



6 APRIL, 2025



Welcome

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

This morning we will be having a breakfast service around tables in the hall. This service will also include communion.

Lectionary Readings

This week 6 April, 2025

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Next week 13 April, 2025

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22:14- 23:56
Or Luke 23: 1-49

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped last Saturday with Hani's ordination, it was a great celebration. Hani would also like to express her thanks as detailed below

Dear Sue and members of Greystanes Uniting Church,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support and kindness you showed during my ordination. Your unwavering encouragement and the effort you put into creating such a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere were deeply touching and truly appreciated. The lovely spread you prepared was simply wonderful—a testament to your thoughtfulness and generosity. It brought joy to everyone present and added a warm, personal touch to the occasion.

Thank you for your dedication and for being such an essential part of this meaningful milestone in my journey. I am truly blessed to have the support of such a caring and inspiring community. With deepest thanks and blessings,
Hani

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Change.

Change is a constant factor at play for all created things, both living and nonliving. Not too far from my home in Penrith, the Nepean river winds its way along the edge of the Cumberland Plain. The smooth river rocks that line the banks of the Nepean fascinate me. They range in size from pebbles to boulders, each one slightly different, all worn smooth by the constant flow of water running under and over them for approximately 40,000 to 50,000 years. A slow process indeed.

Over the course of our own life time we too cannot help to notice changes to our form. From the moment we are born our body's cells grow and divide, they age and die and are then replaced. When we are young this happens rapidly. The process slows as we age. I remember being horrified at the red blotches I would see on my aging parents arms. 'what's wrong with them', I wondered. As I age I notice this happening to me and after a bit of googling I now know this condition, Senile purpura is related to the thinning of our skin. The spots are bad enough but even the name is disgusting!

These changes over time are subtle and often go unnoticed, but change can also be swift and traumatic. Many of us will know what it feels like to literally have the rug pulled from under our feet and there we lay, upended and unsure if we can get back up on our feet. Some of us will jump straight back up, we will carry on and never admit our pain, some of us will stay down and others will stay just down just long enough to process their feelings and deal with their heartache. This takes courage, however we do not have to face the pain all on our own. God is with us in the depths of our despair, as the Psalmist notes, 'even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me' (Psalm 23).

When we lean into this promise of God's divine and loving presence, hope can break through. On that dark day we call Good Friday, Jesus followers, the ones who loved him faced a dramatic change in circumstances, the one they loved was gone. They spent time to address their grief and may even have lost all hope, yet hope was around the corner, ready to dawn on to dawn upon them on Easter morning because Jesus is raised!

This is the God given shape of our lives, yes, change means we may lose something, yet this is always followed by resurrection.