



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

13 September 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

- 13 September 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Chris Wakefield
- 9.30am Holy Communion Nicholas Fried
Season of Creation—Land Sunday
Genesis 3: 14-24
'The ground will be under a curse' (Genesis 3:17)
土地周日 地球承受着这个诅咒 创世记 3: 14-24
땅주일 지구는 저주를 지니고 있다 창세기 3: 14-24
Sermon and Bible reading audio available on website. Youtube link for reading, prayers and sermon https://youtu.be/iXG0YclqY_0
2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group
- 20 September 8.00 Worship **service via Zoom** Maria Allerdice
- 9.30am Worship Frontier Services
Outback Sunday 内陆周日 야외주일
Jeremiah 14: 3-6
Joel 1:8-10, 17-20
Mark 1: 9-13
'Keeping their spirits high'
保持他们的精神高尚
그들의 정신을 높이 지키는 것
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.

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

'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'

Merrill B

Jason M

Margaret S

Chris D

Elizabeth C

Marion G

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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.

SERVICE OF CONCLUSION Rev James Aaron is concluding his Placement at North Ryde Community Church and a Service of Conclusion will be held on Sunday 20th September at 9.30am. The Presbytery thanks James for his Ministry and wishes him all the best in his new Placement. Online details of the service can be found at: <https://nrcc.unitingchurch.org.au/online-details/>

THEOLOGY AND THE COMMON GOOD presented by The Centre for Faith and Public Issues. Workshops will explore how a public theology engages with three current issues of Race, Climate and Covid 19. To be held on 16th Sept 10am-1pm at the Centre for Ministry 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta or 22nd October 10am-1pm via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/4399152776>. To receive further information and to register please email: amelia.pereira@parramattamission.org.au.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Phoebe Chow	Today	13th September
Ruby Blissett	Monday	14th September
Billie Ewin	Wednesday	16th September
Sophie Edington-Cheater	Friday	18th September
Dorothy Hough	Saturday	19th September

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.

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

Great Creator God, we feel Your presence whenever we stand with our bare feet on Your Earth. It may be in our garden, in a local park, in the bush where we sometimes hike or even on the tracks leading down to the beach.

We confess that, in our modern 21st century world, **we are mostly removed from that close contact with earth**, the feeling of skin on dirt. But our ancestors knew the feeling well. They knew it when they tilled the rich soil in warm spring sunshine to bring forth a summer crop. Or when they sweated the digging of a garden bed for vegetables or beautiful flowers. And they knew not only the blessings of the rich nutrient and humus of the soil, but also the weeds and briars harboured in it. These could mar the growth of the harvest and yield, if they did not dress and tend and care for the growth, and care for the land in which the growth was rooted. Yes, **God, show us how to care again for the Earth** in this modern age where we too easily let our technical power become abusive. And strengthen the hands of all who work in the LandCare Movement.

Our forebears sometimes called the land, **Mother Earth** - a habit we have inherited - because of the bounty and fecundity the Earth can produce. We know that **indigenous Australians**, whose custody of this land we honour, have a close spiritual bond with the Land, in a deep way that many of us cannot fully comprehend. **Help us to hear and feel their cries for understanding. Help us to emulate them in their care for the Land we share with them.** And surely, those ancient people we read of in the Bible had the same feeling for their land, Your land. **Help us, God of Creation, to feel again a deeper empathy and connectedness with Your land in this Season of Creation**

Yes, we confess Creator God, that we do not worship the Land. We know it comes ultimately from Your bountiful activity in the creative processes You have set in motion on this Earth. **Yet, we are conscious that we often do not care for Your Land as we should – the flame of our love for it is flickering and close to being snuffed out.**

We carelessly allow soil, hundreds of years in the forming, to be degraded, eroded, compacted, polluted and wasted. We cover it in bitumen and concrete. We dig it up and push it around to suit our whims. We smother it with our cities and suburbs as they spread endlessly across **Your Earth**. We destroy the living places of so many of Your creatures that make their home in and on the soil, the earth. Help us to better understand how we can care for and nourish Your land for its productivity. Show us how we can preserve it as a home for the manifold creatures on and in it, from tiny microorganisms and insects to mighty animals and reptiles, with which we share this planet. **Help us to hear today the plaintiff cry of Mother Earth to tread gently upon her.**

Now, Merciful God, we ask that You be with us today in the World, in Australia and in Eastwood in September 2020 as we struggle with many challenges.

Guide those who lead us in the Christian Church at this hard and uncertain time. Be especially with Simon, Jane and Bronwyn in our **Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT**. They are making difficult decisions for us. Be with them and with us in our service, caring and looking to the future.

Here at Eastwood we pray for our Minister Nicholas, our Pastors Tennyson and Esther, our Church Council and our Office and all who work in Your Service in the local community. May the Spirit guide us, support us and strengthen us in anxious times. Help us to make sound decisions and raise us up to realised them.

We pray for your blessing and guidance on those leading us **to a different future here in Your work at Eastwood**. We thank you for the advice of the Life, Witness and Mission Consultation Team. 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 come to the end of Nicholas' ministry with us. We are so thankful for their love and devotion; be with them as they move to a new future.

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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. Feelings can become strained and tempers frayed in such stressful times; God, please help our leaders to look always to the greater good. 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. Teach us all to be patient in our struggle and endurance, Oh God of Ages.

