



4 FEBRUARY, 2024

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 4 February, 2024

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Next week 11 February, 2024

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

World Vision Child Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our World Vision sponsorship, we have so far raised \$980 of our total \$1728 for our 3 World Vision children.

If you haven't yet donated but would like to, please give your gift to Karen S or transfer money direct to our bank account, the details are BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference if possible.

Hands & Feet Update

Our Food Distribution program, in partnership with Hands & Feet Inc, is supporting 45-50 families each week, part of the 3300 families across Australia helped by Hands & Feet each week through 93 local churches.

As you can imagine, collecting, sorting and delivering all this food is becoming more expensive as fuel costs continue to rise, and we have been asked to increase the donation we make for each basket we give out to \$3 per week. This is the first increase since 2015. Church Council has agreed to increase our donations so if you are able to assist with this, please put your donation in the bowl at morning tea each week, or in an envelope in the offering bag or donate on line with the account details given for World Vision donations, but putting Hands & Feet in the description. More information about Hands & Feet is in their newsletters on the back notice board, or on their web-page www.handsandfeet.com.au

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible study will resume on Tuesday 6th February at 3pm in the chapel.



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“Tell Your Problem You Have a God”

During the week I heard this great little quote, “Don’t tell God you have a problem, tell your problem you have a God”. I was told that this quote apparently goes all the way back to an Islamic philosopher of the 11th century, however I couldn’t verify this. What I did discover after some Googling and Youtubing, is that this the quote is extremely popular with some of the big name Evangelists, people like Joyce Meyer and Stephen Furtick. I really like the sentiment of the quote but does its message relate to the teachings of Israel’s leaders and its prophets, and the words of Jesus and the Apostles? Yes indeed!

In the First Testament we see David step up to confront the terrifying giant Goliath armed only with a sling and some rocks. The skinny young shepherd boy is verbally abused by Goliath, who mocks him, looking him up and down and saying “What’s that stick for? Do you think I’m a dog?” David is not shaken, and he replies, “I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty” (1 Samuel 17:41-52).

David is telling his problem, Goliath, that he has God on his side and that is enough. David displays remarkable faith and trust in God’s power but sometimes our problems can be mean and nasty, just like Goliath and they mock us by making us feel weak and vulnerable and they threaten to overpower us.

Jesus, Paul and the authors of the Second Testament Letters instruct us to pray at all times. Here a just a couple of Bible quotes regarding prayer: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7) and “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7).

Despite hearing the word of God in Scripture and knowing what we should be doing, ‘praying and praying often’, we will all sometimes struggle to trust God with our problems, but I wonder what difference would it make to approach prayer with the boldness and faith of David?

So instead of beginning prayer with a list of our problems, what if we started by telling our problems, to get ready to be hit on the head and knocked out into oblivion because we have God on our side. When you are at your lowest, when metaphorically you are lying flat out, to weak to get up again, imagine you are Simon’s mother in law in today’s focus reading (Mark 1:29-39).

Imagine that Jesus comes to you, and raises you up to fight another day. We are enough and have enough capacity, even if it’s just a handful of metaphorical pebbles to get through anything because God is on our side.

- Rev Gail