



23 APRIL 2023



Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 23 April, 2023
(Holy Communion)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Next week 30 April, 2023

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Hands and Feet Update

We have begun the planning for our food distribution program in conjunction with Hands and Feet Inc. and we anticipate that we will do this on either Wednesday or Thursday each week.

If you are interested in helping out please put your name on the list at the back of the church, on the day or days you would be available.

Part of our commitment to this program includes a payment to Hands and Feet to help cover their costs with delivery etc, of \$2 per basket of food distributed.

We will be having a retiring offering next Sunday to raise money towards meeting these costs, please bring your donation along if you can help. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation towards this, please put your money in an envelope in the offering plate with your name on it and we will arrange a receipt from Hands and Feet.



Many of us have at times
walked the Emmaus road,
wondering where God is...

*when all along
He walks beside us.*

RANDY ALCORN



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Gail's Message

Lest we Forget

Many years ago I recall delivering a sermon that focused on the theme of self-sacrifice. It was the Sunday before Anzac Day, and we heard part of Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples in John 15: 9-17. In this passage we hear Jesus say, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

In that sermon I spoke about the remarkable efforts of Private Simpson to transport wounded men through Shrapnel Gully on the shores of Gallipoli. Private John Simpson or the 'man with the donkey' as he came to be known, "was a stretcher-bearer in the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance. He came ashore during the Anzac landing of 25 April 1915 and was killed less than 3 weeks later".



Simpson and his donkey are perhaps the most famous icons of the tragic events of the Gallipoli landing. They are commemorated in bronze at the Australian War Memorial.

Simpson was buried in Beach Cemetery, Gallipoli and today his headstone is a popular 'must see' for visitors making the pilgrimage to remember the fallen. A sprig of rosemary which apparently grows wild on the shores of Gallipoli, or a flower are regularly placed upon his headstone which includes the poignant and touching epitaph, "He gave his life that others may live". Simpson may be the most widely known Anzac serviceman, however each year we remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for their friends, family and country.

We commemorate Anzac Day each year so that we do not forget, but those of us in the church have our own commemoration of sacrifice in the Sacrament of Holy Communion so that we do not forget Christ, who gave his life that **all** may live. When we remember Jesus through the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup we bind ourselves to Christ and to his mission to bring the peaceful kingdom of God to the world.

Let us not forget that we are called to be peace makers, blessed to act and live into the ways of peace founded on love and respect for all people, even our enemies. This is a counter cultural and perhaps counter intuitive way to live however it is the only way to bring the peace of God to earth. The frightening escalation of global weaponry should be enough to make us realise that war is not the way. When we face the horrors of war, we as Christians should also hear God's promise to one day mediate human affairs so that all weapons become harmless farming tools (Isaiah 2:4). May that day and God's peaceful kingdom come. Amen.