



20 MARCH 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, it's great to be able to get together in person again.

Next Sunday 27th March Trish Rooney will be leading worship and we will be celebrating Holy Communion.

Lectionary Readings

This week March 20, 2022:

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Next Week March 27, 2022:

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

World Vision

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the cost of our World Vision children. We are still a good way short of our target of \$1548 so if you would still like to contribute you can place the money in an envelope in the offering plate, or hand it to Sue or you can put the money in our account, BSB 112 879, acc number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference.

Flood Relief Fund-Raising

Thank you to everyone who worked at the BBQ and Book Sale and/or supported us. We made \$2600 to which we have added the retiring offering and some extra donations, and church council have also contributed on behalf of the congregation, so that we have sent \$5000 to Lismore Uniting Church to assist those impacted by the floods. They are very appreciative of our support as they start to rebuild their lives.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will be on this Tuesday 22nd March in the chapel. The study is Ephesians Study 2: "I keep asking—Prayer".

National Church Life Survey

Today is the last day to complete the National Church Life Survey. The survey is available online at attendersurvey.ncls.org.au. Our church's code no is UA1A4001.

If you would prefer a paper survey, there are some paper survey forms available today so please see Sue if you would like to complete one over morning tea this morning.



Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Office

Phone: 9636 3245

Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website:

www.greystanesuniting.org.au

How's your fig tree doing?

Luke 13: 1-9

In today's reading from Luke's gospel, Jesus refers to two incidents in Jerusalem, both of which had fatal consequences.

Jesus linked sin with punishment. He did not argue the theology of this, but points out that disaster can befall people. We are all poignantly aware of this as we have shared grief with communities up the coast during the recent floods.

Notice how Jesus, the great debater and preacher, lays a platform for the parable he is about to share. His response is to warn people to be ready. That life will not always be predictable. A lesson we have learnt many times over recent years with fires, floods and a pandemic. There is always an urgency about living.

Jesus now teaches with a story, a parable. There is a fig tree, occupying pride of place amongst vines in a vineyard. The gardener has been careful to give it every chance of justifying its favoured location, but it just stands there fruitless, year after year. Along comes the owner of the vineyard. "Dig it out and plant something more useful", he says. The gardener pleads with the master, Luke 13: 8, **"Leave it alone for one more year and I'll dig around it and fertilise it. If it bears fruit next year, fine. If not then cut it down."**

Jesus heralds his Gospel, his Good News. It is a "Gospel of the second chance." Peter, Paul, Mark and others can testify to a new beginning, that second chance.

In conclusion, I invite you to consider the implications of this in two ways. This church is richly endowed with financial resources and with competent people in many ways. Let's not just stand here like a barren fig tree. Let us put all we have into bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Secondly, you and I have been generously treated by God. We will never get to heaven on the basis of any or all of our good deeds. We will never do enough to satisfy the righteousness of God. But at least let us be found fruitful when the vineyardist comes to take account.

In the end however, we are at the mercy of God who will save the life of the most barren of us through his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Believe in Him, trust in Him, accept Him.

Adrian