



## EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

23 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

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

9.30am Worship

Nicholas Fried

Matthew 16: 13-20

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

你是一块石头吗? (通往王国的钥匙)

당신은 바위인가? (하늘나라로 가는 열쇠)

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

**Youtube link for reading, prayers and sermon**

<https://youtu.be/wP3TyqOMDVU>

2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group

30th August 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** John Court

"The burning bush (Exodus 3: 1-15)

and our Life and Witness and Mission Study?"

9.30am Worship

Nicholas Fried

Matthew 16: 21-28

'A stumbling block' (Peter at the crossroads)

一个绊脚石 (彼得在十字路口)

흔들거리는 블록 (십자로에 있는 베드로)

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

Chris D

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

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

**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 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.

**NEW WEBSITE** for the Assembly - [uniting.church](http://uniting.church). The new site aims for a fresher, more engaging presentation of our ministries, as well as a more accessible explanation of our Uniting Church approach to Christian faith, belief and practice. Resources from the old website can be found at <http://resources.uca.org.au>



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Wendy Nicol	Monday	24th August
Trevor Bird	Thursday	27th August
Jason Masters	Thursday	27th August

*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.*

## 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Church Council Zoom Meeting Update

- Worship: A COVID19 Safe Plan now approved for the 8am and 2pm church services in the worship space, however members of both worship groups do not currently wish to return to worship on site. Online worship to continue at present 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 the office for access to the online meetings.
- Chinese speaking resource worker: Workplan for Tennyson for remainder of 2020 adopted by Chinese Worker Umbrella Group meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July and endorsed by CC. Update on utilization of funding grant to be sent to Lane Cove, UME, Presbytery 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: Newsletter to be emailed to members each week.
- Continuing Education Umbrella Group: Current programme of activities completed in August. Future activities to be advised via the weekly newsletter.
- Life and Witness Consultation: The Presbytery Report on EUC has been received and has been published in the EUC weekly newsletter. Awaiting 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. Supply Minister to be sought for EUC from December 2020.
- Presbytery August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting cancelled.
- Property: Lakeside Road: All repairs from storm damage are now completed and no leakages to date. Inverter of the Solar panels is now working to enable use of the power we generate.

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Automatic floor-standing sanitising stations are now installed inside the external entrances of the Main Hall, East Room, Drummond foyer and main entrance.

Acacia Street: New contracts being prepared for sale of church and hall site.

Vera Street: manse bathroom shower to be replaced due to leakage.

- Community use of Lakeside Road premises. Following approval of their activity specific COVID19 safety plans, a number of users (including CCA) have resumed some activities (with reduced numbers) and these are being monitored to ensure compliance with their approved plans.

- Tertiary Chaplaincy Strategy Committee (formerly Macquarie University Chaplaincy)

A half-day pre-planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25 August.

- Next Church Council meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

***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 John Court

We sense Your presence close by us, God of Revelation, as we join Jesus and his disciples all that long time ago in the fresh alpine heights of northern Israel at Caesarea Philippi. We can almost hear the rushing sound of the Jordan headwaters as the little group make their climb up to this place of many shrines - Jewish and pagan.

We hush as Jesus asks his followers in a moment of great intimacy: "Who do people say that I am?" And the names which have been tossed about among the populace come tumbling out from the disciples: "John the Baptist back to life! Isaiah! Jeremiah! Some other ancient prophet!" A pause. And then we hear the penetrating voice of Jesus once again: "But who do you say I am?" Another longer pause. And then the impetuous Peter breaks the silence, but this time in measured and decisive tone: "You are the Christ, the Anointed One, the Son of the Living God."

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And Jesus responds immediately: “Happy are you, Simon, son of Jonah, because flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.” And then we hear Jesus’ prediction that Peter, Cephas, the Rock, will become the leader on earth of Jesus’ future people, the church. Like his name of “Rock”, Peter will become the brave leader, not defeated, but strengthened by his failure in a future time of trial. When he will come under Jesus’ reproaching gaze in that moment of future shame, he will realise his utter weakness. But out of weakness Jesus will make him strong as a rock on which a great structure can be built to God’s Glory.

God, even from afar in time and space, we sense the sanctity and richness of this sacred moment in the history of Your salvation. Thank You, God of the Universe, for calling us to be part of Your great history. May we glimpse moments of clear sight and be uplifted like the disciples at Caesarea Philippi. May we too like Peter, know Jesus’ forgiveness in our times of weakness. Help us God! May we, like those disciples 2000 years ago, sense the greatness of our calling in this far distant time. Help us God! In our own small way and with Your mercy and support, help us to become rock-like in Your service and in our Hope.

God, be with us today in the World, in Australia and in Eastwood in 2020 as we struggle with many challenges.

We look to our leaders in the Christian Church at this time, and in particular in our Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT. We lift up before you Simon, Jane and Bronwyn. Help them to make difficult decisions soundly, in a Christian way - caring, responsible, yet looking to the future.

