



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

16 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

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)

Sermon and Bible reading audio available on website

Youtube link for reading, prayers and sermon

<https://youtu.be/y3h0HjB5HU8>

2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group

23rd August 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom**

9.30am Worship

Nicholas Fried

Matthew 16: 13-20

'Are you a rock?' (keys to the kingdom)

你是一块石头吗? (通往王国的钥匙)

당신은 바위인가? (하늘나라로 가는 열쇠)

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".

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.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

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 discussing the Fair Treatment Campaign, formed by the Uniting Church NSW/ACT and Uniting, and now including more than 60 partner organisations.

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

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

*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 prepared by Marion Gledhill

**Matthew 15: 21-28 Does Jesus the teacher learn a lesson?
(A foreign woman has great faith)**

Loving God, thank you for the story of the foreign woman who has great faith.

Grant us openness to be challenged by new insights, and humility to be prepared to change our thinking when challenges convince us of truth. May we not quickly disregard what does not align with our own understanding, but be prepared to think again, to check and to reconsider. May we always respect people who sincerely hold beliefs and points of view different from our own.

God, there is much that is confusing about COVID-19, and about what we may and may not do. Help us to search for facts and be open to learn more. Help us to do all we can to avoid spreading the virus. May national leaders here and in other nations be guided by facts as best they are known. Help them as they try to balance health and economic needs.

We pray for people who are frightened of the virus and for those whose mental health has deteriorated at this time. Please give us the extra energy we need to contact and care for each other. Thank you for professionals and agencies that offer help, and for government recognition that more mental health assistance is needed.

We pray you will give your comfort and healing to us, and to those close to us, when we suffer in body, mind or spirit. Encourage us when we feel down and grant us hope and deeper compassion for the needs of others.

At this time of 75 years after the bombing of Hiroshima, we thank you that the Uniting Church stands with allies, religious and secular, to move the world closer to a ban on nuclear weapons. We remember that from 1946 to 1996, nuclear testing designed to secure world domination was undertaken in the Pacific. We pray with Pacific church leaders for the victims of nuclear weapons over the last 75 years and the courageous advocates who work to end the threat of nuclear destruction.

We pray for the Uniting Church in Australia, and for all Congregations and Presbyteries struggling to work their way through changing

Continued next page

government requirements, and trying to adapt to new ways of meeting and worshipping. Bless leaders of Eastwood Congregation and the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery. Grant them guidance for good decision making so that the faith and witness of your people can be strengthened and grow despite the restrictions of these times.

We thank you for Church leaders and pray for young leaders in all parts of the Church's life. We pray for culturally diverse communities in the Uniting Church, and for their leaders, especially their young leaders.

Prayer for Beirut (from Levon Kardashian, Secretary of the UCA's Middle East National Conference, who grew up in Lebanon)

God of creation,

You create the Cedars of Lebanon and give them their majesty to withstand all tribulations for your own pleasure. You exalt them to represent eternity, strength, and endurance. Yet we have cut them down and destroyed them for our own personal pleasures. As we remember the Cedars of Lebanon, we also remember the people of Lebanon in their diversity of cultures and faith.

God of explosions and pollution,

Out of the depths we call to you; in the face of incomprehensible anguish and sorrow, we lift the cries of our distress and implore you to show mercy upon those who are suffering from the destruction of the explosion in Beirut and the ensuing chemical pollution. Give protection and wisdom to emergency service personnel, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and all those who assist in elevating the pain and suffering of those affected.

Encourage our generosity to those who suffer loss. In your mercy restore your creation and heal our land.

We pray for those who have been injured in body, mind or spirit and ask you to heal them;

Grant us all firm resolve to stand with our neighbours who are in need, to love them and to offer our generous support of them in this their time of trouble.

We pray for the Lebanese diaspora who are in mourning. Comfort them, and direct their efforts to offer assistance to families and friends. Amen.

*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 **Liberia and Sierra Leone***

We are thankful for:

- the natural resources in these countries, that they might benefit the peace and welfare of all
- the diverse ethnic and religious groups who long have lived together in peace and harmony, especially the Muslims and Christians in Sierra Leone
- democratic election of leaders who have brought political stability and accountability
- how diseases such as Ebola have been brought under control.

We pray for:

- the churches in these countries, for their evangelism and social outreach, faithful witness and action in times of conflict, and for interfaith cooperation with others
- the majority of the people who are still impoverished, that adequate services and policies will be provided that enable them to live with dignity and good health
- more just governance, free of corruption, accountable to the people, and that manages resources in ways that benefit all.

