



**14 APRIL, 2024**

## Welcome

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

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 14 April, 2024

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

### Next Sunday 21 April, 2024

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

## Plastic bags for Hands and Feet

We are looking for some extra plastic shopping bags such as you used to get at Woollies or Coles to pack the food in at Hands and Feet. If you have some spare bags you could donate please drop them in or bring them to church in the next week or so.

## Book Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Book Sale yesterday and to Kaye for organising it.

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel, they will be looking at Study 3 'Content with what we have'.

## Faith Chat Group

The Faith Chat Group which ran during Lent will commence meeting again on Monday evenings at 7pm to 8.30 via Zoom from the 15th April. See Gail for details.





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## Hospitality

Hospitality is one of the cornerstones of who we are as 'the church' and it is regarded as one of the signs of a healthy, fruitful, congregation. In Hebrews we are told "*Don't forget to show hospitality, for by doing so some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it*" (13:2). "A healthy church will be hospitable. Think of your church as a "hospital." Hospitals don't turn people away, they don't demand money, and they don't judge anyone who comes in for help. They just provide it!"

Hospitality can be expressed in many ways, through sharing in a meal for example or through offering friendship, yet it can be explained simply as 'making space'.

Most congregations find Hospitality quite an easy thing to provide because it seems to be in our DNA. Many years ago my home congregation came together to do a personality and gifting workshop and we were quite surprised that most of us fell into 'caring, sharing, sensitive and empathetic' category. (\*My memory fails me, the category did have a title!). Although it was a shock to see over three quarters of us in one quadrant, it made sense because the characteristics of that quadrant are very Christ like. This does not mean however that the other three personality types are less valuable and nor does it necessarily indicate a healthy and hospitable congregation.

Only recently did I come to understand that hospitality is a two way street. Being hospitable means being able to give and give 'graciously' but it also means we graciously receive. All too often we fail to ask for help, or refuse offers of assistance. We can unwittingly see ourselves as the giver, the helper, the one that is 'okay' and the one being self-sacrificial.

On the surface this seems to be an altruistic, unselfish attribute however behind this trait lurks that old as time and overlooked sin, pride. We do not always notice it but being the 'helper' can puff us up and make us feel superior to those we are assisting; it can also cause us to be judgemental.

Receiving graciously requires us to be vulnerable and recognise our common humanity; it makes us aware that "all fall short of the glory of God" yet all are drawn to the Risen Christ (John 12:32).

All of us stand in the grace of God becoming God's beloved children. We who have graciously received this free gift are called to express the same manner of gracious hospitality to everyone. May it be so!

-Rev Gail