



## **EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH**

***14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood***

**29 November 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**

29th November 8.00am meeting at 9.30am this Sunday

9.30am Worship

Bronwyn Murphy

Exodus 35: 30-33

*'The parable of the art gallery'*

Christopher Cooper

美术馆 寓言 미술관 비유

and Nicholas Fried

(I don't know much about ministry, but I know what I like)

(我对事工不太了解 - 但我知道我喜欢什么)

(나는 사역에 대해 많이 모른다 - 그러나 내가 뭘 좋아하는지 알아)

2.00pm Chinese Service

Wei Quan Hu

6th December 8.00am Worship

Chris Wakefield

9.30am Worship

Ian Pearson

2.00pm Chinese Service

Tennyson Chan

*The context for today's dialogue is that in February 2020 a congregation meeting elected people to comprise the Joint Nominating Committee with the task of finding a new minister for Eastwood Uniting Church. This dialogue was originally scheduled for March, but circumstances prevented it from being presented.*

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.



We are so glad to have you with us today, to share in this service of the closure of ministry for Nicholas. We hope that you enjoy an inspirational and memorable time worship, and feel welcomed and included even as we work within the new COVID-19 guidelines.

**WORSHIP RESOURCES** Bible readings and sermons for Sunday are available by audio, on the church's website. Printed copies of the news sheet and readings 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>

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 kindly agreed to be our contact person with Synod on behalf of Church Council.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.** The Joint Nominating Committee have met and agreed they would like to call a Congregational meeting on **13th December**, after the morning service, to introduce the candidate they believe has been sent to EUC.

**MYEONGCHEOL JOHN OH**, the student minister who led the service last Sunday asked the office to pass on his gratitude for the opportunity.

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

**'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'**

Merrill B, Jason M, Margaret S, Elizabeth C, Liz M's mother Katy

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday	30 Nov	English Classes	9.30am
Tuesday	1 Dec	English Classes—online only	7.30pm
Wednesday	2 Dec	Women's Bible Study	10.00am
Thursday	3 Dec	Advent Bible Study via Zoom	8.00pm
Friday	4 Dec	Advent Bible Study via Zoom	10.00am
Sunday	13 Dec	Congregational Meeting after 9.30am service	

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS.** The church office hours have been reduced. Currently the office is closed on Wednesdays.

**2PM CHINESE SERVICE** All welcome. Please contact Tennyson 0411896274 for any inquiry.

**SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE).** Please keep Maria Allerdice in your prayers as she takes all the Uniting SRE classes this term.

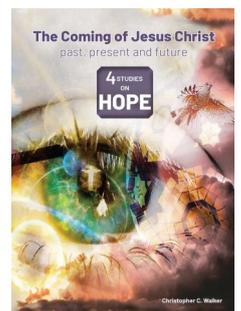


**SOCIAL ZOOM** each Friday at 7.30pm Janine organises a 'Social Catchup' via Zoom. It is a relaxed meeting. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office for the link.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES.** The Continuing Christian Education Umbrella group has started the series of four studies using 'Hope for Advent' by Rev Dr Chris Walker, that will finish the week before Christmas. The book will be used to guide each Study.

Studies are on Thursday evenings at 8 pm via Zoom, and Friday mornings 10 am via Zoom.

You are welcome to participate and to obtain the Zoom link contact the church office or Trevor Bird on 0412657494.



The study book is available from Mediacom in hard copy or digital.

See the link: <https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/the-coming-of-jesus-christ-past-present-and-future/>

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Priya Edward	Today	29th November
Michelle Westlund	Monday	30th November



*COVID-19 has changed everything – but most of all, for those who have least. Buy gifts that fight poverty and share the love so that no one goes without this Christmas.*

Come to our **Everything in Common Gift Stall this Sunday!**

Find us on the piazza today and every Sunday morning leading up to Christmas. UnitingWorld's Everything in Common is a gift catalogue with a difference.