Accept our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Tune Aurelia TIS 457 (The church's one foundation)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyjNfP9yTs0>

- 1 Sheer heartbreak heaped on heartbreak,
from nature's fury made,
a tiny little virus tremendous power displayed.
This outbreak leaves us shocked and we strive to understand
what brought such pain and havoc abroad and in our land.
- 2 The cancelled fun vacations, the end of this school year,
leave us in isolation, in turmoil and in fear.
Our hearts go out to all those whose future is unsure.
May people find the strength and the courage to endure.

- 3 We yearn to be together to share our joys and woes,
and yet by staying home our compassion truly shows
how much we love each other and want for each the best.
in fellowship deferred, we find hope and we are blessed.
- 4 We weep with those who weep and we pray: “Lord, meet their needs.”
We long to be good neighbours; we want to do good deeds.
To offer hope and help, we take offerings to give aid,
and for relief and solace, we fervently have prayed.
- 5 These burdens are so heavy; they seem too much to bear,
and yet Your love sustains us and shows us that You care.
O Lord, You are our rock, our redeemer, and our friend,
you offer us the promise of life that knows no end.

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SHE CAME TO JESUS

Songs of Grace 16

Tune Slane TIS 547 (Be thou my vision)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvIBIJD0exs>

- 1 She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.
- 2 Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
she knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
for in her asking, her faith was revealed.
- 3 God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

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BY FAITH<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXB8ihepUpE>

By faith, we see the hand of God
 In the light of creation's grand design;
 In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
 Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, our fathers roamed the earth
 With the power of His promise in their hearts
 Of a holy city built by God's own hand –
 A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise,
 We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
 Till the race is finished and the work is done,
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, the prophets saw a day
 When the longed-for Messiah would appear
 With the power to break the chains of sin and death,
 And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith, the church was called to go
 In the power of the Spirit to the lost
 To deliver captives and to preach good news,
 In every corner of the earth. –

By faith, this mountain shall be moved
 And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
 For we know in Christ all things are possible
 For all who call upon His name.

Stuart Townend , Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty

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Questions to ponder

沉思一些问题

숙고해야할 질문들

What do you find most shocking about this passage?

你认为这则消息最使你震惊的是什么?

이 이야기에 관해서 당신은 무엇을 가장 놀랍게 하는가?

When have you felt on the 'outside'?

你什么时候感到过是在“外面”?

당신은 언제 '소외' 당함을 느껴 보았는가?

Why do you think this story was important to Matthew's community?

你认为为什么这则故事对马太的社区很重要?

당신은 이 이야기가 왜 마태의 공동체에 중요하다고 생각하는가?

Why do you think Jesus was silent?

你认为为什么耶稣保持沉默?

왜 예수는 잠잠했다고 생각하는가?

How do you respond to the idea that Jesus learned a lesson?

你如何回应关于耶稣学到了一课的看法?

예수가 가르쳤던 아이디어가 당신은 어떻게 생각하는가?

What actions do you take when you hear or see people spread division, fear and hatred?

当你听到或者看到人们传播分歧、恐惧和怨恨，你会采取什么行动?

당신이 사람들이 분리, 공포 그리고 증오하는 것을 듣거나 볼때 어떤 행동을 하는가?

How would you react if someone calls you a 'dog'?

如果有人叫你“狗”，你会怎么反应?

어떤 사람이 당신을 " 개 " 라고 부르면 당신은 어떻게 반응을 할까?

Sydney Central Coast Presbytery

Life and Witness and Mission Study Consultation with Eastwood Uniting Church

April - June 2020

Consultation Team Members: Rev James Aaron, Mr Jim Mein,
Mrs Carolyn Mallam

Team Leader: Rev David Reichardt

Eastwood UC's Historical Context Eastwood Uniting Church is the significant amalgamation of Congregations that at one time were reckoned to be among the largest of their respective denominations in NSW. However the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia inevitably begged the question of why two, by then declining, Uniting Churches were placed within several hundred metres of each other. The two Congregations amalgamated in the mid-90s, sold St Andrews, and used the proceeds to rebuild Lakeside Rd. The new facility was opened in 2009. In 2010 Denistone East Uniting Church, a daughter congregation to Lakeside Rd Methodist Church, re-amalgamated with Eastwood UC, moving into the new facility.

