



31 AUGUST, 2025

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 31 August, 2025

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

**Next week 7 September, 2025
(Fathers' Day)**

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet at 3pm
on Tuesday in the chapel. They are
looking at Study 4 'Food that will not
spoil' John 5:17-6:71. All ladies are
welcome to join them, see Heather
for more details.

HUMILITY
IS NOT THINKING
LESS OF YOURSELF,
IT IS THINKING
OF YOURSELF LESS.
-C.S. Lewis

humility
KNOWING, ACCEPTING & BEING WHO WE
ARE WHILE DEMONSTRATING MODESTY
ABOUT OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GIFTS,
ADMITTING MISTAKES & VALUING OTHERS
FOR WHO THEY ARE & FOR THEIR INPUT.

When there are differences,
humility saves the day.

When there are differences
without humility,
there is **strife** and division.

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Gail's Reflection on the Church Leaders Meeting with Rev Geoff Stevenson 19th August 2025

On a miserable, wet, cold evening your church leaders came together to think about being the church. I opened the meeting in prayer and asked a tricky question, "What do you see as the purpose and mission of the church?" This is a tricky question because as one leader suggested the answer is both simple and complex. We know we are to be the people of God, worshipping, witnessing and serving others. That's the simple bit. How we do that is the hard, complex bit.

Geoff reminded us that the church is called to be a "fellowship of reconciliation"; a broken people offering hope, light, and deep connection to other broken and lost people. This description of the church as a fellowship of reconciliation is highlighted in the UCA's founding document the Basis of Union, however it echoes one my favourite passages of scripture found in Romans 8.

Paul proclaims that,

¹⁸ I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ All of creation waits with eager longing for God to reveal his children. ²⁰ For creation was condemned to lose its purpose, not of its own will, but because God willed it to be so. Yet there was the hope ²¹ that creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We as God's people then become a beacon of hope to this beautiful, sad, crazy, fast paced, violent, anxiety driven, chaotic world.

Geoff then asked the following question, "What would you like to see happen here at Greystanes Uniting Church?" Many leaders spoke of continuing to reach out into the community, expanding and building on the missional activities we already have in place. People spoke of the connections and small but mighty acts of hope and reconciliation that happen weekly at Hands and Feet and pretty much every day at our Op Shop. We then began to vision and dream of ways in which we can continue being the presence of God's love in our community. One leader wisely reminded us that we need to be patient about our future missional direction, waiting with trust in God who will guide us.

Geoff left us with a wonderful suggestion. For the entire month of September, every member of Greystanes Uniting sets an alarm at 7am and 7pm, or whatever time frame best suits and prays for God's Spirit to inspire us and lead us in our discernment. We do not yet have an answer to the question, "what are we going to do with all that space?" but we do have a good God who is faithful and ever present, a God who "will meet all our needs according to the riches of his glory in Jesus Christ" and a God who generously gives wisdom to all (Phillipians 4:19 and James 1:5).