



28 SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcome to worship this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us. A special welcome to Stephen Rafalo who will be preaching this morning.

Lectionary Readings

This week 28 September, 2025

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Next week 5 October, 2025

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137 or Lamentations 3:19-26
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Ministry Leave

Rev Gail is on leave until October 14. Please contact one of the ministry team or Sue in the office if you have any pastoral concerns during this time.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet in the chapel on Tuesday at 3pm. They are looking at Study 5—'Dividing lines and drawing in the dust' John 7:1—8:30. All ladies are welcome to join them.

New Church Council Chair-person

Thank you to Brian Truscott for taking on the role of Church Council Chair for the next two years.

Daylight Saving Reminder

Daylight Saving starts next Sunday 5th October so remember to put your clock forward on Saturday night, or you might be late for church!



Presbytery Representative

As you know, we are part of the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery which meets 4 times a year to consider issues relevant to the wider church. Two meetings are via Zoom, usually on Wednesday evenings, and two are in person at Blacktown Uniting Church on a Saturday.

We are looking for a new representative to the Presbytery Meetings, if you are interested please talk to Sue or Rev Gail.



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Psalm 91

We live in love. That is the secret of our existence. We are surrounded by a love that is almost indescribable. It may not feel like it because we often feel disconnected from this love. We're wandering in the wilderness. But remember wilderness for the Psalmist was a desert. It was rocks and sand, sun beating down, sapping strength and life, it was dry, and parched. So, Psalm 91 was a blessing. You who live in the shelter, who abide in the shadow. It was not hiding, it was relief from the blazing sun.

God's love is a relief; from the dry feeling of isolation and abandonment, from the hearts parched from a lack of love that they can sense or receive. Residing in the cool shadow of acceptance and security. Standing up straighter instead of bent over from the weight of emptiness. My refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I trust.

We all feel abandoned at times. At other times we feel inadequate, like we disappointed God. But we know better. We know that God's love is constant and unconditional. And Psalm 91 simply says there is nothing that can happen to us to take it away.

Verse fifteen says God promises to answer whenever we call. We don't always hear the answer but the promise is God will always answer. The second promise from this verse is that God will be with us. "I will be with them in trouble."

We'd prefer God keep us from trouble, but since a lot of the trouble we're in is our own fault and God gives us the freedom to wander away, we should celebrate the good news that even our stubbornness, even our bad choices, even our attempting to take God's place doesn't keep God from being with us.

But wait, that verse does say rescue! "I will rescue them, and honour them." So, there you go! Our get out of jail free card!! Except, it doesn't seem to work that way. God will honour us? By allowing us to make our own choices and then to live with the consequences. That's honouring us.

But we do have that card in the end. We are rescued. Verse sixteen says "with long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation." What could be longer than eternity? That's the promise. That's the rescue. We want something more temporal, usually, but God thinks big picture. And tries to show it to us. Invites us to live it now. Another way of thinking about this protection is to say let's live like God wants us to and see if our lives aren't better, more full, more alive. Let's love like God encourages us to and see if we aren't better lovers all around.