



Greystanes Grapevine

The weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



15 FEBRUARY, 2026

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 15 February, 2026

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Next week 22 February, 2026

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Offering Envelopes

The new Offering Envelopes for the year commencing 1 March, 2026 are now available on the back table, please take a box if you would like one.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday and Gail will be available during Hands & Feet, between 8.30 and 12.30 for anyone who would like to come into the Sanctuary area to have the sign of the cross placed on their forehead for Ash Wednesday.

World Vision Child Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards our World Vision sponsorship for our three children this year. We will be collecting for another week or so if you would like to donate but have not yet done so.

You can give your gift to Karen S or transfer money direct to our bank account, the details are BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference if possible.

Firewood

We have a number of logs suitable for firewood which are looking for a new home. If you are interested please see Sue.



**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

This Sunday is 'The Transfiguration of Jesus' in the church's calendar. From Matthew's gospel, we will hear the story of Jesus taking Peter, James and John to a mountain top. As soon as they reach the summit Jesus is transfigured; his face shines like the sun and his clothes become a dazzling white. What a sight! If that wasn't spectacular enough, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear and Peter in his usual, 'speak before he thinks' form suggests they should build some shelters for the three shining men to camp in. Does Peter want to keep this moment contained, preserved and managed? Is it too much to handle, a little bit too dazzling to feel safe and therefore needs to be put away? Or perhaps Peter wants to make the moment last. How would you feel coming face to face with the glory of God?

The Bible is full of mountain top experiences, such as Moses speaking with God on a mountaintop and receiving the Ten Commandments, Elijah catching a glimpse of God from a mountain top cave and Jesus climbing to a summit to deliver the Sermon on the Mount. Historians tell us that the ancient people of the Near Middle East believed mountain tops to be the place where heaven and earth meet. There is certainly something special about a mountain top view and we love to visit them. Most tourist destinations will offer visitors a guide to the sights and if there is a view to be seen it is always promoted. Even people with no faith belief, no thought of heaven's existence will feel awe when they experience the bigger picture, the sight of plains, hills, cities, rivers or oceans laid out on the earth beneath them.

Psychologically mountain tops are a place of safety (as long as you stay away from the cliff edges!) because no one can sneak up on us from the high vantage point. Consider how many castles and fortifications are built high up on the peaks of hills and mountains for this reason. On a mountain top we can let our guard down and simply be. In these moments with our defences down God can finally get a word in. Most of us live very busy lives and although we love Jesus it can be hard to make time for him. We may struggle to hear him speak to us let alone experience God's glory.

The truth is that dramatic mountain top experiences in the life of a believer are rare. Have you ever experienced an intense moment of sensing, seeing or feeling the glory of God? I would love to hear about it.

The good news is that we do not have to climb to a hill top everyday to sense, feel and see God's presence. Take on the mountain top perspective and vibe no matter where you are. Grab hold of the bigger picture; look and see that God has everything under control and that this world is in God's hands and that God has a plan to make all things right. Let your guard down and stop your busyness long enough to allow God to get a word in. God is always there, patiently waiting for us to stop and see the blessed, gracious view.