



22 JUNE , 2025



**The Uniting Church
turns 48 today!**

Welcome

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

A special welcome to Nathan Tyson,
who will be preaching this morning.

Nathan is currently the Manager,
First Peoples Strategy and Engage-
ment with the Uniting Church in
Australia's Synod of NSW and the
ACT.

Lectionary Readings

This week 22 June, 2025

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a, or
Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 42 & 43 or Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

Next week 29 June, 2025

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on
Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the
chapel. They are looking at the final
study in their current series, Study 9
'In a perfect World: Jesus' return',
Revelation 20-22.

All ladies are welcome to join them,
please see Heather for any enquiries.



What does the
LORD
require of you, but to
Act Justly
to **LOVE MERCY** and to
Walk Humbly
WITH **GOD**
YOUR
MICAH 6:8





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Rev Gail's Message

This Sunday we celebrate the 48th anniversary of our formation as the Uniting Church in Australia. I remember reading all about that day when I was studying at College. People who were present at the assembly of ministers and church leaders, (Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists) claim that the room was full of joy when it was announced that a new, uniquely Australian church has been born. Many people worshipping in their beloved local church however were not filled with joy. They were filled with grief at having to pack up and leave their church home in order to unite with the 'other mob' up the road. At the assembly level there was joy but on the ground opinions were mixed.

We know that Jesus prayed for us to be one as he and God are one. We know that as the church we are all members of the one body. We know that we worship a Triune God, three in one, in perfect unity but if we are honest, we too easily forget all that when it comes down to making room for others, letting go of things we hold dear and accepting difference. The decisions made at that assembly forty eight years ago and the document that outlined the basis of union for the three denominations shaped the Uniting Church, everywhere except perhaps within congregations who are the foundation of everything else. I wonder what impact this anniversary has on each of us worshipping at Greystanes Uniting Church, (apart from the name of the place we gather!)

In 1977 the first Assembly of the UCA issued a Statement to the Nation, stating that "We pledge ourselves to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur. We will work for the eradication of poverty and racism within our society and beyond. We affirm the rights of all people to equal educational opportunities, adequate health care, freedom of speech, employment or dignity in unemployment if work is not available. We will oppose all forms of discrimination which infringe basic rights and freedoms."

I think the above extract explains the social justice emphasis of much our church. From this early desire to work with God in reconciling relationships the UCA worked alongside our First Peoples. In 1985, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Congress was formed. In 1988 the church joined together to make a Covenant before God, promising that the wider church and the First People's Congress would "walk together" and that our "multi-racial bond of fellowship" would be a witness to God's love.

In the world today so much needless violence and bloodshed occurs because of unjust political agendas founded on racial hatred and centuries old perspectives and cultural bias. Let us all pray that our multi-racial bonds of friendships stand as a witness to God's love. In being one united body there is much joy to be discovered. This happens first within the church but let us pray that these bonds of love and acceptance spill out into the community. May we love our neighbour no matter who they are, no matter where they have come from. **Amen.**