Every gift card you buy supports the life-giving projects of our overseas church partners as they transform communities through education, health, income generation and leadership development.

Christmas greeting cards are also on sale.

Pay by credit card or cash. All gift cards are tax deductible.



Would like to invite us to partner with them by taking part in their Christmas Volunteering Program. Each year CCA hosts a Christmas Hampers give away for the disadvantaged Australian children and families.

Helping vulnerable community members over this festive season by:

- Partnering with CCA and host food & toy collections.
- Volunteering this December to help prepare, wrap, and distribute the hampers for the community in need or deliver food for the elderly.

Hampers will be packed and prepared for delivery here at EUC from Sunday 20th December.

The Christmas hamper 'wish list' of goods is:

**0-5 year olds:** books, puzzles, dolls, toy trucks, learning toys for babies.

**5-13 year olds:** school lunch box and drink bottles, books, board games, craft items, colouring and puzzle books, sports balls, Lego.

**14-18 year olds:** wallets, beach towels, sports equipment, jewellery.

**All ages:** movie tickets, vouchers for massage or facials, zoo or aquarium tickets.

**Food items:** chocolates or lollies, snack foods, canned fruits, biscuits and crackers, coffee or tea, canned meats.

**Personal items:** deodorants, soaps, hand cream, hair brushes and hair accessories.



## Keeping hope alive for girls in Afghanistan

Hope keeps us going in bleak times. It's faith that God's love will prevail in our lives. But COVID-19 is dashing the hopes of Afghani girls to go to school and escape the oppression they were born into.

Jaleela didn't start school until she was eight, because girls' education wasn't encouraged in her community. But thanks to your support, Act for Peace's partner organisation showed her dad the benefits of having an educated daughter.

Because of this advocacy, ten-year-old Jaleela has been getting the education that both her father and mother missed out on. She loves school, and wants to help build a better future for her conflict-torn country.

Jaleela said:

"There is a lot of fighting in this country, so I should become a doctor."

Sadly, COVID-19 is now making it even harder for girls like Jaleela to learn and realise their dreams. Afghanistan's schools closed in March to stop the spread of the virus. And most children don't have internet access, or even a TV or radio, to learn remotely.

The lockdown is particularly hurting girls, who are already the most vulnerable in their society. As their families come under greater financial strain, many girls are being forced to work, to care for their households, or into early marriages.

The longer girls go without learning, the more likely they will lose their hard-won right to go to school for good. But through your gift to the Christmas Bowl, you can help show them a life of hope and opportunity is still within reach.

Your kindness will help Act for Peace's local partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA), create and distribute self-learning packages to children across Afghanistan.

You'll help run awareness sessions for families, so they understand how important it is to keep their daughters in school. And, you will allow CWSA to train more teachers so they can provide the best, child-centred classes as schools reopen.

Education brings hope.

*Jaleela's name has been changed to protect her identity as a minor.*

**YOUR HELP NEEDED!** Worship at 9.30am is needing assistance with:

- Welcomers—greeting, ensuring people sanitise their hands on entry and fill in the attendance record, checking that people stay 1.5m apart
- Bible reading, praying and running the Powerpoint and weekly announcements

**Please note there will be no refreshments after services and we ask that everyone leaves the premises at the completion of the service.**

### **PRAYER – NICHOLAS’S FAREWELL – 29 NOVEMBER 2020**

Prepared by John Brunton

*One of the features of Nicholas’s time with us has been the opportunity we have to pray as a community, with one of the community leading the prayers. Today it is appropriate to reflect on issues that have been important to our community over the last nine years.*

Loving God

Today we reflect on Nicholas’s ministry, teaching, and leadership with us. We are grateful that Nicholas accepted your call, and we thank you for the time Sue and Nicholas have been part of this community.

We thank you for the blessings we have received from Nicholas’s teaching; the opportunities we have had to learn as he has guided our studies of biblical texts.

