



20 AUGUST 2023

Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us. Thank you to Adrian for leading our service this week.

Lectionary Readings

This week 20 August, 2023

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

Next week 27 August, 2023

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

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 or 0407269162)

Hands and Feet

The program is going extremely well, with 35 – 40 baskets of food being provided most weeks. Thanks to everyone who helps out and to those who are providing financial support. If you would like to help with the \$2 per week per basket costs, please put your donation in the bowl on the table at morning tea or see Sue for details of our bank account if you would prefer to deposit to our account.

Egg Cartons

We urgently need clean, empty, egg cartons to use with the Hands and Feet program. If you have any you could donate, please bring them to church or drop them in to the office during the week, just leave them on the back verandah if Sue is not in the office.

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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Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15:21-28

God makes a difference

Last Sunday, we heard the story of the prophet Samuel anointing a young shepherd boy, David, to be the greatest King of Israel. An apparent no-one, to be the King to replace Saul.

Today's first reading is about Joseph who, once having been sold into slavery, was re-united with his long-lost family, and was able to state in Genesis 45:7, "But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." We learn that God's ways are not our ways. God views things very differently to the way we make sense of the world.

In the reading from Matthew 15, we hear another story of someone we, as the readers, should understand as being someone of less repute than the people the Jews would normally relate to. But before the day was over, the Gentile woman would have thanked God that the terrible place she found herself in, with an apparent demonic possession of her daughter, had brought her face to face with Jesus. Jesus teaches us, once again, that God views things so very differently to us.

So what does it teach us today, here in our little church in Greystanes? I reckon that one lesson from today is that we are called to an even greater task than to care for fellow Christians. God wants us to do what Jesus did. He wants us to seek out those who are not of us and show his love to Muslims, to Buddhists, to atheists, to people from other cultures, from other places.

I am delighted that our little church has launched into serving others by weekly providing food to those who are struggling. I commend the work of Sabina and Laurie, who lead a terrific team of committed people who turn up to be the Hands and Feet of God each Wednesday morning, showing practical love to needy people. And as we have launched into this new ministry, others have joined us. There are people, friends of some of our people, who have begun to turn up regularly, to help out, to do their bit.

We also have our Op Shop, with a fabulous group of volunteers, many of whom are not regular worshippers here, in serving the local community. Over many years now, this outreach and service by our little church community shows God's love to those around us.

I invite you to think about those you come across day in and day out, or even occasionally, who need to feel and know the love of God. Consider how to best serve them in the name of Christ.

So what was happening as a result of today's gospel story? The crumbs of Judaism were beginning to fall into the mouths of Gentiles, you and me. Thank God that still today, the oppressed need only to kneel at the feet of the master to have their deepest need for salvation and deliverance, satisfied.—Adrian