Here at Eastwood we pray for our Minister Nicholas, our Mission Resource Worker Tennyson, and pastor/evangelist Esther, our Church Council and our Office and all who work in Your Service here in the local community. May the Spirit guide us, support us and strengthen us in anxious times. Help us to make sound decisions and lift us up in our commitment to realised them.

We pray your blessing and guidance on those commissioned to lead us in discerning our future here in Your work at Eastwood. We thank you for the work of the Life and Witness Consultation Team. Help us to

properly appreciate what they have said to us. We pray for the Joint Nominating Committee and our Presbytery and Synod as we engage in the call of a Minister. And we pray for Nicholas and Sue and their family as they move towards the end of Nicholas' service of ministry with us. We are so thankful for their service; be with them as they move to a new future.

We are nostalgic for past glories and enjoyments that are gone, but are hopeful **as we look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith**, that we can confront a new and unknown future in Christ.

Be with all **those working to manage the COVID 19 pandemic** and its emerging problems. Be with those mourning the multitude of people who have been taken, many of them loved and revered elders. Be with those who are still sick and struggling back to health.

Be with leaders everywhere. Be with our National, State and Local governments as they address the huge economic and social problems this virus inflicts. Be with our medical community of doctors, nurses, support workers, counsellors, police, army, marshals and many others 'on the front line'. Be with research experts as they strive to understand the virus, so as to better protect us from it. Be with our exemplars at all levels, showing us how to behave in a loving and supportive way in a time of unfamiliar challenge for our generation.

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 COVID 19; they may have lost their job; they may be setting out on a new life adventure. We remember especially our young people facing the final hurdle of their schooling or university training in turbulent and irregular circumstances. Be with them, calm them and help us to show them our love and understanding in their time of need. We now lift up before You those mentioned in our notices: Merrill, Jason, Sue, Margaret and Chris.

Be with all these in Your loving grace as **we name them privately and individually before you, God of Love.**

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We end our time with You today, longing for Your wonderful Kingdom to come, when we will know the presence of Jesus the Anointed One as they knew it long ago at Caesarea Philippi. We pray now as 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.***

## ***GOD IS OUR STRENGTH AND REFUGE***

TIS 28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW5yAqx810>

1. God is our strength and refuge,  
our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though mountains shake and tremble,  
though swirling waters are raging:  
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore.
  
3. Come, see the works of our maker,  
learn of his deeds all-powerful:  
wars will cease across the world  
when he shatters the spear.  
Be still and know your creator,  
uplift him in the nations;  
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore.

Richard Thomas Bewes 1934-

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## **YOU ARE THE ROCK OF MY SALVATION**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cMcsS2nOII>

You are the rock of my salvation,  
you are the strength of my life.  
you are my hope and my inspiration,  
Lord unto You will I cry.

I believe in you, believe in you,  
for your faithful love to me.  
You have been my help in time of need,  
Lord unto You will I cleave.

You are the rock of my salvation.  
You are the strength of my life.  
You are my hope and my inspiration.  
Lord unto You will I cry.

Maranatha

## **ALL ARE WELCOME** (Let us build a house)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=js8RtT0mJpc>

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live.

A place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions  
rock of faith and vault of grace,  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

*Chorus: All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak  
and words are strong and true.

where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness,  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;

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4 Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger;

5 Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*Chorus: All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Marty Haughen,  
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CCL 65422

### Questions to ponder

沉思一些问题

숙고해야할 질문들

Who do you say Jesus is?

你认为耶稣是谁?

당신은 예수가 누구라 하는가?

What 'building material nickname' might Jesus give you?

耶稣可能给你一个什么样的“建筑材料昵称”?

어떠한 '건축자재의 별명'을 예수는 당신에게 주는가?

What about the church (assembly) would you “bind” (is permissible)?

你会结合（获得准许的）的教会（集会）是什么样的？

교회(총회)에 관해 당신은 “구속” 하는가(허가할 수있나?)

And what about the Church (assembly) would you “loose” (is not permissible?)

你会释放（没有准许的）的教会（集会）是什么样的？

그리고 당신은 “ 풀어” 줄 수있나( 허가 할 수없나)

How do you understand “this rock/ stone”? (is it Peter, or his confession, or something else)

你是如何理解“这个岩石/石头”的？（是彼得吗，或者他的忏悔，或者其它的）

당신은 “ 바위/돌”을 어떻게 이해하는가?( 베드로인가 아니면 그의 고백, 아니면 다른 무엇?)

What does it mean to you to have the keys to the kingdom?

拥有通往天之国的钥匙对你意味着什么？

당신에게 하나님왕국에 들어가는 열쇠를 가지고 있는 것은 어떤의미인가?

How are you opening the kingdom of God for others to enter?

你会如何打开天之国的大门让其他人可以进去？

다른 사람들이 들어가게 하기 위해 당신은 하나님왕국을 어떻게 열려고 하는가?

## We are all ministers in Christ's name

### Minister:

### Phone:

### Email:

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

Aug 30 Pentecost 13: Ex 3:1-15, Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, Rom 12:9-21,  
Mt 16:21-28

**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**