*We have benefitted from the theological insights Nicholas has provided. As we have studied the biblical texts in greater depth we have increased our understanding of how to interpret the texts.*

*Your spirit has guided us into new understanding of the importance of context and hyperbole.*

*We have been exposed to the quirks of Greek and Hebrew, as we have examined the complexity of the biblical record.*

We have found God in the movies, and many other places.

May your spirit continue to lead us as we gain a personal understanding of the biblical record, and your call to each of us.

Yet mysteries remain, and we seek your insight into those mysteries.

Guide us as we endeavour to understand the concept of you as a triune God.

*God of mystery, grant us insight to begin to understand how three can be one.*

*Help us to see beyond the language of the gospel writers as we endeavour to understand father, son, and spirit as creator, redeemer, and reconciler.*

God of peace, we request your patience as our childish concept of a meek and mild Jesus is confronted by the image of Jesus the revolutionary.

*This image has stirred our hearts.*

*We have been motivated to act: to write letters, to march, to attend meetings.*

You continue to call us to join Jesus' revolution and be people of action. We pray that you will continue to push us towards serving all people, particularly those who suffer injustice, the poor and disadvantaged, the foreigner, the homeless, the frail and vulnerable.

We pray for truth telling, wisdom, reconciliation, restitution, and reparations in response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

*You have given us a land of great beauty; a bountiful land from which we benefit.*

*We acknowledge that this land has not always been treated as part of your creation; as your gift. It has been violated, abused, and treated with contempt.*

*We acknowledge the adverse consequences on your creation due to human greed.*

*We confess that we have put our material desires ahead of respecting your gift.*

*We seek your forgiveness for our actions.*

Our connection with the people of Gilgandra has focussed our attention on the plight of rural people, the impacts of drought, bushfires, and the other consequences of climate change.

Creator God we pray for your creation.

We seek your wisdom when we make decisions so that our decisions are based on respect for you, and for your gift of creation.

We accept the reality that while dams may be filling, the land remains thirsty.

We continue to pray for gentle soaking rain to replenish the environment.

We pray for people who live in rural and regional areas as they continue to cope with changes that are imposed on them.

Grant them strength and peace when they feel helpless.

We pray for the work of the chaplains from Frontier Services as they engage with people in remote and rural areas.

We pray that you will uphold them, and bless their work.

We thank you for the leadership Nicholas has provided for this community.

Nicholas has brought us “something different” and “fresh expressions.” As we have seen today, Nicholas has enabled us to see you in new ways.

*We thank you for your guidance as we considered whether our traditions and rituals are from you, or are they human.*

*Nicholas has challenged us to confront beliefs and opinions that we inherited.*

*He caused us to question the basis for traditions and rituals that we have previously just accepted.*

*We understand you as a living God who embraces us with love, and who is present with us and in us, rather than a father figure secluded in a distant heaven.*

*We thank you for the way in which Nicholas has encouraged us to embrace change.*

*You have enabled us to understand how the changes in Eastwood provide us with an opportunity to find new ways to serve you through witness and service.*

*We pray for your continued blessing on all of our activities as we seek to serve this diverse community.*

We are grateful for Nicholas’s leadership as he guided our response to the changed nature of our suburb.

Through Nicholas you revealed a new path that is challenging, but exciting.

As the pace of change accelerates in the coming years we pray that you will give us the energy and courage to embrace the new opportunities you provide.

We pray that we will be bold as you guide us to become an inclusive multicultural community of the twenty-first century that utilises technology in new forms of service, witness, and worship.

We thank you for 2pm worship group.

We pray that you will continue to bless and strengthen them as individuals, and as a group.

*We pray for your support for them as the group grows.*

*We pray that you will grant wisdom, understanding, and courage to those who attend all services as we respond to the challenges and opportunities that you present.*

*May we seek to discern your will, to not be wedded to the past, to look beyond our individual interests, and to do build your kingdom in Eastwood and beyond.*

As we thank you for the time that Nicholas and Sue have been with us on a permanent basis, we pray for their future.

