



20 NOVEMBER 2022

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 20 November, 2022

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Next week 27 November, 2022

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Op Shop Christmas Decorations

We have begun selling our Christmas decorations at the shop, so if you are looking for some new or different Christmas ideas, why not drop in and have a look.

We're at 37 Dell St Woodpark and open 9.30-4pm Monday—Friday and 9-12 on Saturday.

Christmas Gift Collection

For many years we have collected gifts for those in our community for whom Christmas is difficult. We are hoping to organise something similar this year but are still finalizing the details. We will let you know as soon as possible but it seems likely that we will be looking at a series of retiring offerings over the next few weeks rather than collecting gifts.

Garage Sale Trail

The Op Shop has registered to be part of this year's Garage Sale Trail, Australia's festival of pre-loved stuff, dedicated to helping you extend the life of your stuff and find the ultimate pre-loved gem.

In 2021, over 200,000 Australians hosted a garage sale or shopped the Trail. Together, they extended the life of over 1.5 million kgs of stuff saving these items from landfill and maximising the value of all the energy and resources that goes in to making the stuff we buy. It's the circular economy in action!

It is on again this weekend, across Australia, so if you enjoy garage sales and op shops, as well as helping to reduce, reuse and recycle, check out their website at <https://www.garagesaletrail.com.au>

Or just drop into the Op Shop and grab a bargain.



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Gail's Message

We have spent a lot of Sundays thinking about love over the past few weeks and we will continue to so as we move into Advent. As the old Christmas hymn proclaims:

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
(Love came down at Christmas, Christina Georgina Rossetti 1885)

The lyrics of this old hymn are poetic and beautiful and full of meaning to those of us who understand the significance of Jesus but how would you explain this to a non-churched, non-believing friend?

It is much harder these days to speak of Jesus as 'love personified' because many non-religious people today regard Christians as "very conservative, entrenched in their thinking, anti-gay, anti-choice, angry, violent, illogical, empire builders". Christians, it seems, have established a name and reputation for not listening, judging, moralising and only showing concern for others if we can convert them to our way of thinking. Perhaps we have had this kind of reputation for decades; Mahatma Gandhi once famously said, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

Jesus did not come to build an empire, a megachurch, or an institution. The Way of Jesus was a movement, a way of thinking and behaving based on the love of God for all creation. If Jesus is the revelation of God's love and grace how can we best represent this?

Paul in the Letter to the Colossians tells us that: So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. (Colossians 3:11-12)

It's a cold wintery morning in November as I write this but when the weather eventually warms up we will change our winter wardrobe over to our summer one, however do not forget to always put on Christ, your basic all-purpose garment.