



13 APRIL, 2025



Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us. A special welcome to Amy who will be preaching this morning.

Lectionary Readings

This week 13 April, 2025

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22:14- 23:56

Holy Week

Good Friday 18 April, 2025

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16 - 25
John 18:1 - 19:42

Easter Sunday 20 April, 2025

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Easter Sunday Flowers

Next Sunday morning, the bare cross will be transformed with fresh flowers. If you are able, please bring along some flowers from your garden. During the service we will all have a chance to bring our flowers forward to transform the cross.

Child Care Centre Update

If you were not at church last Sunday you will have missed Peter's update on the Centre so it is below:

Many will know that our child care centre has been struggling for enrolments for some years now and the competition between centres in this area is quite intense. We have reached a point where it is not sustainable to continue to operate. We have been in discussion with Uniting Early Learning (UEL) for some time now about the possibility of transitioning into being directly managed by them but low enrolment levels prevent that happening. Unfortunately this leaves us with no viable option but to close the centre and in conjunction with UEL we made that decision this week and have advised staff and the families of the end date of 16 May 2025.

We are assisting families to obtain places in other centres and are discussing alternatives with staff for redeployment within the Uniting network or for redundancy packages. Our Tigers Before and After School Care Centre at Greystanes Public School will continue under Uniting's direct management at least for the remainder of its present contract with the Department. This is all quite sad for everyone who has been involved, some of us for long periods, but for every project that closes another opportunity can present itself. Church Council will meet this week to discuss the next steps and we invite your prayers for the future activities in this place.

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Palm/Passion Sunday

This day is surely the most paradoxical of any on the liturgical calendar. How does one service contain the emotions present in the celebration that was the Palm Sunday parade and the painful solitary walk to the cross on Good Friday?

But there is a deeper paradox woven into this day. The reality is on this day, those who lined the street and laid down their garments and waved their branches and shouted got it right. They shouted "Hosanna." That had become a statement of praise, a celebration of the one who comes. But it also has a translation: "Save us." So, on that day, the crowd got it right. But reading on in the story, we recognize that if, even in the moment, they knew what they were saying, it certainly didn't last long. To go from "Hosanna" to "Crucify him" seems a long journey.

But maybe it isn't a long journey. Within each of us is the capacity to claim Christ and reject him almost at the same time. Palm/Passion Sunday is about the celebration and acknowledgement of the one who comes in the name of the Lord. It is a time for declaration of faith and reaffirmation and recommitment to discipleship as we follow Christ with our whole lives. But it is also a time of confession, of acknowledging that we don't live up to the commitments we have made in the past and that our declarations with our lips seem far from the actions of our lives.

Through it all, however, is the theme that the one who comes will come. No matter how many times we mess up, the Saviour still comes, riding into the heart of our city with an offer of redemption, a promise of salvation. And we can rejoice in that.

We have arrived at Holy Week. We followed Jesus into Jerusalem amidst joyful multitudes who hailed him as a king, yet we know Friday is coming. The triumphant multitudes will not stick around long. Yet, God's steadfast love never fails. So, as we move into this holiest of weeks consider: "How does God's steadfast love find you, even when you feel lost?"

Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, umcdiscipleship.org