



12 FEBRUARY 2023

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us. Thank you to Hani for leading worship today.

Lectionary Readings

This week 12 February, 2023

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Next week 19 February, 2023

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Julie and Darryl following the passing of Julie's mum this week. Please keep the family, especially Julie's dad, in your prayers.

Name Badges

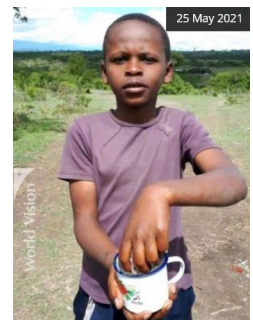
We are about to order some more name tags for some newer members of the congregation. If you don't have one and would like one, please see Sue this morning.

World Vision Sponsorship

Thank you to those who have donated towards the sponsorship of our children. We need \$1548 to pay for our sponsorship each year, if you are able to contribute please give your donation to Karen S or you can transfer money direct to our bank account, the details are BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference if possible.

The three children we sponsor are:

Stanley is 13 and lives in Kenya with his mum and 2 brothers and enjoys playing football with his friends.



Lojan is 11 and lives with his mum and dad and 2 sisters in Sri Lanka. He enjoys ball games and helping at home.

Mohammed is 12 and lives in Bangladesh with his parents and 2 brothers. He enjoys ballgames and playing with his friends.





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The Disposition of The Heart Matthew 5:21-37

This passage in Matthew may seem to some people like it is engaging in physical harm but here Jesus is speaking metaphorically. Sin is what Jesus is going on about in this text. It is a new topic in His sermon on the mount. It is about God's love, a light to shine and their saltiness that will add flavour and goodness to God's world. Suddenly Jesus is reminding us that it is not all about us, it's also about how we affect one another.

The wonderful preacher Barbara Brown Taylor speaks of having parents who helped her learn about the kind of behaviour they wanted her to have without ever using the word 'sin'. They helped her to understand that there were certain things that would bring them closer as a family—things like telling the truth and helping each other around the house and being a good big sister to her younger siblings. And there were also certain things that would push her parents away such as trashing the room, breaking things, and smoking. But she writes 'other children I knew were not so lucky'. They lived with people who believed you could beat the sin out of the child and these poor children would spend most of their times in hell and in pain. If those poor battered souls had any appetite for God when they grew up, then these battered children had an enormous amount of work to do to understand God as a loving Judge.

We have all witnessed this kind of physical and spiritual abuse and some of us have our own stories. We have also seen the kind of abuse where people are labelled simply because of who they are—not because of who God created them to be.

In the Matthew text, it sounds like Jesus wants us to talk about it and He does by saying over and over this formula "You have heard it said but I say" and each time, Jesus moves from a traditional legalistic way of thinking of external actions to internal forces. Jesus, instead of talking about behaviours, talks about the disposition of the heart. Jesus is helping us to think and move from what we do to why we do it. He sets limits—limits to help us understand that there are certain things that can help us draw closer to God and to one another. Jesus is saying—how's your heart?

There is a lot of anger in the world today and we see a lot of it all around us. From the headlines in the news, the stories we bring home after work, to drivers who irritate us on the road to almost anything and everything that annoys us. We see it in the news, on social media and we find ourselves in strange relationships with one another, even with those whom we love.

Jesus reminds us today with these words "You have heard it said but I say obey these commandments and you will live" Hold fast to God, live in God's love. Remember who you are and who you belong to. If you do, then you will easily obey these commandments.

How's your heart? Thanks be to God—Amen. Hani