



## EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

*14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood*

19 July 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**

- 19th July 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** John Court
- 9.30am Worship Nicholas Fried  
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43  
馬太福音 13: 24-30, 36-43  
마태복음 13: 24-30, 36-43  
*'The world of today...and the world of tomorrow'*  
当今的世界与明天的世界  
오늘의 세상.. 그리고 내일의 세상  
**Sermon and Bible reading audio available on website**  
**Youtube link for video sermon and readings**  
<https://youtu.be/KNSdMmRcUDo>
- 2.00pm Chinese Service online Wechat group
- 26th July 8.00am Worship **service via Zoom** Jason Masters
- 9.30am Worship Nicholas Fried  
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52  
*'The kingdom of God is like .... a wonderful surprise!'*  
上帝之国就像一个美妙的惊喜  
하나님의 왕국은 불가사의 한 놀라움 같다
- 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>

**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 Presbytery. 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.

**SYMPATHY** to Kel Edgar, his family and friends on the death of Pat on Saturday 11th July. Her funeral was held on Thursday in Coffs Harbour. A Memorial service will be held at Eastwood at a later date.

**'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'**

Merrill B

Jason M

Sue H

Margaret S

Liz M's mother Katy

Kerrie S

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

No worship services or activities are able to be held at the church until further notice.

**CONTINUING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UMBRELLA GROUP** has planned 4 Wednesday evenings for online input and discussion. Wednesdays 22 and 29 July will focus is on the book of *Judith*. Wednesdays 5 and 12 August will be on the *Song of Songs*. Each session starts at 8 p.m. Outline notes and discussion questions will be emailed/ distributed prior to each evening. Please contact the office to express interest in participating. Contact Nicholas for more information.

**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 for further information.

**RESUMING WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH**. Church Council discussed safety plans that have been submitted so far by groups from Eastwood UC and the wider community. Church Council has agreed that a provisional starting date for 8 a.m. worship is Sunday 26 July, and for 10.45 a.m. worship Sunday 2 August (in the worship centre). It is anticipated that the 9.30 a.m. worship will recommence at the church mid-August, depending on an approved safety plan. The 2 p.m. worship has no provisional resumption date at this stage.

**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.

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.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Philippa Harrington	Tuesday	21st July
Ron Hoffmann	Wednesday	22nd July
Kevin Chew	Friday	24th July
Bill Howard	Friday	24th July

**UNITING'S CLIMATE PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE: CHRISTIAN TRAINING IN CARE, COMMUNICATION & ACTION** Register at [www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/](http://www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/) for this year's conference (30 July - 1 August) online via ZOOM. Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Cost is \$30 for the full 3 sessions. Contact Jon O'Brien 9407 3225, [joobrien@uniting.org](mailto:joobrien@uniting.org).

**MACQUARIE CHAPLANCY** Mikali Anagnostis concludes his role as a mission worker at Macquarie University at the end of July. A closure of ministry will take place on Sunday 26 July during Epping UC's 9.30 a.m. service. The service will be available on Zoom. Zoom link to be advised.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.** If you would like to prepare prayers for the news sheet, the office would love to hear from you. It's an opportunity to share with one another while we cannot meet together.

***Prayers for Sunday 19 July. Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43***  
***'The world of today...and the world of tomorrow'***

Gracious and loving God, sometimes we are afraid to think about the world of tomorrow. There is much taking place today that troubles us and we fear it will become worse in the future.

God, help us to take heart in knowing that even in the midst of present difficulties, you are still here with us, each and every day, and you will be with us into the world of tomorrow.

Help us when our health is suffering. Help us when our hearts are grieving.

Grant us calm in the midst of uncertainty.

Grant us courage, and trust that ultimately the world of tomorrow is in your hands.

Use us, we pray, to work with you towards the fulfilment of your Kingdom.

God, challenge our apathy, our limited imaginations, our aversion to the impossible. Keep us attuned to the ways you are moving and working within us and within this world, that we may rise with you each day to live into what could be.

Help us to operate in power, love, and self-control. Fill our spirits with courage as we struggle for justice. Give us visions of a new world. We pray for transformation as we work to make these visions a reality.

We pray for our global neighbours who are facing the COVID-19 pandemic without the privileges we enjoy as a rich, developed nation.

We pray for people seeking asylum in Australia and their families, that they may receive the supports they need to assist them through the COVID-19 crisis.

Encourage and sustain the people of Victoria, as they face more weeks of tight restrictions to prevent further spread of COVID-19. We pray for those who are distressed, those who are living with uncertainty and fear - and we pray for all Australians, that we might have wisdom, patience and love for neighbour to remain vigilant in our hygiene and safety practice until the threat of the virus passes.

We pray for the scattered members of Eastwood Uniting Church. Bless those who are unwell, anxious or sad.

We thank you for the life of Pat Edgar, and pray that Kelvin and their family will know your comfort as they grieve her passing.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

***Today, 19<sup>th</sup> July, is celebrated as 'One Great Sunday of Sharing'***

**We celebrate the declaration that the Uniting Church in Australia is a multicultural Church.** This declaration for all God's people sets us on a journey of continual discovery and renewal. One Great Sunday of Sharing helps us to keep this focus at the heart of our common life in the UCA.

