



5 NOVEMBER 2023

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 5 November, 2023

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Next week 12 November, 2023

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Egg Cartons

Thank you to everyone who has
donated egg cartons for our Hands
and Feet program. We have plenty
at the moment, so could you please
keep them at home for a few weeks
as we are running a bit short of
storage space.

Christmas Collection

This year we are planning to collect
Christmas food items for our Hands
and Feet clients; items such as
chocolates, shortbread, Advent
Calendars, mince tarts, nuts, etc.

We will need the Advent Calendars
by Sunday 24th November and the
other items by Sunday 10
December.

If you would like to contribute
please bring your items to church
any Sunday and leave them in the
basket at the back of the church.

It takes a lot more

courage

to let something go
than it does to hang on to it,
trying to make it better.

Letting go doesn't mean ignoring a situation.

Letting go means accepting what is,
exactly as it is, without fear,
resistance, or a struggle for control.

- Lynda VanZant



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

Self-Emptying.

Have you ever wanted to learn Biblical Greek? Well you are in luck this week. We will start and possibly finish with just one word Kenosis. This term is derived from Greek word κενώω (kenóō), meaning "to empty out" or 'let go'. In Christian theology, Kenosis describes the way in which Christ emptied himself; this is incredibly difficult to get our heads around and comprehend; how can Jesus be fully divine and fully human and what does it mean for him to give up his divinity in order to accomplish the salvation of all creation and the reconciliation of all things? Mind boggling yet true! A better way to understand Christ's self-emptying is found in Paul's letter to the Philippians.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ^[a] ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ^[b] ⁷ **but emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant, ^[c] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In these verses Paul encourages us to follow Christ's example, he is the ultimate model of letting go and surrendering to God.

Commenting on Philippians 2:1-11, Theologian Cynthia Bourgeault writes:

How beautifully simple—the path of Jesus hidden right there in plain sight! While some Christians are still reluctant to think of Jesus as teaching a path (isn't it enough simply to be the Son of God?), in fact, the Gospels themselves make clear that he is specifically inviting us to this journey and modeling how to do it. Once you see this, it's the touchstone throughout all his teaching: Let go! Don't cling! Don't hoard! Don't assert your importance! Don't fret. "Do not be afraid, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom!" (Luke 12:32)

