



2 OCTOBER 2022

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 2 October, 2022

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137 or Lamentations 3:19-26
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Next week 9 October, 2022

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet this
Tuesday 4 October at 3pm in the
chapel, they will be looking at the
second study in their current series.

*For God did not give us a
spirit of fear but
rather a spirit of power
and of love and
of self-discipline.*

2 Timothy 1:7

Gail's Message

Over the next few weeks we will focus on God's love for us, love for one another, love for all creation and love of God and Self. One of the resources I will be tapping into is a little booklet called *First Love*, which is available for download if you are interested in knowing more: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/first-love/>

This booklet has been created for people to use as a way of exploring the Christian faith with non-churched friends and family. It does not speak in what we often label as 'christianese', you know all those big words like, propitiation, redemption, sanctification, salvation and 'being saved' (being saved from what, a non-churched person may well ask). Instead it focuses on love.

It has been observed that Uniting Church people are very reluctant to speak to others about our relationship with and love for God. This reluctance may be a knee jerk reaction to the way evangelism was done in the past, with a heavy emphasis on accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour in order to escape eternal torment in the fiery pit of hell. Where is the good news in that? A far better story, a story that is all good news is the story of God's love for us.

The problems the church faces in this rapidly changing world are complex and no one really knows what the church will look like in the decades to come but there is one thing we can do to ensure we remain vital, Spirit empowered and ready to adapt, and that is to fully comprehend, to know deep in our guts, that God loves us, unconditionally and without limitation.

God loves you who are feeling the aches and pains of aging, God loves you who like to remain in the background, God loves you who are loud and gregarious, God loves you who are not sure why you are in church today, God loves you who feel worthy, God loves you who feel worthless, and God loves you even if you have convinced yourself that you are unlovable. God's love is so wonderful! Amen.