greater than the thunder,  
he is mightier than the storm;  
he extends his hand to lift us,  
and protect us all from harm.  
He will see us safe to harbour,  
to the haven of our rest,  
sheltered by the Rock of Ages,  
held in his almighty arm.

- 2 “I command the winds of heaven,  
and the lightning does my will,  
I who walked upon the waters,  
and who bid the storm be still.  
I seek not your destruction,  
but to strengthen and make pure;  
keep your faith in me, believing  
I, my promises fulfil.”

*abridged*

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CCLI 65422

## **OCEANS (Where feet may fail)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZomtjU7Fz4>

- 1 You call me out upon the waters  
the great unknown, where feet may fail.  
And there I find You in the mystery  
in oceans deep my faith will stand.

*Chorus: And I will call upon Your name  
and keep my eyes above the waves  
when oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
for I am Yours and You are mine.*

- 2 Your grace abounds in deepest waters.  
Your sovereign hand will be my guide  
where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now

*Chorus*

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## Bridge

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders.  
 Let me walk upon the waters  
 wherever You would call me.  
 Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
 and my faith will be made stronger  
 in the presence of my Saviour.

## Chorus

Joel Houston / Matt Crocker / Salomon Lighthelm

You may also like: Praise you in the storms  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YUGwUgBvTU>

### Questions to ponder

沉思一些问题

숙고해야할 질문들

What does it feel like in a storm?

在暴风雨中的感觉是什么样的?

폭풍속으로 내버려져 있다면 어떻게 느낄 까요?

Why do you think the disciples are afraid? Is it the storm? Is it their insight into who Jesus is? Or both?

你认为为什么这些门徒们感到害怕? 这是一场风暴吗? 这是他们洞察出耶稣是谁了吗? 或者两者兼有?

당신은 왜 제자들이 겁을 내고 있다고 생각하는가? 그것은 폭풍우인가? 아니면 예수가 누구인지를 아는 통찰력인가? 아니면 둘 다인가

What sort of boat are we in?

他们是在一艘什么样的船上?

우리는 어떤 배 안에 있는가?

How safe and secure do we feel in the boat?

我们在船上感到安全无忧吗？

배 안에서 안심하고 안전 하다고 느끼는가?

What risks might Jesus be calling you to take?

耶稣可能呼唤你采取什么风险？

예수님께서 당신을 부르실때 어떤 위험부담을 가질까요?

When have you experienced a “sinking feeling”? What, or who, helped you survive?

你何时经历过“沮丧不安”？是什么或者谁帮你活下来的？

우리가 “ 가라 앉는 것 같은 느낌”을 경험할때. 무엇 혹은 누가 당신을 구하도록 도움을 주었는가?

How does this story relate to current uncertainties associated with COVID-19?

这个故事如何关联与新冠疫情有关的当前不确定性？

이 이야기는 코비드\_19 과 연관된 현재의 불 확실과 어떻게 관련이 있는가?

Who do you know who is struggling with the ‘storms of life’? How could you reach out to help them?

你认识谁正在“生活风暴”中挣扎？你可以如何帮助他们？

폭풍속에서 싸우고 있는 어느 누구를 알고 있는지요? 그들을 돕기위해 어떻게 손을 뻗칠 수가 있을까요?

## We are all ministers in Christ's name

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
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 수 있고  
Relevant 相關的 적절하고  
Active 積極的 역동적이 될 것이다

### LECTIONARY READINGS:

Aug 9 Pentecost 10: Gn 37:1-4,12-28, Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b,  
Rom 10:5-15, Mt 14:22-33

Aug 16 Pentecost 11: Gn 45:1-15 Ps 133 Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32'  
Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28

**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**