



5 MAY, 2024

Welcome

This Sunday Karen Massard will be preaching, sharing with us some of her late husband, John's, final insights before he passed. Karen and I have worked together to craft this special service and who knows, we may have another lay preacher in the making! Karen will take us back to the road to Emmaus and we will hear Luke 24:13-35. Rev.Gail

Lectionary Readings

This week 5 May, 2024

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Next Sunday 12 May, 2024 (Mothers' Day)

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Pentecost Sunday 19 May

You're invited to wear red to church on Sunday 19th May as we celebrate Pentecost.

Celebrate Messiah 12 May

Next Sunday 12th May, we are having a visit from Paul Cohen, from Celebrate Messiah, who will be sharing about Pentecost from both a Jewish and Christian perspective.

Did you know that Pentecost is a Jewish Holiday?
Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks or 'Pentecost' as it is called in the New Testament, is a late spring holiday in the Jewish Calendar which is rich with meaning and significance. While most Christians know of the powerful events of Pentecost in Acts 2, few are aware of the historical yearly observance that pointed toward it.

This presentation helps Christians make the connection between the biblical Festival of Shavuot with its ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament.

Congregation Meeting 19 May

There will be a very brief congregation meeting after church on Sunday 19 May, to consider the election of Peter P to Church Council.



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

What side of Easter do we live on?

Over the last week, Karen Massard and I have spent some time crafting today's worship service based on some of the late John Massard's insights. For the sermon we had two potential titles, *Jesus walks with us on the journey of life* and *What side of Easter do we live on?* Because we are hearing about Jesus' two friends walking on the road to Emmaus we went with the first option, however the second title is a question well worth thinking about.

How time flies! The Easter weekend may be becoming a distant memory, yet it is good to recall that over that weekend we experienced in worship, the deep valley of pain and suffering and then the ascent into the glorious light of the resurrection.

On Good Friday we gathered in solemn celebration and remembrance, sitting in the darkness of the dimly lit church, however even in that atmosphere of deep sadness, shame and remorse, the promise of Easter Sunday hovered around us ready to breakthrough the despair.

The events of Easter, from the Jesus' anguished prayers in the garden, to the cross and to the empty tomb, the events of Easter should shape every moment of our lives; and so in answer to John Massard's question, *What side of Easter do we live on?* I would answer both.

On the journey of life we will walk along paths that bring us both joy and suffering, contentment and boredom, confidence and clouds of confusion. John suggests that it is in the darker days and hours of life, "that Jesus is likely to enter", those times "when life is most real and inescapable".

Instead of sugar-coated promises or theologies that suggest life in Christ will be a bed of roses, the promise of Christ being right there with us in each moment of life, good or bad, triumphant or anguished is truly good news.

May Jesus be with you whatever your week may bring, opening your eyes to the 'big picture', the story of God's wondrous love and grace.

- Rev Gail