



24 AUGUST, 2025

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 24 August, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Next week 31 August, 2025

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Rev Gail's Leave

Rev Gail will be on leave this week from Sunday 24 August to Mon 1 September. Please see one of the ministry team or Sue in the office for any pastoral concerns during this time.

Thank you to Adrian and Lola for leading worship while Gail is away.

Hands And Feet Events

If you are interested in the work of Hands and Feet you might be interested in some upcoming events they are holding.

Their annual Fundraiser event will be at Canterbury Leagues Club, 26 Bridge Rd, Belmore, on Thursday 16 October from 7-10pm, and will showcase their work and the stories of some of their clients as well as a meal and live music. Tickets are \$89 (it's a fund-raiser after all!) and can be purchased through their website, handsandfeet.com.au

They are also hosting a conference on Wednesday 15 October at Kings Park Community Church, 1/13 Turbo Road Kings Park, from 7-9.30pm.

The conference will look at ways churches can build strategies to help the people they serve develop and grow their relationships with Jesus.

This evening will be free and includes supper and an opportunity to share with other churches about what they have learned through loving their community.

Register via the Hands and Feet website.



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The Picture of Life—Luke 13:10-17

I suspect we've all seen before and after pictures; before and after the diet or workout plan, before and after a re-model, before and after a particular event or experience.

That's what today's gospel reminds me of. It shows us before and after pictures of the woman who appears in the synagogue while Jesus is teaching. The before picture shows her crippled, bent over, and unable to stand up straight. She's been like that for eighteen years. The after picture, however, shows her standing up straight, restored, upright, and in alignment with life.

They are two very different pictures that show two realities of our lives and world. We've all known times when we were crippled and bent over. And we've known times when we stood tall and straight. Luke tells us what happened to this woman. Do you remember? Two things: "Jesus saw her" and "he laid his hands on her." It's a pattern we see again and again in the gospels. Jesus sees and touches another and their life changes.

Who has seen and touched your life in a way that let you stand a bit taller, be more yourself, or be more fully engaged in life? When have you done that for another? And what would it be like if we lived together like that today. Imagine how the picture of life for our community and one another would change if we saw with the eyes of Jesus and touched with his hands.

The seeing and touching life of Christ would be in this world embodied by you and me. We could be a community in which offense is met with forgiveness, hatred with love, fear with courage, exclusion with welcome, suffering with compassion. It would be a very different picture than the one we often see.

Jesus always put people first even when it meant upsetting the authorities, breaking the rules, and changing "the way we've always done it." He saw them and he laid hands on them regardless of who they were, what had happened to them, or what they had done. People came first.

What would it take to see and lay hands on another in a way that allows them to stand up taller and straighter? What if we were to see and touch them in a way that makes a difference; to touch with love, forgiveness, compassion, hope, courage, or encouragement?

When I imagine what life and our world would look like I see a picture I want to be in, don't you? We have the power to change the picture of life, to see and touch. I wonder how we will be a part of creating a new after picture. - Adrian