



10 JULY 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy worshipping with us. A special welcome to Rev Christine Gapes, Chaplain at Western Sydney University who will be leading our service this morning.

Lectionary Readings

This week July 10, 2022

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Next week July 17, 2022

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel, and the study will be No. 8: "Live in Love, Live in Light", based on Ephesians 5: 1-20.

Who is my neighbour?

Luke 10:25-37

The expert in the law asked "who is my neighbour?" And the answer is clear: your neighbour is any person in need, whose need you can see, and whose need you can meet. Even your enemy. And love is sacrificial action. It is interrupting your schedule, expending your money, risking your safety and reputation, ruining your property, even for a stranger, even for an enemy, so that you can do what is best for him.

I confess that I find this message frightening. There are so many needs. And I am afraid to be generous, I know that I cannot meet every need in my own strength. But I am sure that God's call to love demands more than I am currently giving. And I am sure that the power and motivation lies in truly understanding the gospel of God's grace and mercy that has saved me from death, even though I did not deserve it. And so I need to start somewhere.

The call is to love as extravagantly as we have been loved, to show the same grace and mercy as Christ showed to us.

If we truly understood the gospel and were transformed into people who loved as the good Samaritan loved, what a witness that would be. As Julian, the last pagan Roman emperor (361-363 AD), who was irritated by the spread of Christianity, which he was trying to stamp out, said - *"Do we not observe how the benevolence of Christians to strangers has done the most to advance their cause. It is disgraceful that the Christians support not only their poor but ours as well, while everyone is able to see that our own lack aid from us."*

Let us love extravagantly, as we have been loved.

<https://www.newlife-ct.org/> Eric Stillman