



**25 JUNE 2023**

## Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, and a special welcome to Bec Reidy, Manager of Bidwill Uniting, who will be sharing something of what is happening at Bidwill during the service.

## Lectionary Readings

**This week 25 June, 2023**

Genesis 21:8-21  
Psalm 86:1-10,16-17  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

**Next week 2 July, 2023**

Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 13  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42

## Retiring Offering for Bidwill

As a congregation, we have supported Bec and the work at Bidwill for a number of years and we will be continuing this with a retiring offering this morning.

If you would like to contribute via bank transfer you can transfer your donation to our account, BSB 112-879 account no 428 172 081 and we will include it in our donation, just put Bidwill in the reference.

## Thank you Bunnings

A big thank you to Bunnings Smithfield for their generous donation of four new tables to assist with our food distribution program. Thank you also to Peter Se for suggesting we contact them and for providing contact details.

We have given away all but one of the tables we replaced, it's a bit shabby but would be fine as a bench in the garage or shed, please see Peter St or Sue if you would like it.

## Bread Bag Collection

Next Sunday will be the final day for our bread bag collection for our child care centre. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the collection which will not only recycle the bread bags but provide equipment for the centre.

## Hands and Feet

Our food distribution in partnership with Hands and Feet Inc is going well with about 30 people a week receiving free fruit and vegetables. If you would like to come along and see how it works, just drop in any Wednesday morning around 9.30am.



## Greystanes Uniting Church

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## Gail's Message

This week in worship we will take a break from delving into the Old Testament and have a look at the book of Luke instead. Luke's Gospel has a particular emphasis on Jesus' ministry to the excluded and the disadvantaged and during the service we will look at three examples out of more than a dozen narratives that focus on the way Jesus related to people from all walks of life.

In one of my favourite text books theologian Mark Allan Powell describes Luke's Gospel as "probably being the most beautiful". Powell goes on to explain that Luke carefully traces Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Adam in order to emphasise,

"his connection to all humanity. Jesus challenges parochial attitudes that would limit God's care or blessings to any particular group or nation. Within this paradigm, those who might be despised or simply overlooked receive special attention. This concern for the excluded may also explain the prominence of women in Luke's Gospel and Luke seems to go out of his way to demonstrate that Jesus words and deeds apply to men and women alike.

Luke's prevailing concern, however, is for the 'poor'. Jesus says in his first sermon that his ministry is 'to bring good news to the poor' and 'let the oppressed go free'. Luke's concern for the poor is also accompanied by hostility towards those who are rich (see Blessings and Woes in Luke 6:20-26). In his Lukan parables, Jesus depicts the rich as fools who think that the essence of life is to be found in material possessions, or, worse, as persons destined to suffer eternal agony while the poor receive their comfort".

Luke certainly does not spare our feelings as comfortable, well off Westerners, yet these harsh texts are reminders that we are called to partner with God, focusing on the people that suffer inequity. God's coming kingdom opposes and will vanquish greed, materialism, and selfishness and in the end the poor will be supremely blessed. May we too be a blessing to those who face exclusion and disadvantage. **Amen.**

