



**6 JULY, 2025**

## Welcome

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

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 6 July, 2025

2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### Next week 13 July, 2025

Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

## Op Shop Half-Price Sale

The Op Shop half-price sale  
continues this week so there's still  
time to drop in and grab a bargain,  
at 37 Dell St Woodpark.

## UCA Synod Meeting

Synod meets this week at Penrith,  
and Rev Gail will be attending.  
Please pray for those attending and  
the issues to be decided as they  
discern where God is leading the  
church.

## Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner

You are invited to this special night  
where Christians and community  
members from across our region  
gather in unity.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, 26 August 2025
- **Time:** 7pm to 9.30pm
- **Venue:** Merrylands RSL Club, 8  
Miller Street, Merrylands, NSW  
2160
- **Guest Speaker:** *Caleb Campion* –  
Graduate Lawyer and finalist on  
*LEGO Masters Australia*

• This evening offers a unique  
opportunity to:

- Engage in collective prayers and  
enjoy musical performances
- Be inspired by our guest speaker's  
journey of faith
- Connect with fellow church and  
community members
- Share a delicious two-course meal  
with complimentary soft drinks

• **Tickets are \$50 and can be  
purchased from:**

[https://www.eventbookings.com/b/  
event/2025-cumberland-community-  
prayer-dinner](https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/2025-cumberland-community-prayer-dinner)

or Cumberland Churches website,  
[www.cumberlandchurches.org.au](http://www.cumberlandchurches.org.au) or  
scan the QR code on the flyer on the  
back noticeboard.



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162  
revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au

Office Phone: 9636 3245  
Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

## **For when I am weak I am strong.**

In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul compares himself with a group of flashy, charismatic preachers who had rocked into town and turned the heads of the people worshipping in Corinth. These new kids in town were not true disciples full of integrity and honour, they were out for what they could get. They distorted the gospel message and took advantage of the people in Corinth. Paul, who had founded the Corinthian Church, is deeply hurt and concerned by this and he reacts at first by boasting of his own qualifications as a preacher/teacher/leader. Paul is not acting here out of jealousy or spite nor out of a need to puff up his own bruised ego. Paul boasts because he needs to set the record straight.

At the end of declaring his own outstanding track record as an apostle of the Lord, Paul says something extraordinary. Paul tells us that the only thing he can truly boast about is his weakness. It is often said that the gospel message is counter cultural, meaning that it goes against the grain of human nature and society, so let me ask you, when was the last time you boasted about your own weakness? In our society it is shameful to speak of weakness or admit our mistakes. We are taught to avoid and deny weakness, vulnerability and failure. Here are some of the everyday phrases and idioms that reinforce this notion:

Get up, dust yourself off and get over it!

Don't cry! Don't be such a baby! Grow up!

Stay calm and keep strong!

Stiff upper lip!

Just believe in yourself!

We are taught to be self-reliant and we admire people who appear to be strong, powerful and in control but it is all smoke and mirrors.

We are all vulnerable deep down inside and we all make mistakes. Our tendency to be self-reliant leads to exhaustion, burn out, anxiety, depression, and avoidant behaviours such as addictions, obsessions and distractions. A self-reliant person will be able to boast of many things because they have to, their successes are the key to their existence and their failures must never see the light of day.

Paul knows that the only thing we can truly boast about is our weakness. Why? Because in doing so we confess our need for God. Paul finishes his own confession of weakness in saying,

*Jesus said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in your weakness."* Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, *italics* my additions for emphasis)