



**13 AUGUST 2023**

## Welcome

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

## Lectionary Readings

**This week 13 August, 2023**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

**Next week 20 August, 2023**

Genesis 45:1-15  
Psalm 133  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet this Tuesday 15th at 3pm in the chapel. They are looking at Study 9, "The Finale of Faith" 2 Timothy 4:6-18 Their next study series entitled "Abiding in Christ" will commence on Tuesday 29 August.

## Thank You

Lola and her family would like to thank everyone for their sympathies, love and support following the passing of Siale. Your love and support is greatly appreciated.

## Gay Dale's funeral

Gay's funeral will be held at the South Chapel Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, 12 Military Rd Matraville on Monday 14 August at 1 pm.

## Elder's Invitation to Communion off site.

If for any reason you miss our monthly communion service, which is generally the fourth Sunday of the month, please reach out to Gail or any of the Elders to request the Sacrament of Holy Communion at home or in hospital. Communion this month is planned for Sunday 27 August.

## Our 50th Anniversary

On Sunday 17th September we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Greystanes Uniting Church. A lot of things have changed over the past fifty years including ourselves. If you have a photo of yourself in or around 1973 could you please send it to me in digital format, with permission to use it within our special service of celebration? ([revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au](mailto:revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au) or 0407269162)

## Gospel for All Ages Conference

Are you interested in welcoming all ages to worship?  
Are you wondering about the future of the church?  
You are invited to attend The Gospel for all Ages Conference, 26th August at Connect Church Engadine. Please see Gail for details.



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## **Gail's Message**

This week in Worship we will reflect on the story of young David the shepherd boy, a man chosen by God to be King of Israel not because of his looks or status or strength but because of what was in his heart. God sees us for who we truly are, our true selves. Does this mean there is a false self? Richard Rohr explains in the following reflection:

The false self is all the things we pretend to be and think we are. It is the pride, arrogance, title, costume, role, and degree we take to be ourselves. It's almost entirely created by our minds, our cultures, and our families. It is what's passing and what's going to die, and it is not who we are. For many people this is all they have—but all of it is going to die when we die.

When we buy into the false self and overidentify with it, we have to keep overidentifying with it, defending it, and promoting it as "the best." The false self is overidentified on a social level, a corporate level, a national level, an ethnic level. There is the Catholic false self, the Protestant false self, the American false self—we can pick on whatever group we want.

Many people in the United States really think that God has shed unique grace on our country—but have they ever walked outside our borders? There's plenty of grace to the North and the South, in Europe and Africa. Grace is everywhere! When I was growing up as a Catholic boy in Kansas, we viewed all Protestants as heretics who were going to hell, but then I grew up and met a few nice Methodists, and I found out they thought I was going to hell too! It's just laughable. We have to undercut the illusion right at the beginning, and when we do that, we discover the True Self "hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). Our True Self in God becomes our touchstone and absolutely levels the playing field. It gives us a new set of eyes. If we are living out of the false self, all we can do is measure, compare, evaluate, and label. That's what I call dualistic thinking, and it's where our world lives. Many people think that all they have are these external costumes—but when we put on the eyes and mind of Christ, we have a new pair of glasses. We can look around and know that the world is filled with infinite images of God. Isn't that a nicer world to live in? It's the ultimate political-social critique.

I hope we're all moving in the direction of knowing who we really are, letting go of our preoccupation with how we look or measure up. As we come to a deeper acceptance of our True Self, we know our identity comes from God's love, not from what other people think or say about us. There's nothing wrong with wanting to present our best face; in fact, my mother would be disappointed if she thought I were saying otherwise. We just can't take any of it too seriously.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/what-is-the-false-self-2023-08-08/>