



**30 OCTOBER 2022**

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

### **Lectionary Readings**

**This week 30 October, 2022**

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4  
Psalm 119:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

**Next week 6 November, 2022**

Haggai 1:15b-2:9  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20:27-38

### **Christmas Gift Ideas**

Christmas is only 8 weeks away so if you are looking for something different for presents this Christmas, why not check the Fair Trade Association Christmas Shopping Guide on their web-site [www.fta.org.au](http://www.fta.org.au).

All of the businesses in the Guide are certified by the Fair Trade Association and have a range of great gift ideas.

Alternatively, you might like to check out Uniting World or World Vision or any of the range of charities providing gifts that make a positive difference in our world.

Love<sup>the</sup> Lord<sup>your</sup> God  
with all your heart & with all your  
soul & with all your strength  
& with all your mind; & Love  
your neighbor<sup>as</sup> yourself. Luke 10:27



## Greystanes Uniting Church

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## Gail's Message

This Sunday we will hear the story of Jesus and the outcast Zacchaeus. Unlike many of the outcasts Jesus encounters this man is not suffering from illness, low social status, or racial prejudice, he is hated and ostracised because he happens to be rich and works for the despised Roman government as a tax collector. We do not know if Zacchaeus became rich by ripping people off as he collected taxes, but this is the traditional assumption.

When Jesus stops to look at Zacchaeus as he passes by we can understand the crowd's reaction, "What on earth is Jesus thinking! Doesn't know what a loser that guy is, why would he want to go to his house, is he out of his mind?"

As I pondered this story, the famous painting by William Holman Hunt came to mind. Painted a few times by the artist during the 1850's this painting caused a sensation in the early twentieth century. When the painting toured Australia it is estimated that 4/5 of the population saw it.



What is it about the painting that draws people in do you think? For me I sense a patient, kind and determined Jesus who is always there waiting for us to invite him in. It also makes sense of the odd thing Jesus says Zacchaeus, "I must come to your place today". Kind of rude by today's social mores but of course Jesus is not simply demanding hospitality, he is offering Zacchaeus the life changing transformation only possible when Jesus' Spirit comes to dwell within us.

May each day be an opportunity for us to welcome Jesus into our hearts, souls, and minds so that we can set as our goal the call to be loving as God is loving.