



24 JULY 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy worshipping with us. A special welcome to John Cutts, Presbytery Secretary for Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery, who will be leading our service this morning.

Lectionary Readings

This week July 24, 2022

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Next week July 31, 2022

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Holroyd Community Prayer Dinner

This year's Community Prayer Dinner will be on Tues 30 August at 7pm in the Swan Room at Merrylands RSL. Rev David Reithmuller, Operations Manager, Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network will be the speaker.

Tickets are \$45 per person, and RSVP details are on the back notice-board.

Lord Teach Us To Pray Luke 11:1-13

I don't understand how prayer works but I know this, it is not the transmission of information to God. In the midst of not knowing or understanding maybe the best we can do is to echo that disciple's request, "Lord, teach us to pray."

We are always beginners, always learning to pray. Jesus' response is not an explanation of prayer or how it works. He does not offer a formula or magic words.

Instead Jesus teaches about who and how God is. God is holy and we are his divine children. Prayer is about relationship and presence. We're not telling God something that God does not know. We are reminding ourselves of what already is, always has been, and always will be.

If prayer, as Jesus teaches it, really is all about relationship and presence then there is only one answer to every prayer. God. I don't just mean God answers our prayer but that God is the answer; God's presence, life, love, beauty, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, wisdom, justice, mercy.

God gives God's self as the answer to our every prayer. Jesus tells us that. If you, he says, know how to give your kids good things "how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit."

Perhaps the greatest difficulty of prayer is that sometimes we don't want God, we want something from God. We want God to change our circumstances.

While God can, and sometimes does, change circumstances, I am increasingly convinced that God, more often than not, changes us.

God's self-giving sustains, nourishes, strengthens, empowers, emboldens, and enables us to face the circumstances of life.

We do so, sometimes with joy and gratitude, other times with pain and loss, but always with God. On my better days I know this and that's enough. On those other days? It's "Lord, teach me to pray."

Michael K Marsh, interruptingthesilence.com