



**4 JUNE 2023**



## Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary Readings

**This week 4 June, 2023**

Genesis 1:1—2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

**Next week 11 June, 2023**

Genesis 12:1-9  
Psalm 33:1-12  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will be meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel, and they will be looking at Study 4: "Naaman; Faith without Fireworks".

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost and everyone contributed their thoughts on the first Pentecost and the children created a three-dimensional dove. Our thoughts are summarized in Gail's message over the page.



## Hands and Feet

This week's volunteer's are Laurie & Sabina, Adrian & Kaye, Sandra, Warren, Darryl, Heather W and Meg W.



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162

revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au

Office Phone: 9636 3245

Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

## **Gail's Message**

### **Countless Pentecosts**

This is a true story about a little church located in Western Suburbs of Sydney called Greystanes Uniting Church. One Sunday as they sat around tables, chatting, praying and eating a Pentecost cupcake, the Holy Spirit filled them with wisdom. They all had great insights into the first Pentecost and together, united in power and filled with new wine, they created a testament to their love for one another and their faith in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit:

Called together to be the Church we proclaim that all who call on the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ shall be saved. Don't ask us when this will happen or if this means the Last Days, instead ask us how this belief transforms us in the here and now. For church is a transformative place where we all appreciate our differences and everyone can be themselves, everyone is accepted just as they are. No one is left behind. We know that we are all needed, and all belong, and we pray that others can continue to find a home here.

Our church is a special place, a unique place that honours diversity and yet remains united in God's power, for in Christ we are called together to be one body. We come together with different hopes and different needs, yet the Holy Spirit blows in, surprising us, by drawing us all together in friendship. Through the Spirit we are united in diversity.

When we remember the first Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire and wind, we can sometimes feel bewildered just like the first Pentecost crowd; why aren't we filled with the Spirit in the same way? The people observing the first Pentecost thought Jesus followers were drunk at 9 o'clock in the morning! We may occasionally feel bewildered by this amazing story, yet at the same time we are deeply aware that God endorses diversity, for on that first Pentecost, when they were all gathered together in one place, each and everyone got to hear of God's deeds of power in their own way and in their own language.

We do not know what the FUTURE holds for us, but we do know how we will carry on; we will be unafraid to traverse any boundary for the sake of our Lord, who commands us to love one another. In this church we will continue to help others, we will continue to be here for one another, and we will continue to create a place for all. We know that there has only been one Easter but there has been and will continue to be countless Pentecosts. Holy Spirit Come! **Amen**