



27 APRIL, 2025

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.
A special welcome to Stephen Refalo, Student Well-Being Officer at Holroyd High who will be preaching this morning.

Lectionary Readings

This week 27 April, 2025

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-18
John 20:19-31

Next week 4 May, 2025

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon in the chapel at 3pm. They will be looking at Study 7 God in His world: Jesus of Nazareth, Luke 9, 24. All ladies are welcome, see Heather or Gwen for more details.

Worship next Sunday

Next Sunday Paul Cohen, from Celebrate Messiah, will be coming to share with us their presentation on Messiah in the Passover. He will explain how the Passover foreshadows what Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross, and is coincidentally the most celebrated of all the feasts in Jewish homes today.
There will also be books and DVDs available to buy and an opportunity to discuss the presentation with Paul during morning tea. The presentation will go for about 40 minutes.



Child Care Centre Farewell

Our Child Care Centre is hosting a Farewell Party on Friday 16 May from 5pm-6.15pm. A sausage sizzle will be provided, please RSVP to Sue for catering purposes by Sunday 11 May.

Everyone who has been part of the Centre in any way over the last 52 years is invited to join us.



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The Prodigal Son

The following reflection is based on our shared learnings from the last Communion Breakfast service. We played with the Parable of the Prodigal son, who prodigiously (extravagantly, wastefully) squandered his inheritance. The Father in the parable also prodigiously expressed love and forgiveness for the undeserving son. This parable could also be known as the Prodigal Father/God, because God freely, extravagantly and some might say wastefully, offers us grace in the place of judgement.

Our Reflection 30th March 2025, the Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32

This parable teaches us that God's love is the greatest love of all. The father in the parable endures the pain caused by the ungrateful son yet still loves and forgives him, just as God loves and forgives us. We need to remember that we all make mistakes. We are all prone to turning to God when we are at our lowest then turning away again when we have what we want. We are not so different to the young and wasteful son, when you think about it!

Many of us relate to the older brother who stayed with the father and became outraged when his younger brother was not only welcomed back into the family but also thrown an extravagant party. Did the outraged older brother try to express joy at his brother's return? This would be difficult to fake. If he could not express joy did he finally understand and accept that his Father loved him dearly and extravagantly too? This parable reminds us to be fair to one another, to respect one another and to be grateful for the love God has for each and every one of us. Gratitude goes a long way in transforming our hearts because we do not look at what others have or compare ourselves to others.

What would the world look like if we all could open our hearts and be as gracious and forgiving as our God? Would we learn to accept everyone as they are? After all, everyone is on their own journey, finding their way to Christ. People can sometimes stray away from Christ, God and family, and it's not always easy to welcome them back and forgive them. It takes time to forgive particularly if we have been badly hurt. Some of us know what this feels like and we need God to give us the strength to welcome those who have been lost back into the family, just like the father in the parable.

The father in the parable always had hope that his lost son would return.

Does God look at the world with hope, longing for each human being to turn to him without ever giving up or becoming despairing? As humans we can feel like giving up on people who have hurt us but God never gives up on us because God's love never fades or dies, it is constant, eternal and unconditional.

We noticed that human reactions to the parable are often based on selfish, judgemental emotions. God's reaction is always to love, forgive and express joy when we turn back to God. If we are to become more loving like God we need to accept God's love and grace and know that all things are held in God's hands. To live by grace means we need to keep refilling our reserves of love and forgiveness by asking God to restore us, refresh us and forgive us. Amen.