



3 AUGUST , 2025

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 3 August, 2025

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Next week 10 August, 2025

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with Peter's Celebration of Life service on Thursday. It was great that so many were able to be part of the day to celebrate the life of a very special member of this congregation.

Peter's family would like to thank everyone who helped organise and contributed to his celebration of life service on Thursday. They would also like to thank the church family for their kind thoughts, prayers and support during this sad time.

Book Craft and Doll Sale

Next Saturday 9 August, we are having another Craft, Doll and Book Sale to raise funds for Hands & Feet and their ministry. It will run from 9am—12 noon, all books will be \$2 so please come along and support this great cause. If you would like to help on the day please see Kaye.

Prayer Dinner Reminder

Just a reminder that the Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner is coming up on Tuesday 26 August , from 7-9.30pm at Merrylands RSL Club, 8 Miller Street, Merrylands.

The Guest Speaker will be *Caleb Champion* – Graduate Lawyer and finalist on *LEGO Masters Australia*

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased from:

<https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/2025-cumberland-community-prayer-dinner>

or Cumberland Churches website, www.cumberlandchurches.org.au or via the QR code on the flyer on the back notice board.

Save The Date

We are planning several special events in the next few months so save the date for:

Trivia Night—20 September 6pm
Bake Off Luncheon - 22 November 1pm
Christmas Lunch - December 6 1pm



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More on Prayer

The extract below is from *The Vulnerable Pastor, How Human Limitations Shape Our Ministry* by Mandy Smith. (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2015)

Scripture says, "ask and you shall receive". That's pretty simple. But not everyone in scripture got what they asked for. Even Jesus. His pleading in the Garden of Gethsemane is a deeply disturbing scene but one that offers insight into how to have confidence without clarity. The prayer in Mark 14: 36 can be broken down into 3 beautifully simple elements and when we feel lost, a simple formula may be all we can handle.

"Abba, Father everything is possible for you." What a way to start a prayer! It begins with a reminder of whom we're addressing. We're not filling out paperwork to submit to some faceless bureaucrat. This is our Father and what a Father he is! Nothing is beyond him. There is no question about whether or not God can do what we're about to ask.

"Take this cup from me." Here's where Jesus presents his heart's desire. He's not afraid to be honest and admit he wants something. Five simple syllables never had so much significance. When we pray according to this model what heartfelt yearning do we insert here? God already knows our heart, the ways we long to see restoration in our congregations and communities. So we might as well voice them. Even if doing so makes us feel the vulnerability of hope.

"Yet not what I will, but what you will." This final statement perfectly balances the prayer making it a very brief but satisfying prayer to pray. We've acknowledged who God is and what he can do. We've been honest about our desires. And now we end by giving God the final word. We trust the outcome to a well-meaning, all powerful being who has heard us.

Reflect

How are you seeking clarity?

How can you insert your request into the middle of this Gethsemane prayer?

How can you step forward into what is next without knowing the details of exactly where it will lead?