Eastwood UC's Missional Context Eastwood and its surrounding suburbs have a strong Anglo-Celtic heritage. However, the Consultation Team heard, saw and discerned rapid changes in the ethnic diversity in the Eastwood, Epping and Ryde, geographical areas which have become a multicultural region, predominantly Asian. The Anglo culture is no longer dominant, as many Anglos in the Eastwood Congregation no longer live in Eastwood. Church attendance census data indicate that traditionally Eastwood has been the spiritual home for many Catholics. However, for the past quarter of a century the suburb has attracted increasing numbers of east Asian migrants. This is particularly clear in the Eastwood shopping precinct.

Multi-cultural and multi-ethnic Church Attendance As far as church attendance is concerned, not long ago the most numerous non-Anglo ethnic group was Korean, especially in Eastwood. Now they are being replaced by many second and third generation non-Anglo groups who are a minority in the Congregation. Additionally, the second and third generation Asian cultures are English speaking. The NCLS statistics

indicate that 36.5% identify as 'no religion'. These issues challenge the Congregation and the Presbytery as to which type of Church would best serve this region.

Living in and with a multicultural, Asian Context According to the 2016 Census statistics; 38 percent of those who call Eastwood home were born in Australia, followed by 25.3% mainland China, 7.8% Korea, and 4.7% Hong Kong. However, 38.4% of respondents identify their Ancestry as being Chinese, 11.2% and 10.1% English and Australian and 8.2% as being Korean. These are significant cultural and communal characteristics that make up Eastwood and therefore affect how the Eastwood Congregation implements its worship, witness and service.

A goal and dream for the Congregation is to work toward an inter- and cross-cultural relationship within the church community and its work. At this stage Eastwood have four worshipping groups, one Chinese-speaking and three English-speaking, one of which tries to be multilingual. The decision making and committee bodies of the Congregation are also mostly English speaking, but they have shown significant effort in integrating their intercultural relationships. There is still much work to be done within this space, to have representation of the multicultural church within the Congregation's leadership, and to provide spaces where alternative voices can be better heard.

Comments on Leadership As Rev Nicholas Fried is retiring at the end of this year the future leadership of Eastwood UC requires detailed and urgent attention. The important questions are about leadership the Congregation will need into the next five to ten years, and what overall changes in the leadership need to occur to bring EUC closer to the multicultural vision its congregation affirms. As well, the Congregation of all ethnicities is mainly over 60 and there is a need to expand ministry to the younger generations without neglecting the needs of those who are ageing. There are also issues within the worshipping groups between those who prefer traditional versus more progressive theology; some of those but not all are aligned with cultural/ethnic differences. In the recent church survey shared worship and inclusive language in worship were two aspects favoured by many in the Congregation.

Nicholas' style of servant leadership has been universally applauded across the Congregation and staff at EUC. To achieve a more intercultural

and intergenerational church community there is a need to meet with and listen regularly and intentionally to the different needs of the various groups. In this way respect and greater understanding can deepen and provide a stronger foundation for future directions.

From more than one person it was suggested that the most effective leadership structure would be a team consisting of an ordained minister and up to three part-time mission workers. To have someone working in the office – paid or voluntary – who speaks Chinese would be an asset. This model envisages one of the 3 mission workers concentrating on the Older Asians, the second addressing the 2nd and 3rd generations as a family, and the third growing the children and youth age groups. In any case it could be said that the team members will need to possess the skills of both a midwife and a palliative carer. As well, the Church Council would benefit from having a more multi-cultural membership.

Finding suitable people to fit these roles may not be easy but Eastwood UC has shown a willingness in the past to adapt to new circumstances and new cultural contexts so there is much hope that this will continue.

Finances The Congregation is to be applauded on its financial management during its long history, but also during the externally hampered process of redeveloping and selling of the East Denistone properties, as well as being a leading congregation in developing a sinking fund for major repairs and building adequate reserves to absorb the unexpected challenges such as COVID19 on offerings. Its ability to fully cover ministry and staff costs from offerings is a goal that challenges many congregations.

With a smaller, though still substantial, expected sales proceeds in a low-income investment earning environment which has been further exacerbated by “pandemonomics”¹, the Congregation acknowledges that utilising capital is essential to further its mission objectives and restoring the sinking fund to its actuarially planned level. The Church council will need to prioritise the obtaining of Synod and Presbytery endorsement of the sales proceeds proposal as the Lane Cove grant towards the Chinese Congregation development and ministry ends in July 2020. The Review Team endorses the high priority of continuing the multiculturalism

¹ Pandemic economics

direction in the Eastwood region but with a greater emphasis on intercultural and intergenerational initiatives because of the locally changing ethnic diversity. The growth of young family activities is critical to replace the expected diminishing elderly members' financial support.

