

Greystanes GrapevineThe weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



1 JUNE, 2025

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 1 June, 2025

Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Next week 8 June, 2025 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Gen 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Hands & Feet

We are still taking donations for the Hands & Feet Annual Fund-Raising event to help them feed more than 3300 families each week.

If you would like to support them and haven't yet done so, you can put your donation in a envelope in the offering bag, or donate online via our St George account, BSB 112-879, account number 428 172 081.

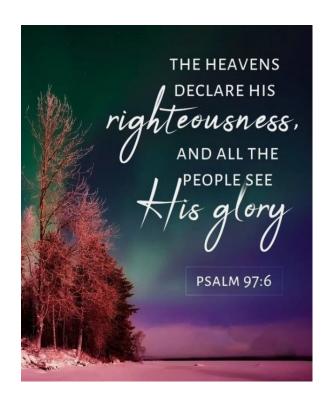
If you would like to know more about Hands & Feet, their website is www.handsandfeet.com.au

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet this Tuesday at 3pm in the chapel. They are looking at Study 8 Hear the message: Today—Acts 1-2. All ladies are welcome to join them, see Heather for more details.

Pentecost Sunday

You're invited to wear red to church next Sunday 8th June as we celebrate Pentecost.





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John 17:20-26

Jesus's prayer is not just about our present unity as the body of believers, but our communal unity as the church across time.

Jesus prays, "I ask not only on behalf of these," (his disciples), "but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one." Everyone who has come to faith since the time of the apostles falls under that second category: we have come to believe through someone else's word—someone else talking about and pointing us to God.

We read Jesus's words in the gospels, inspired by the Holy Spirit but written by fellow human beings. We can consider our own faith and how richly blessed we have been by others on our spiritual journey. We know the power of being united in the work of the Holy Spirit through such blessings of others: we are united in seeking God's face.

If nothing else, our unity follows the pattern of God's unity, which is to give for the good and building up of others. Jesus describes this as the glory that the Father gave to him, the Son, which he has given to us. And as we participate in this to its fullest potential, becoming completely one with the purposes of God in our life together, we witness to the world to this ultimate truth: that Jesus came to the world for us, to love all of us with the same love that God has for God's self.

Jesus knows that the world doesn't know this kind of perfect love, but that's what he wants for us. He's given his life for this purpose, and he will keep giving himself to the task. Notice how in verse 26 Jesus describes it as a task that he has done, will do, and hopes will be experienced right now. "I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." Past. Future. Present. Unity in God's love is that important.

God's giving, whether to himself or from himself, comes with commitment. Being given by the Father to Jesus has lasting impact, and being given to the Father by Jesus has lasting consequences for us. The Father commits to us by giving us to the Son, the Son commits to us by giving us to the Father, and as we know, they give us the Holy Spirit so that we can continue to be given and to give.

As we believers seek and get closer and closer to the unity of the Godhead, we will be like the beams of God's glory, becoming brighter and more concentrated with one another the closer to God we become.

Chesley Harmon cepreaching.org