



Greystanes Grapevine

The weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



23 JULY 2023

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings This week 23 July, 2023

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Next week 30 July, 2023

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Community Prayer Dinner

The annual Prayer Dinner is on Tuesday 29 August at 7pm at Merrylands RSL. The speaker will be Rev Sam Abalo from Living Word Worship Centre and tickets are \$50. RSVP by August 14 to hmf@hlncl.org.au or 9896 2514.

Office Update

Sue is on leave for the next three weeks, please see Peter St for any issues with the op shop or office.

Gail's Message

When I first began lay preaching several older and wiser members of my home congregation advised me never to mention 'politics' from the pulpit. At the time I regarded this as sage advice, however I now understand Jesus' call to discipleship as a challenge to centre our entire lives on the way of Jesus. I would never tell people from the pulpit or out of it, for that matter, 'how to vote', but the preacher/teacher should always apply the Scriptures, Christian Tradition, Reason and Lived Experience to any issue. Being a follower of Jesus should impact every aspect of our lives including how we think politically, how we conduct our relationships and how we care for God's good creation.

This week we will be thinking about God's call on Moses's life, and I have included a reflection below from my favourite contemplative Priest, Father Richard Rohr. In this excerpt Father Richard eloquently sums up the transformative way of life we enter into when we, like Moses, hear and respond to God's voice. As a follower of Jesus do you see things differently and act accordingly?

"Something happened that allowed an enslaved group of Semitic peoples to go through a liberation experience and to be led to the lands we now call Israel and Palestine. The Exodus journey became an externalized and internalized journey, as true spirituality always is. It marked the beginnings of the creation of this people and the creation of a spirituality that includes both action and contemplation.

We know the man called Moses at the heart of this Exodus journey. The account begins with his early religious experience (Exodus 3:2-6). We know he is a murderer; that he escapes from the law and lives out in the desert, taking care of his father-in-law's sheep when he has his "burning bush" experience of God. It's a nature experience, which is very often our own first religious experience. There's no tabernacle, church, temple, priesthood, or anything to do with formalized religion.

Immediately upon this experience, the voice Moses hears from the bush says: "I have heard the groaning of my people in Egypt and you are to go, confront the Pharaoh and tell him to let my people go" (see Exodus 3:7-10). The contemplative "burning bush" experience comes and immediately has social, economic, and political implications. There is no authentic God experience which does not situate us in the world in a different way and cause us to see things differently and act accordingly."