



1 MARCH 2026



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

Lectionary Readings

This week 1 March, 2026

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Next week 8 March, 2026

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

World Vision Child Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our World Vision sponsorship, we have raised more than \$1200.

Ministerial Leave

Rev Gail will be on leave from tomorrow for the next three weeks. If you have any pastoral concerns during this time, please contact one of the ministry team or Sue in the office.

Building Works

Weather permitting, we will be commencing some building works on Thursday this week. The work includes replacing the windows in the chapel and half of the child care centre roof, as well as some minor maintenance items.

This means there will be **no access to the chapel for the next two Sundays except for those on sound and power-point.**

We will still have access to the hall but there will be limited access to the child care centre beyond the toilets, for safety reasons, during the roof replacement work.

World Day of Prayer Service

This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held this Friday 6th March at 10.00am at Merrylands Baptist Church, cnr Newman St and Memorial Ave, Merrylands.

The service will be followed by morning tea and the chance to catch up with people from the other churches in Holroyd.



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A Reflection on Lent from Uniting Church President Rev. Charissa Suli.

Beloved Church,

The Lenten season is not about giving up chocolate. It is not about surviving forty days without coffee. If that is all we do, we have missed the invitation.

We begin this season in a world that feels tense and fragile. There is violence across nations. There is division in public life. We have seen peaceful voices met with tension. We have witnessed how quickly trust can fracture, and how deeply communities can feel wounded. Many are carrying grief, anger and uncertainty – here in Australia and beyond.

Lent asks more of us than surface sacrifice. It asks us to go deeper.

"Return to me with all your heart."

(Joel 2:12)

This is the invitation of Lent:

To examine our hearts.

To confront what shapes our reactions.

To sit longer in prayer than in commentary.

To fast not only from food, but from whatever in us hardens the heart – pride that places us above others, anger that overshadows mercy, and anything that diminishes our witness to Christ's love.

Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness (Matthew 4:1). There, in hunger and testing, he entrusts himself to God.

What if this Lent we did the same?

Let us make space each day to be with God, even in the midst of busy lives.

Let us fast from noise so that we can hear the Spirit more clearly.

Let us practise generosity that stretches us.

Let us listen more carefully to those who feel wounded or unseen.

And let our turning back to God reshape how we pray, what we fast from, and how we live out Christ's love in our congregations and the world.

Lent is not simply about what we relinquish. It is about surrendering ourselves to Christ – and becoming people who love as he loves.

As I reflect on this moment for our Church, I hold this hope:

In unsettled times, we are called to remain anchored in Christ.

When voices divide, we become a praying people.

When hearts grow weary or hardened, we keep mercy alive among us.

We do not turn away from injustice.

But neither do we surrender to fear.

We follow Jesus. Amen.