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 think of Marion who has just undergone major surgery and we pray for Your healing presence to be with all who tend her and with her family. We also now lift up before You others mentioned in our notices: Merrill, Jason, Sue, Margaret, Chris and Elizabeth. Be with all these in Your loving grace as **we name them privately and individually before you, God of Love**.

We have sought much from You, Almighty One. We praise You, we worship You, we honour You and we love You, Dear God.

We pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, whose love for us we now remember in Communion.

***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.

LORD OF EARTH AND ALL CREATION

Together in Song 672

Tune: Westminster Abbey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waPGZ7XKloA> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2vPYrbzeGc>

- 1 Lord of earth and all creation,
let your love possess our land:
wealth, and freedom, far horizons,
mountain, forest, shining sand:
may we share, in faith and friendship,
gifts unmeasured from your hand.
- 2 People of the ancient Dreamtime,
they who found this country first,
ask with those, the later comers,
will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living,
hope for which our children thirst.
- 3 Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
on our hurts your mercy shower;
lead us by your inward dwelling,
guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land Australia:
in your will her peace and power.

GOD BLESS THIS LAND OF OURS An Australian prayer

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

- 1 From dust driven plains to the mountain range,
 where golden fields reach for the sky
 and dark clouds break open, rain drenching the dry.
 This prayer we will remember.
- . From small country towns to the fertile ground,
 this land that knows sorrow and pain.
 When seasons may change, from the drought to the rains,
 this prayer we will remember.
- 2 When dry turns to dust in this sunburnt land,
 through famine and flood and through fire.
 As hardship and harvest they come and they go,
 this prayer we will remember.
- . The dry sun-stained hands that have served this land
 this country so open and free,
 let now every child of this blessed land see:
 our prayer is to remember.
- 3 A bare splintered tree and a dying plea,
 a cry of forgiveness and grace,
 His Spirit within us to bring life again,
 this prayer we will remember.
- . From dark ages past, from the first till the last,
 the heavens have shown us the way;
 His Southern Cross rising before each new day,
 our prayer is to remember

Chorus

*God bless this land of ours,
 her cities, streets and towns
 her sons and daughters,
 her lands and borders.
 God bless this precious land,
 from farm to ocean's golden sand
 God bless this precious land of ours.*

GREAT GOD, YOUR SPIRIT, LIKE THE WIND
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txg4UQJ8fbg>

Together in Song 416
Tune: Jerusalem

- 1 Great God, your Spirit, like the wind
 unseen but shaking things we see -
 will never leave us undisturbed,
 fulfil our dreams, or set us free,
 until we turn from faithless fear
 and prove the promise of your grace,
 in justice, peace and daily bread,
 with joy for all the human race.

- 2 Lord, shake us with the force of love,
 to rouse us from our dreadful sleep;
 remove our hearts of stone, and give
 new hearts of flesh, to break and weep
 for all your children in distress
 and dying for the wealth we keep.
 Help us prevent, while we have time,
 the blighted harvest greed must reap.

- 3 And then, in your compassion, give
 your Spirit, like the gentle rain,
 creating fertile ground from which
 your peace and justice spring like grain;
 until your love is satisfied,
 with all creation freed from pain,
 and all your children live to praise
 your will fulfilled, your presence plain.

Alan Gaunt 1935-

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**RETIREMENT
 AHEAD**

Nicholas retires at the end of November.
 Please note that from 1 October to
 30 November he will be taking annual leave.
 Sunday 27 September will be his last worship
 service at Eastwood

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

Where have you been where it seemed a curse had fallen on that land?

当有一个诅咒降临到那片土地时你们去哪里了?

그 땅에 저주가 떨어진 것 같았는데 당신들은 어디에 있었는가?

What do you think eating from that tree of knowledge (everything) means?

你认为从那颗知识（所有东西）之树上获得食物意味着什么?

지식(모든 것의)나무가 의미하는 것으로 부터 먹는것을 어떻게 생각하는가?

What does 'mother earth' mean to you?

“地球母亲”对你意味着什么?

'당신에게 어머니 땅'이란 무엇을 의미하는가?

How do you respond to the idea that the land is a character in the creation story?

你对在创世故事中这片土地是一个人物的看法是如何回应的?

땅은 이 창조 이야기 속에서 특성을 가지고 있다는 아이디어에 대해 어떻게 생각하는가?

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How would you describe your relationship with the earth?

你会如何描述你与地球的关系？

당신과 땅에 대한 관계를 어떻게 묘사를 할것인가?

What do you think a “curse” on the land might have meant in its original context?

你认为对这片土地的“诅咒”在其原文中可能意味着什么？

“이 땅에 “저주” 라는 것은 그 본연의 문맥에서 무엇을 의미한다고 생각하는가?

How are we cursing the land today?

当今我们是如何诅咒这片土地的？

오늘날 우리는 어떻게 땅을 저주하고 있는가?

When in your life have you felt close to the land around you?

你在你的生命中的何时感受到对你周边土地的亲近感？

당신의 삶에서 언제 당신 주변의 땅에 가깝게 있었는가?

What consequences are we experiencing today as a result of overstepping the boundaries of Creation?

由于逾越了万物的界限，我们目前正在经历什么样的后果？

창조의 경계들을 넘어선 결과로 오늘날 우리는 어떤 결과들을 경험하고 있는가?

