



7 MAY 2023

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 7 May, 2023

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

**Next week 14 May, 2023
(Mothers' Day)**

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Bread Bag Recycling

Our Child Care Centre is collecting clean plastic bread bags for recycling until July 7. The bags can be redeemed for sports equipment and resources for the Centre.

Please bring your bags to church any week and place them in the large box at the back of the church.

Hands and Feet Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our retiring offering last week, we have raised \$380 so far.

If you missed last week and would like to contribute, just place your donation in an envelope marked 'Hands and Feet' and place in the offering bag at any time.

Alternatively you could transfer your donation to our account BSB 112-879, acc 428 172 081, just put 'hands and feet' in the reference.

Just a reminder the program starts on Wednesday 17th May.





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Gail's Message

'When Life Gives you Lemons' as a Biblical Principle Part 1. (Part 2 to follow next week)

Have you ever heard the phrase: *'when life gives you lemons make lemonade'*? This popular saying along with the secular Arts can often mirror Christian principles. We shouldn't be surprised to see and hear God in places other than the Church, in song lyrics, in movies, in works of art, and in nature, for the truth of God is everywhere, all around us. Paul states in Romans 1:19-21, that "in reality, the truth of God is known instinctively, for God has embedded this knowledge inside every human heart. (The Passion Translation).

So with that in mind the reflections below highlight the underlying Biblical principles in the 'lemons to lemonade' quote and some of its variations.

'when life gives you lemons make lemonade': We have a sure hope in Jesus and know that he is always with us, because of this we can get through anything. We know that in Christ things will turn out okay in the end. Read the Bible verses below:

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

"When life gives you lemons, say, 'Cool, what else you got?'" Carmen in The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants. This is a gutsy way to deal with our problems. The phrase "do not fear", is often repeated by Jesus and it appears throughout the Bible a total of 365 times, once for every day of the year! (<https://www.soulshpherd.org/fear-not-365-days-a-year/>). Read the bible verses below:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

"When life gives you lemons, plant its seeds, grow yourself an orchard, sell it to Sunkist. Carry on." – José N. Harris. When we seek answers to our problems we are limited by the capacity of our human intellect. It is good to remember that God is not limited; in Isaiah we hear God say, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." When we seek answers through prayer we are blessed by the wisdom of God. The answers will be creative, limitless, out of the box and in line with God's will (Isaiah 55:8-9). Read the verses below:

Cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. Matthew 17:20

More on 'lemons to lemonade' next week!