The Review Team also sees that the current inhouse administration needs to be maintained. The review of the current level of property hall rentals is essential to correlate maintenance costs, potential GST implications and availability for changed Congregational activity.

The Kernel Amongst many other considerations the Consultation Team sees several questions as being vital. In essence the pursuit of Eastwood's Mission Planning poses the critical question, the kernel, for the life of the Uniting Church in Australia, namely, "What type of church do we need to be in such a rapidly changing community context? "In Eastwood's case this one question generates three more:

1. Given the background described above, what shape should Eastwood's Mission take? To be specific, what will the Congregation's Chinese ministry look like in 3-5 years from now?
2. What shape should Eastwood's leadership take to best facilitate its mission-shaped ministry? What will the mix of ordained, paid lay and volunteer lay ministry look like, year by year?
3. And how much money will Eastwood need to fund its mission (bearing in mind that much of this money will be used to pay its leaders), and from where will this money be obtained?

Conclusion: Eastwood can lead the way By its unanimous support of the Mission Plan, Eastwood Uniting Church is convinced that the future of their Congregation lies in multi- and cross-cultural ministry to and with the swiftly growing numbers of East Asian immigrants. Through EUC's relationship with Christian Community Aid Services, its long term ESL ministry, its relationship with several different kinds of multi-ethnic, multi-cultural congregations that use its facilities, and of course the experience gained from supporting its Chinese ministry, Eastwood UC now has a substantial body of experience in cross-cultural ministry to and with the Chinese community.

Eastwood's Mission Plan mentions that it aspires to be a "regional" church but does not specifically define how they would be regional.

Should it be a resource for the Congregations in the region, or should the congregations work more together or even become a multi-centred congregation to better benefit from shared resources? The Australian landscape is changing geographically, ethnically and culturally. The Church needs to adapt.

The time is ripe to build on the Eastwood Congregation's applauded mission initiatives to address the challenge of how the Uniting Church in Eastwood and its adjoining Congregations can achieve a new and effective multicultural, intercultural, intergenerational and Christian spiritual model of being a multicultural Church in Australia. This could be achieved in partnership with other congregations in the City of Ryde Zone together. The model would be augmented by the NSW ACT Synod working collaboratively with the Presbytery and the Congregations to achieve what Australia should be acknowledging generally, namely, Australia is a multicultural country but has a long way to becoming united as a multicultural community. Being multicultural is the start of the journey to becoming a united community with social cohesion and inclusion where each Australian is valued, yet able to maintain their individual ethnic culture in a diverse modern Australia.

Consultation Team

Jeremiah 29:11

June 2020

Areas of Affirmation:

1. Congratulate Eastwood Uniting Church for their faithful worship, witness and service during the period following the last Life & Witness Consultation.
2. Congratulate the Congregation for their detailed Strategic Mission Plan and their persistence in following it.
3. Note the Congregation's identification of multi-cultural and cross-cultural ministry and mission as key elements in that mission plan.

Areas for Consideration:

1. Suggest that the Congregation consider a key question: "What type of church do we need to be in such a rapidly changing community context?"

2. Note that the team has identified 3 key elements that need to be addressed by the Congregation and the Presbytery:
 - a. Multicultural mission and ministry
 - b. Appropriate Leadership
 - c. Adequate Finances

Recommendations:

For the Congregation

1. Review and update their Strategic Mission Plan Document.
(Timeframe: 2021)
2. That they identify resources, personnel and mission opportunities that could be shared for better stewardship of resources within the Zone and in other parts of the Presbytery where multi-cultural ministry is emerging. (Timeframe: as able)

For the Presbytery:

According to Uniting Church in Australia Regulation 2.6.6 “conduct a special consultation/mission study in order to recommend if the vacancy shall be filled”; the Life and Witness Committee recommend that:

1. the vacancy at Eastwood Uniting Church be filled by a 1.0FTE Minister of the Word, as soon as possible. This recommendation has been endorsed by the SCCP Business Committee.
2. a JNC convenor be appointed by the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) at the next meeting of PRC.

We are all ministers in Christ's name

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

Aug 23 Pentecost 12: Ex 1:8 – 2:10, Ps 124, Rom 12:1-8, Mt 16:13-20

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