



19 MARCH 2023

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 19 March, 2023

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Next week 26 March, 2023

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Easter Sunday Flowers

On Easter Sunday morning, the bare cross will be transformed with fresh flowers. If you are able, please bring along some flowers from your garden. During the service we will all have a chance to bring our flowers forward to transform the cross.

Lent Event Envelopes

If you would like to contribute to Lent Event, the envelopes are on the back table. Just place your donation in one and place the envelope in the offering. If you would like a tax receipt please fill in your details on the envelope.

Hands and Feet

We have been offered the chance to join with the Hands and Feet group, (www.handsandfeet.com.au) to distribute fruit and vegies to those in our community who are struggling with food costs.

It will involve someone to coordinate the program and the sorting of the produce when it is delivered once a week and several people to do the work for a few hours on a roster system with frequency depending on how many volunteer. It is not heavy work so anyone who can walk can participate and we expect it will start with a small number of recipients and gradually build up. The community members then come to collect the produce in the afternoon.

I'm sure you can see where I'm headed with this; we are looking for members to put their hands up to help this really worthwhile outreach to our own community before we commit to the program.
- Peter St

We will be discussing this as a congregation after church this morning to decide whether to go ahead and register with Hands and Feet.



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Gail's Message

Spiritual Blindness

"Most people do not see things as they are because they see things as they are!" This sentence makes no sense, right? Read it again below with an emphasis on the '*are*' and the '*they*'.

"Most people do not see things as they *are* because they see things as *they* are!"

Have you ever wondered why Christians can have such diverse opinions on socio-political issues? I never realised how diverse we are as a worldwide community of believers until I began using Facebook. I also became aware of how nasty we can get if our cherished beliefs are threatened. I am a polite Facebook user and I shy away from arguments online; however, I am blessed to have a bold, gutsy friend who will go in all guns blazing to stand up for anyone she feels is being victimized by fellow Christians. As I follow some of my friends debates online I have noticed that a simple Facebook Post can ignite a debate that often turns ugly with name calling and insults becoming the order of the day. All this from the followers of the One who calls us to be loving as He is loving.

Centuries before this modern age of technology, another group of God followers, the Pharisees got into a heated debate with a man born physically blind. This man was miraculously cured by Jesus on the day of rest and worship, the holy Sabbath, which offended the Pharisee's religious traditions and sensibilities (John 9:1-41). Threatened by Jesus' power and authority, and certain that they knew best, they become in this story, examples of spiritual blindness. Their own opinions, traditions and beliefs get in the way of being able to see Jesus for who he truly is.

Spiritual blindness is a lifelong malady that requires divine healing each and every day of our lives, because the greatest obstacle in seeing things as they are is our certainty that we are right and everyone else is wrong.

Spiritual sightedness, on the other hand, is a lifelong lesson in becoming less invested in ourselves and more deeply invested in Christ.

May God continue to fill us with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that we may live lives worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work. (adapted from Colossians 1:9-10).