



11 SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome to worship this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Next Sunday, Libby Sorrell, from Be Slavery Free, will be joining us to speak about their work.

Be Slavery Free was previously STOP THE TRAFFIK and changed its name to Be Slavery Free in 2019 in accordance with new definitions of Modern Slavery and to better describe the work they do.

It works with government, civil society, big business, schools and the general public to inform and advocate for change. It has become the 'go to' organisation when a politician or a company that imports goods into Australia wants advice about addressing modern slavery.

Lectionary Readings

This week 11 September, 2022

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Next week 18 September, 2022

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

BBQ and Book Stall for Frontier Services

Don't forget that on Saturday 24th September we are holding a BBQ and Book Sale from 10am - 2pm to raise funds for Frontier Services and their programs which support rural and outback Australians.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with this, so please see Sue if you can help in any way even for a few hours.

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)

is organising a Day of Action on climate change in solidarity with Pacific and Australian First Nations peoples. ARRCC will urge the Government primarily to stop approvals for new coal and gas projects and end public subsidies for fossil fuel industries.

All are invited to attend a multi-faith gathering and service to be held:

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place Parramatta

When: Thursday, 13th October, at 9.30am

For more information: <https://www.arrcc.org.au/f4cj2022> or Rev Meredith Williams Ph: 0437 286058



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Gail's Message

Twenty-one years ago on this day, September 11th, our world was forever changed. When the Twin Towers in New York city crumbled before our eyes, it was as if we lost our innocence, the world became a scarier place, and we began to look at anyone who appeared even vaguely middle eastern as a threat. Many of us became hypervigilant and I can clearly remember looking out for suspicious packages and suspicious people. I was afraid.

Sadly fear can cause us to become defensive and look around for someone to blame. At the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic this played out when people of Chinese appearance coped abuse for somehow being the cause of the virus. For some of us striking out in fear is a reflex action.

How God must despair at the way in which we humans constantly see ourselves as "*us and them*"; White, Asian, Islamic, Jewish, believer, non-believer, card carrying Presbyterian, Panthers Supporter, Indigenous, Progressive, Conservative, the list of our tribes goes on and on. Our beliefs, our cultural traditions and our societal practices too easily define us yet there is a better way for those of us who follow Christ to understand the diversity of humanity.

When the Apostle Paul preaches to the people of Athens (Acts 17, NRSV) he draws our attention to the fact that all people are the children of God.

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands

25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

26 From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

May this thought guide all our interactions with others as a foundation for peace, respect, and goodwill amongst all people.