



7 SEPTEMBER 2025



Happy Father's Day to all our dads and honorary dads, we hope you have a great day !

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

A special to welcome to Oksanna and Kennedy and their family and friends who are joining us for the baptism of their son Seven.

Lectionary Readings

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

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

Next week 14 September, 2025

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Games Night

20 September 6.30-8.30

We are having a Games Night on Saturday 20 September in the hall from 6.30-8.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship.

Prayer Reminder

As Gail mentioned last week, you are invited to pray daily during September as we seek to discern God's plan for our congregation.



HOW GREAT IS THE LOVE
THE FATHER HAS LAVISHED
ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE
CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD

1 John 3:1



**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

Rev Gail's Message

The season the church celebrates between Pentecost and Advent is known as the Season of Creation. I have thought a lot about the wonders of creation over the past week as I toured around the island of O'ahu in beautiful Hawaii. I also saw firsthand the environmental devastation we humans are inflicting on the environment.

My family snorkelled in what is touted as the best location on the island only to see dead coral and a handful of fish. I spoke to one of the rangers about the reef's poor health and he told me that prior to the Covid lockdowns up to 7000 people visited the bay every day; Hanauma Bay has literally been loved to death. I asked the ranger if climate change had also impacted the oceans of Hawaii. He replied with a nod and a wink, saying, 'Well, there is no such thing as climate change apparently' referring to the policies of the US and its current leader.

We humans are intimately connected to the earth and its natural ecosystems and I wonder sometimes if we forget that we too are creatures. When we become our own god, dependent on only ourselves, we lose sight of the fact that we rely on this planet to sustain us, its systems give us oxygen to breath, clean water to drink and the harvest of the land to feed us. Indigenous cultures around the world are highly aware of the relationship between all living things and they honour and respect the earth. In a cultural exhibit in the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, my daughter Amber and I sat and rested our tired feet and chatted about the religious myths and spirituality of the first Hawaiian people. We noted many similarities between our Christian faith and theirs and were fascinated by the trinitarian nature of the Creator, who encompassed a father, and elder son and his little brother.

Another story struck me as poignant given the environmental devastation I had witnessed and read about. In one of the ancient myths, the firstborn son of the creator dies and his body is buried in the earth. The second born son becomes the first human and his deceased brother lying in the ground becomes the plant known as Taro. This culturally significant plant sustains and nourishes the Pasifika people giving them life. This myth reminds me of Christ, who came to earth, who died and was buried, in order to rise and give us abundant and eternal life. It also reminds me of the sacredness of all life. In John 1:1-3, we read,

" In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

All things through Christ were made! This should be reason enough for us to respect the earth and all living things. Life is sacred, a fact we have forgotten in this fast paced, highly industrialised world. So, go outside and take advantage of these warmer spring days, take off your shoes, walk barefoot on the ground and give thanks for this world created by God to sustain us and give thanks for Christ who gives us abundant life. Oh, and watch out for bindi eyes, a painful reminder that we live in a beautiful, yet fallen world.