



1 MAY 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, and a special welcome to John Cutts, our Presbytery Officer, who will be leading the service. Welcome also to Rev Trish Rooney who will be participating in our meeting after worship.

Lectionary Readings

This week May 1, 2022

Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Next week May 8, 2022

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

JNC Update

The Joint Nominating Committee are very pleased to advise that we believe we have found a new minister for our congregation and there will be a meeting of the congregation after worship **this morning** to consider our proposal.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel, the study will be "We Are One" (Ephesians 2:11-22).

Transformation - Acts 9:1-20

Saul is on a murderous rampage toward Damascus. Such bloodthirsty determination and blind hatred for the followers of Christ drove him hard toward his distant destination: Damascus. If you were a follower of Jesus living anywhere near Jerusalem, you wouldn't have wanted to hear Saul's knock at your door. We read this: "As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' " (Acts 9:3-4). You can almost hear the screeching of brakes. At that moment, Saul's murderous journey was suddenly brought to a divine halt.

Isn't that just like the Lord? No announcement ahead of time. God remained silent and restrained as Saul proceeded with his murderous plan to invade Damascus. God didn't interrupt . . . until. At the hour it would have its greatest impact, God stepped in. Without warning, the course of Saul's life changed dramatically. A transformation.

That still happens, even in our day. Without warning, life takes its sudden turns. Maybe it's a tragic car accident that claims the life of someone you love. Suddenly, God steps onto the scene and arrests your attention. Like in the halting words of your boss as he says "sorry times are tough we are going to have to let you go, after twenty years." Like a rogue wave, adversity crashes onto the peaceful shores of our lives and knocks us flat.

Or it could be a positive divine change as in Saul's case. Or like the case of a suburban congregation who have been searching for a minister for years and suddenly someone comes along that looks like it will really work for them.

Amazingly, the jolt awakens our senses, and we suddenly remember that God is in control, no matter what. Now to look ahead and go out like Saul did to love and serve the Lord.

Based on a message by Rev Charles Swindoll



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Lismore Regional Mission

Uniting Church in Australia

Church Council Chairperson,
Greystanes Uniting Church.

Dear Peter,

I write on behalf of the Church Council of Lismore Regional Mission Uniting Church to thank you and your Congregation for the very generous donation to assist families devastated by the recent floods.

The event was the worst flooding in the history of this area and resulted in many, many families having to leave their homes. The vast majority of these families will not be able to return for months as houses need to be stripped and rebuilt. Some in fact will be demolished and rebuilt.

Given the excessive cost of flood insurance, many homes were not covered and the full rebuild cost lies with the owner. Others thought they were covered only to find that this was not the case.

In the case of the Lismore Uniting Church, the building had 6 metres of flood water in it and virtually all of the contents of the Church, coffee shop, Op shop, offices and halls were lost despite the fact that we had packed up to a level above the record floods of 2017.

The very generous donations received from your Congregation and others across NSW have been set aside to provide financial assistance to families who have been forced out of their homes. As we speak to these families and pass on this assistance we really come to understand their plight and just what the financial help means.

On behalf of these families and on behalf of Lismore Uniting Church we convey our heartfelt thanks and our appreciation for the generosity shown at this time. Please convey our special thank you to your Congregation members.

Blessings to all,

Alan

Treasurer