



31 OCTOBER 2021

Please join us online via our Facebook page to worship with us this weekend.

Lectionary Readings

This week 31 October, 2021

Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

Next week 7 November, 2021

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Church COVID Update

The Craft Group has resumed and Ladies' Bible Study will return on Tuesday 9 November at 3pm.

Men's group will return this Monday 1 November at 7.30pm

All attendees will need to be double-vaccinated.

The Op Shop will re-open on Wednesday 1st December.

Church will return to worship in person on Sunday 5 December.

Congregation Picnic

We are planning a church picnic on Sunday 14th November at Central Gardens from 10am until 11 or so. Please BYO any food or drink and a blanket or chair to sit on if desired.

We will meet near the Merrylands Road Entrance. Everyone is welcome to come along and catch up with friends.

Christmas Appeal

Our Child Care Centre is supporting the Aboriginal Children's Service in Redfern with gifts for Christmas. Gift ideas include Gift Cards from Woolworths, Coles/Myer, Hoyts, Target/Kmart etc, back-to-school items, Christmas food items, new toys and books.

If you would like to help, please drop your gift in to the office or the child care centre by Wednesday 1st December. If you have any questions please contact Sue in the office.

Stamps

We are still collecting used postage stamps and old albums of stamps which are no longer required. They can be dropped into the office or bring them along when church returns in person. The stamps are taken to the Synod Stamp Committee and sold to raise money for different church projects.



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Mark 12:28-34 Love Thy Neighbour

A scribe asks Jesus a question that was already under contention among Jewish leaders. "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus answers with two linked commandments that would be well known to his listeners. 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these'.

Jesus' wise answer gives us some insight into God's priorities. If there are just two tasks God wants us to concentrate on more than any other, they are loving God and loving those around us. It is worth mentioning that by saying, "as yourself," Jesus also expects us to love ourselves.

What does it really mean to love your neighbour as yourself? The typical interpretation of loving of a neighbour as oneself is affinity for kindness, patience, gentleness etc. in relations with neighbours.

Why is loving your neighbour as important as loving God?

All people are worthy of God's love and of our love. Unlike the world in which we live, no one is considered worthless in God's kingdom.

The Scribes and other religious leaders thought that the measure of a person's faith was in their personal devotional practices e.g. prayer, fasting and giving a tithe. Though Jesus was certainly a pious Jew, he criticized such beliefs and taught that faith was so much more.

Loving our neighbours as ourselves is another demonstration of faith. This concept is supported by Jesus by both his words and his actions.

Upon hearing Jesus' answer to his question, the scribe concurs that Jesus is right in his priorities. Loving God and loving people are indeed more important than specific commandments required by the Jewish law. Jesus responds that his questioner is "not far from the kingdom of God."

Similarly, when we hold our own actions up to the standard of the Great Commandment, when we love God completely and care for others with the same care we show ourselves, we bring the kingdom of God to here and now.

Lola