*Rev Helen Richmond prepared this prayer for One Great Sunday of Sharing:*

God our Creator,

You have called us to be your diverse and multi-coloured people

Show us how to value one another as those made in your image.

Christ Jesus

You reached out across the barriers that divided Jews, Samaritans and Romans,

Enable us to cross the barriers that separate us from one another.

Holy Spirit,

Giver of Unity,

Unite your people in love that we may be a community of justice, love and reconciliation - A Church for all God's People.

Amen

***The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*** calls us to pray this week with and for the people and churches of **Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda.**

We are thankful for:

- the abundant natural resources in the DRC and the mountainous beauty of Rwanda
- those who have worked for healing and reconciliation in Rwanda, especially after the genocide
- the tireless efforts of churches and community organizations, working with the support of humanitarian organizations, to improve the living conditions of the people

We pray for:

- an end to poverty and hunger, and improved access to health services, especially for the young, that they might have hope for their future
- an end to rebel movements across borders and the political instability this stirs up
- just economic development that does not exploit Creation and people
- democratic election of less corrupt governments that work for the sake of all.

Amen.

**WHERE WIDE SKY ROLLS DOWN**

Together in Song 188

- 1 Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,  
 where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,  
 let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell  
 their joy in the One who made everything well.
- 2 Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,  
 where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,  
 let every sea-creature and tropical bird  
 exult in the light of the life-giving Word.
- 3 Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,  
 where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,  
 let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days  
 delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.
- 4 Now, people of faith, come gather around  
 with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!  
 Australians, whatever your culture or race,  
 come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFX7VBH\\_2ZQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFX7VBH_2ZQ)**A FARMER IN A FIELD**

Tune Carlisle TIS 234

A farmer in a field sowed good and healthy seeds.  
 But in the cover of the night, somebody planted weeds.  
 The wheat grew tall and strong, but thistles flourished, too.  
 The workers saw the mix of them and wondered what to do.  
 The farmer wisely said, "They'll grow as one today,  
 But when we harvest all the wheat, we'll throw the weeds away."  
 O Lord, we want to know why evil prospers here —  
 Why, next to love and justice, grow such hatred, pride and fear.  
 God, may we humbly see the harvest still is yours;  
 And one day we'll be blessed to find that love is what endures.

© Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqdIG64FO6E>

**GOD GIVES US A FUTURE**

Together in Song 687

1 God gives us a future,  
daring us to go  
into dreams and dangers  
on a path unknown.  
We will face tomorrow  
in the Spirit's power,  
we will let God change us,  
for new life starts now.

2. We must leave behind us  
sins of yesterday,  
for God's new beginning  
is a better way.  
Fear and doubt and habit  
must not hold us back;  
God gives hope, and insight,  
and the strength we lack.

3. Holy Spirit, teach us  
how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge  
of our troubled times.  
Love us into action,  
stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life,  
and find our future there.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdksnOdgPG4&t=34s>**QUESTIONS TO PONDER**

What does it mean for the world - and the church - to have both wheat and weeds in it?

世界上同时有小麦和野草这意味着什么?

이 세상에 알곡과 죽정이가 함께 있다는 것은 무엇을 의미하는가?

What concerns emerge in dividing the world into either "wheat" or "weeds"?

将世界分成“小麦”或“野草”时会出现什么样的担忧?

이 세상에 "알곡" 과 "죽정이" 로 나누는데에 어떤 문제들이 일어나나?

If “wheat and weeds” are within each one of us, how might we interpret the parable differently?

如果“小麦和野草”存在于我们每个人身上，我们应该如何去不同地解释此寓言？

만일 알곡과 쭉정이가 우리들 각각 안에 있다면, 우리는 이야기들을 어떻게 다르게 해석이 될까?

What does this parable say to you about tolerance and patience?

关于容忍和耐心，这则寓言告诉你了什么？

이 이야기는 관용과 인내에 대해 당신에게 무엇을 말하고 있는가?

What reassurance does this passage provide for those suffering or experiencing oppression?

这篇文章可以为那些受苦或经受压迫的人们提供什么样的安慰？

이 구절은 고통 받거나 억압당하고 있는 사람들에게 어떠한 보증을 하여 주는가?

What is the Kingdom of God like?

上帝之国是什么样子？

하나님 나라와 같은 것이 무엇인가?

## We are all ministers in Christ's name

Minister:	Phone:	Email:
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	
<b>Office:</b>	9858 5732	secretary@euc.org.au
P O Box 324 Eastwood 2122		
Website: <a href="http://www.euc.org.au">www.euc.org.au</a>		

### 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 수있고  
 Relevant 相關的 적절하고  
 Active 積極的 역동적이 될 것이다

### LECTIONARY READINGS:

July 19 Pentecost 7: Gn 28:10-19a, Ps 139:1-12, 23-24,  
 Rom 8:12-25, Mt 13:24-30, 36-43  
 July 26 Pentecost 8: Gn 28:10-19a, Ps 139:1-12, 23-24,  
 Rom 8:12-25, Mt 13:24-30,36-43

**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**