



# Greystanes Grapevine

The weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



**20 OCTOBER 2024**

## Welcome

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

## Lectionary readings

**This week 20 October, 2024**

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)  
Psalm 104:1-99, 24, 35c  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

**Next Sunday 27 October, 2024  
(Holy Communion)**

Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

## Side by Side Christ Ministries

Next Sunday, Emmanuel, from Side by Side Christ Ministries in Uganda, will be joining us for worship and sharing with us an update on their work. You may remember we, as a church, supported Emmanuel pre-covid and it will be great to find out how things are going for the children they care for.

Side by side Christ ministries is a Christian faith-based non-governmental and non-denominational organization based in Kampala. They provide education, food, clothing and practical support for a significant number of orphans and widows and those struggling in their community. They have two orphanage schools and are constructing a high school.

We will be having a retiring offering next Sunday for Emmanuel's work. If you are interested in making a donation please either place your donation in the plate at the door or you can transfer your gift to our St George account BSB 112-879, and account number 428 172 081.





### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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In worship today we will spend some time retreating from our day to day lives in order to be restored, refreshed and inspired into action. We will spend time 'being' instead of doing. No deep theological thinking today, tricky texts, or challenging spiritual formation questions; I promise! We will instead experience a mini virtual retreat.

### **Retreat**

a period of time used to pray and study quietly, or to think carefully, away from normal activities and duties: *We went on a retreat to the convent in Kincumber, New south Wales.*

This year I have attended three retreats. The first was a Women in Ministry Retreat, and we all spent hours each day being creative, making mosaics, writing reflections and thinking about God's Spirit revealed in the natural world. There was loads of free time thrown in, during which I took long solo walks through the bushland within the grounds of the Carmelite Monastery in Varroville, near Campbelltown.

The second was a retreat for Ministers in their first three years of ordained ministry. We spent time at Mt. Schoenstatt in the beautiful Mulgoa Valley. This retreat focused on deep listening and hearing our colleagues stories in small groups. I heard them speak of hardships and struggles along with wonderful accounts of creative and joyous ministry.

The last retreat I attended was organised by our Presbytery for all Lay and Ordained Ministry Leaders. We spent two and half days at the Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre in Mulgoa, (near the nice cafes off Mulgoa Road). The retreat theme was taken from a book written by Henri Nouwen and we considered what it meant to be Called, Blessed, Broken and Given. This retreat was a lot heavier than the others, yet I came away blessed by sharing stories with colleagues. I also gained some insights into my own giftings, ministry skills and spiritual needs.

Have you noticed in the Gospels that Jesus also retreated from time to time? \*At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where he is tempted; Jesus gets to know himself and who he is in God. \*After hearing the tragic news of John the Baptist death, Jesus withdrew to a deserted place by himself. \*After feeding the five thousand Jesus goes alone to the mountain to pray. \*Jesus takes Peter, James and John with him to a high mountain top and in their presence is transfigured. \*Jesus spends time away from the crowds on the Mount of Olives. He teaches and instructs his disciples away from the distractions of the spiritually hungry crowds. \*Jesus prays alone in the Garden of Gethsemane while Peter, James and John wait nearby.

If you are interested in attending a church retreat please come and let me know. I am considering partnering with the other Uniting Churches in our area to organise a congregational retreat in 2025.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Gail.