



26 FEBRUARY 2023

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 26 February, 2023

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Next week 5 March, 2023

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

New Name Badges

The new name badges have arrived, if you requested one it is on the white noticeboard at the back of the church.

With Love to the World

With Love to the World is a daily Bible-reading booklet that provides comments and thoughts on the lectionary readings each day. If you would like a copy please see Gail or Sue.

World Vision Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the sponsorship of our World Vision children. Today is the last day to contribute so if you would like to donate and haven't yet done so, 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.

World Day of Prayer Service

Each year Christians around the world come together on the first Friday in March to pray for the people of particular nations; this year it is Taiwan.

This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held next Friday 3rd March at 10.30am at Merrylands Presbyterian Church, cnr Monitor and Merrylands Rds, Merrylands. The service will be followed by morning tea and the chance to catch up with people from the other churches in Holroyd.

Congratulations

We heard this week that the first couple to be married in our original church building will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next month, congratulations Shirley and Dennis.



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Gail's Message

Footprints and Freedom

The reflection 'Footprints' is a well know and beloved reminder that no matter where we are in live God upholds us and never leaves us. (you can read 'Footprints' by following this link: <https://www.onlythebible.com/Poems/Footprints-in-the-Sand-Poem.html>)

This reflection has much to say about the Christian walk of faith however there are other reasons for there being only one set of prints in the sand (read 'Footprints' above). The following meditation below is a counterpoint to 'Footprints' addressing the darker side of our human egos. What happens when we willingly wander away from God's guidance and wisdom and decide to go our own way?

One night I thought about footprints in the sand. I remembered that when I was young and had small feet, I loved to put my feet into the prints of someone bigger, my Mum or my Dad or the mysterious huge prints left behind by some big footed stranger.

The next night I had a dream and my life flashed before me. I was back at the beach playing in a set of footprints, the perfect size for me to step into. These were the footprints of my Lord.

As I looked back along the sand, expecting to see only one set of prints, I noticed that at times, there were two. Every time I was riding high on my own success, my greatness and my own self sufficiency, my footprints departed from His.

I was troubled by this. I wondered why the Lord would let me wander away. The Lord gently reminded me, that love is freedom, that love is learnt through experiences, both good and bad, and that love is most noticeable at times by its absence. I looked back at the footprints in the sand and noticed that no matter how far my steps departed from His, my Lord was always there, just ahead of me, waiting for me to catch up. And willingly fall back into step.