We ask that you will continue to care for Nicholas's health and wellbeing, and that any future medical treatment will deliver positive results.

We pray for a smooth transition into their new home, and a new community.

We pray they will always know of our love for them, and how we have valued their friendship and service.

*We look forward to future times when we can share with them.*

*We also pray for Rebecca and Matthew.*

*We recognise how important they are to Sue and Nicholas.*

*Please keep them safe in all of the places where they travel, and situations they encounter.*

*We also pray that Nicholas will continue to experience much joy through his support for the Royals.*

And now we join in saying the prayer that the gospel writers recorded Jesus teaching his disciples, in the language you prefer:

***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.***

### ***BLAME THE VICAR***

By Sir John Betjeman

When things go wrong it's rather tame  
To find we are ourselves to blame,  
It gets the trouble over quicker  
To go and blame things on the Vicar.

*Continued next page*

The Vicar, after all, is paid  
To keep us bright and undismayed.  
The Vicar is more virtuous too  
Than lay folks such as me and you.  
He never swears, he never drinks,  
He never should say what he thinks.  
His collar is the wrong way round,  
And that is why he's simply bound  
To be the sort of person who  
Has nothing very much to do  
But take the blame for what goes wrong  
And sing in tune at Evensong.

For what's a Vicar really for  
Except to cheer us up? What's more,  
He shouldn't ever, ever tell  
If there is such a place as Hell,  
For if there is it's certain he  
Will go to it as well as we.

The Vicar should be all pretence  
And never, never give offence.  
To preach on Sunday is his task  
And lend his mower when we ask  
And organize our village fetes  
And sing at Christmas with the waits  
And in his car to give us lifts  
And when we quarrel, heal the rifts.

To keep his family alive  
He should industriously strive  
In that enormous house he gets,  
And he should always pay his debts,  
For he has quite six pounds a week,  
And when we're rude he should be meek  
And always turn the other cheek.  
He should be neat and nicely dressed  
With polished shoes and trousers pressed,  
For we look up to him as higher  
Than anyone, except the Squire.

Dear People, who have read so far,  
 I know how really kind you are,  
 I hope that you are always seeing  
 Your Vicar as a human being,  
 Making allowances when he  
 Does things with which you don't agree.  
 But there are lots of people who  
 Are not so kind to him as you.  
 So in conclusion you shall hear  
 About a parish somewhat near,  
 Perhaps your own or maybe not,  
 And of the Vicars that it got.

One parson came and people said,  
 Alas! Our former Vicar's dead!  
 And this new man is far more 'Low'  
 Than dear old Reverend so-and-so,  
 And far too earnest in his preaching,  
 We do not really like his teaching,  
 He seems to think we're simply fools  
 Who've never been to Sunday Schools."  
 That Vicar left, and by and by

A new one came, "He's much too 'High',"  
 The people said, "too like a saint,  
 His incense makes our Mavis faint."  
 So now he's left and they're alone  
 Without a Vicar of their own.  
 The living's been amalgamated  
 With one next door they've always hated.

Dear readers, from this rhyme take warning,  
 And if you heard the bell this morning  
 Your Vicar went to pray for you,  
 A task the Prayer Book bids him do.  
 "Highness" or "Lowness" do not matter,  
 You are the Church and must not scatter,  
 Cling to the Sacraments and pray  
 And God be with you every day.

## We are all ministers in Christ's name

### Minister:

### Phone:

### Email:

Rev Ian Pearson (supply)      please contact the office

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      可见的      비전을 가질 수가 있고  
 Inclusive      包容的      포괄적이 될 수있고  
 Relevant      相关的      적절하고  
 Active      积极的      역동적이 될 것이다

### LECTIONARY READINGS:

Nov 29 Advent 1: Is 64:1-9, Ps 80:1-7,17-19, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:24-37

Dec 6 Advent 2: Is 40:1-11, Ps 85:1-2,8-13, 2 Pt 3:8-15a, Mk 1:1-8

**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**