

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH GEELONG

28th OF APRIL 2024

BAPTISM SERVICE



Rev. Tupe loelu

A WARM WELCOME to any who are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time today. Please make yourselves known. We trust you will enjoy this time of fellowship with us. You are invited to join us over a cuppa after the service.

We acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which Wesley is built. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SONG TIS 703

As the deer pants for the water

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Living God, Root of Life, we grow and blossom from your heart.

You are the river; we are your flowing.

Loving Christ, Flowering of Love, we give thanks for the beauty of your grace.

You are the vine; we are your branches.

Holy Spirit, Fire of God, your love burns in us, and shines into the world.

We are your candle; you are the flame.

We belong to you; we worship you; we serve you. Alleluia!

SONG TIS 491

Father welcomes all his children

Chorus :

*Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.*

1.

Little children, come to me,
for my kingdom is of these;
life and love I have to give,

mercy for your sin.

2.

In the water, in the word
is his promise, be assured:
those who are baptised and believe
shall be born again.

3.

Let us daily die to sin,
let us daily rise with him,
walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
live in the peace of God.

PRAYER

Loving God, you are the vine and we are your branches. Our life springs from you. Our souls are rooted in you; our bodies rise from your heart. Your Spirit flows through us, and our lives are part of you. As our lives fill with your love and our spirits swell with your blessing, we bear fruit. We blossom with joy, and bear the fruit of love in your world. We celebrate, O God, and we open our hearts that by your grace we may receive and give your love more freely.

Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

God of life, you are the vine, and we are your branches.

But we confess that we have tried to live separate from you.

We have not rooted ourselves in you, or opened ourselves to your life and your spirit and your power flowing through us, your love and your beauty blossoming in us.

Our lives become dry and fruitless.

God of life, we desire to be rooted in you, joined to you, part of you.

Return us; forgive us, fill us again with your life...

Silence

Response: Song TIS 730

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches.
If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us.
Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name
and it will be granted.

In the name of Christ,
you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!

In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven! AMEN

CONVERSATION

SONG

This little light of mine

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna to let it shine, yeah
This little light of mine
I'm gonna to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, all the time

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
And everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, yeah
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
I let it shine, let it shine all the time.

Even in my home, I'm gonna let it shine
Even in my home, I'm gonna let it shine, yeah
Even in my home, I'm gonna let it shine
I let it shine, let it shine all the time.

BIBLE READINGS

1 John 4:7-16

God Is Love

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

John 15:1-8

Jesus the True Vine

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes* to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed* by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become* my disciples.

REFLECTION

BAPTISM

SONG TIS 779

May the feet of God walk with you

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
and his ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you,
and his love bring you home.

OFFERING & NOTICES

SONG TIS 473

Community of Christ

1:

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

2:

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

3:

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound-
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war

and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.

4:

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

SHARING

INTERCESSION

BLESSINGS

SONG TIS 749

Send me Jesus.

1.

Thuma mina.

Thuma mina Thuma mina

thuma mina Somandla

Thuma mina.

Thuma mina Thuma mina

thuma mina Somandla

1

Send me, Lord.

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus;

send me, Jesus; send me, Lord.

Send me, Lord.

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus;

send me, Jesus; send me, Lord.

2.

Lead me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus;
lead me, Jesus; lead me, Lord.
Lead me, Lord.
Lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus;
lead me, Jesus; lead me, Lord.

3.

Fill me, Lord.
Fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus;
fill me, Jesus; fill me, Lord.
Fill me, Lord.
Fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus;
fill me, Jesus; fill me, Lord.

4.

I will go, Lord.
I will go, Lord; fill me, Lord;
fill me, Lord; fill me, Lord.
Fill me, Lord.
Fill me, Lord; fill me, Lord;
fill me, Lord; fill me, Lord.

This is just a short message to let you know of the nominations received for membership of Church Council when nominations closed on Sunday 21 April. There are 5 nominees:

David Armstrong, Sue Strong, Jackson Bell, Lauris Lowe, Graeme Harris

Elections will be held at the AGM on Sunday 5th May.

Before the election the AGM will receive, and be asked to approve, the recommendation of the Church Council that the number of elected members of the Church Council be increased from the current 8 to “up to 12”.

To be elected those nominated must receive the approval of at least 50% of those voting at the meeting.

Please give this your prayerful consideration.

Graeme

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 27th

Men's Breakfast

8.30 am



May 1st

Craft Group

10.30 am



May 5th

Sunday Lunch



May 6th

Fellowship and Friendship

12.30 pm



May 10th

Wesley Playgroup

10.00 am



Fellowship and Friendship

Monday 6th May at 12.30pm

At our next fellowship meeting we are delighted to host a very special guest.

Gary Banks is an accomplished singer and songwriter who draws inspiration from Traditional Celtic folk style with a strong emphasis on the rugged coastline of Ireland and Victoria's Great Ocean Road coastline.

He has already recorded four albums combining the talents of other top class musicians. Gary's music is now available on Spotify and other Music providers.

At our gathering Gary will share a couple of his songs and then chat about his great passion "Lighthouses"

His grandfather was a Lighthouse Keeper and had a great influence on Gary's dad who was brought up in the very special environment of lighthouse living.

Gary likes to spend time each year in Ireland immersing himself in singing, writing and the Irish countryside .

He continues to perform at a range of live music venues and music festivals.

All Welcome



Food for those in need:

There is a basket just inside the worship space where any non perishable foods can be placed for those who may be in need.

Any donations would be much appreciated.

Coffee and Chat

April 23rd 10.30am At The HUB

285A McKillop Street
East Geelong

All welcome, come along and enjoy friendship and conversation.

AGM – SUNDAY 5TH MAY – AS PART OF LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

There will be a guest speaker. Reports will be emailed this week and be available in printed form during the week. Elections to Church Council will be part of the meeting. Please endeavour to come along.

Graeme



The Church office will be closed from
May 7th to May 20th.

Daily Diary

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|-----------------|
| Monday | 29th April | 10.30 am | Gentle Exercise |
| | | | |
| Wednesday | 1st May | 10.30 am | Craft Group |
| | | | |
| Sunday | 5th May | 10.00 am | Service and AGM |

Rosters

| | Today | Next Sunday |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| WELCOME | Ala Ioelu | Vicki and Ian Uldrich |
| READER | Will Pearce | Orisi Qaranivalu |
| Camera Operator | Tim Qaranivalu | Heather Cooney |
| Data Projection | Keith Fagg | Patrick Puckett |
| Morning Tea | Hermina Pearce | Gail Pett and Michael Nolan |
| Offering Counters | Jan and Ruth | Vicki and Ian |
| Communion | | Orisi Qaranivalu, Lorene Day, Sue Strong |

MINISTER & CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT

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| MINISTER: Rev. Tupe Ioelu | 0448 415 656 |
| CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACTS: Chairperson: Graeme Harris Secretary: Heather Cooney | 0429 415 613 0477 805 234 |
| Pastoral Concerns: Lauren Woolnough Jan Watson | 0428 365 910 0421 320 296 |

CHURCH OFFICE:

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