



28 AUGUST 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week August 28, 2022

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Next week 4 September, 2022

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Fathers' Day Breakfast

The Fathers' Day Breakfast is one of our main chances to interact with the families of our Child Care Centre and we would encourage anyone who is available on Wednesday morning this week, from 7am, to come along and enjoy an egg and bacon roll and meet the families of our centre.

Ladies Bible study

The next Ladies Bible study is on Tuesday 6th September (three weeks from the last one). It will be the final in this series. Our new Bible Study will commence on 27th September (three weeks again).

Op Shop donations

The Op Shop is running a bit low on items of bric-a-brac so if you have any items such as vases, platters, ornaments, etc that you were planning to donate to the Op Shop one day, now would be a great time to give them to us, You can either drop them into the shop at 37 Dell St Woodpark any time between 9.30am-4pm Monday to Friday or 9am-12pm on Saturday, or bring them to church one Sunday and we will take them to the shop.

BBQ and Book Stall for Frontier Services

Church Council has been invited to host a BBQ to raise funds for Frontier Services and their programs which support rural and outback Australians. We are planning to run this on Saturday 24th September and will be including a book sale as well. We are looking for volunteers to help with this, so please see Sue if you can help in any way even for a few hours.



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Gail's Message

This week I will be inviting you all to think about our Spiritual Growth. We can sometimes mistakenly assume that because we have believed in Jesus' name, we are therefore saved and that that's the end of the story, however, our transformation into being Christlike is a continual process that has ups and downs, times of uncertainty, moments of rebellion and glimpses of indescribable love and beauty.

We will think about one of Jesus' teachings on Sunday, in which he likens our call to follow him as a gentle and easy yoke (the timber across an ox's neck). Jesus' followers would have understood this life lesson well as beasts of burden would have been a common sight in everyday first century life. I have my own life lesson to share with you that is also based on a day-to-day occurrence, well at least for me, and that is walking with a dog named Doof.

Eight years ago my family decided to rescue and adopt Doof, knowing that she had experienced a rough start in life. She was huge, part Wolfhound, part Great Dane and black as night. She had lived a lonely life on a farm, then went to work for a pig hunter and in hindsight we are pretty sure she was used in the illegal sport of dog fighting. When she first came to live with us we only had to raise our arms to pick up a broom or household implement, and she would cower in fright; she had definitely been beaten.

We obviously felt sorry for her, but this changed to fear and regret when she attacked and injured several dogs, our own cat and one of our poor unfortunate pet chickens. She was impossible to walk, pulling away from us in order to go after any living thing that moved. Despite this we continued to love and retrain her, which required dedication, patience, and forgiveness. As we worked on bonding as a family or in her terms as a 'pack', our relationship grew. She learnt to trust us and listen to our commands and walking her became easier. We only had to look into her huge, deep, soulful eyes to know she was worth the effort.

God in Jesus proclaims that we are worth the effort (Amen!) even though we often pull away and run amok but as our relationship with our Master grows and deepens we, too, find it easier to trust God's ways and commands and the impossible becomes possible; this is primarily what spiritual growth is all about. How we do this will look different for each of us, ranging from meditation, prayer, bible study and creative activities to simply being immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Together we will continue to explore the various ways in which we can nourish both individual and communal spiritual growth as a pillar of a healthy vibrant church.