



7 NOVEMBER 2021

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 7 November, 2021

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

Next week 14 November, 2021

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Congregation Picnic

We are planning a church picnic next 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.

Cumberland Candidates Forum

With the Local Government elections coming up on Saturday 4th December, our local community group Cumberland For Good, has arranged an online forum with all the candidates.

This will be an opportunity to hear their views on providing some practical support for our community such as:

- Restore the 750k grant funding from the Council for community organisations
- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Provide support and facilities for families affected by domestic violence
- Fund employment training required for accreditations

The forum will be on Wednesday night 10th November via Zoom at 6.45pm.

For access to the meeting please register at <https://events.humanitix.com/cumberland-for-the-common-good-dfxvo7f6>

or email Sue in the office and she will forward the link to you.



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Mark 12: 38-44 The Widow's Mite

Perhaps the focus of this story is not so much on the scribes or the rich or the poor widow, but on what Jesus does: he **sees** this widow. Among all the people putting money into the Temple treasury, Jesus notices her.

Whatever it is that he wants his disciples to learn from her, perhaps the first lesson is simply to notice her. To see her. To acknowledge her person, her being, her plight, and her offering. She is not, in the end, an object lesson, but a person. Easily unseen, even invisible, yet worthy of Jesus' attention, and ours."

The widow is a real person. It's easy to put some label on her so we don't have to think about her very much.

Whether you are rich or poor, you can't write off this widow as "less fortunate." You can't think of her as a project or a statistic. She is real, and whatever Jesus wants us to learn from her, perhaps the first lesson is to notice her. To see her, and all the people like her who pass through our lives ignored or forgotten.

The old religious systems can't stand. The temple will fall down Jesus has already prophesied. Only Jesus can change our lives and give us hope for a future when people will stop hating each other and start loving each other. A future when weapons that kill get hammered into farming utensils that can help things grow. A future where peace and justice fill every corner of the new heaven and the new earth that Jesus promises.

But it isn't just a future that gives us hope. Jesus calls us right now to see the widow, and to recognize her deepest need. It's the same need we all have. We need to be cared for in a way that only God can care for us, to be loved in a way that only God can love us. To be seen as only Christ can see us.

We can't see Jesus until we see the widow, and recognize her as one of us instead of as someone or something that is apart from us.

If we want to be like Jesus, we have to see like Jesus.

Adrian