



22 FEBRUARY, 2026



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

Lectionary Readings

This week 22 February, 2026

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

Next 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

World Vision Child Sponsorship

Today is the last day for donations towards our World Vision sponsorship.

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.

World Day of Prayer Service

Each year Christians around the world come together on the first Friday in March to pray for the people of particular nations; this year it is Nigeria.

This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held on 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.

Collection of personal care items

One of our op shop customers is involved in a program that supports homeless men and she has invited us to support their program with donations of personal care items, eg soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo etc. If you are interested in supporting this ongoing program, please place your donation in the box at the back of the chapel any Sunday morning. If you would like any more information about the program please see Yvonne M.



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

Last week we reflected on the Transfiguration of Jesus and we named it a 'mountain top experience'. In theological terms this event was a Theophany, which is a face to face encounter or experience with the glory of God. These experiences are often spontaneous and fleeting and they eventually become distant memories. There is a better way to experience God through an authentic Christian life, (or the Good Life as blogger Brian Fischer calls it, see below) which is all about turning to God with all that we are and all that we have. We become living sacrifices but the payoff is truly wonderful because the Good Life is marked by inner contentment and outward actions of love and kindness.

What prevents us from experiencing a deep and abiding, authentic relationship with God? As I mentioned on Sunday, internet blogger Brian Fischer suggests the following:

Four Obstacles to the Good Life

The first obstacle is **control**. Unconsciously, many of us operate on the idea that safety comes from staying in charge. Vulnerability feels threatening because it requires us to relinquish control and admit dependence.

The second is **avoidance of pain**. We may assume that pain is something to eliminate or numb rather than something inherent to the human condition. Biblically and anthropologically speaking, pain is inevitable. The question isn't whether we'll experience pain but how we move through it and with whom.

The third obstacle is **shame and unworthiness**. We carry internal messages that we are too broken, too needy, or too much to be loved. Even grace feels unlikely when shame defines our sense of worth.

The fourth is **mistrust of God's character**. We may intellectually accept that God exists and that He is loving in theory, but *we are not convinced that He is safe*. We are unsure who God really is and who we really are to Him.

A Question Worth Sitting With

Do we actually want the Good Life?

Are we willing to relinquish control, stay present with pain, risk exposure, and entrust ourselves to God's character? Or are we content to live guarded lives marked by belief without experience?

The tragedy is not that the Good Life is unavailable. The tragedy is that we may not want it.

Duc in altum. - Brian

The extract above is from the following website: <https://soilandroots.org/> If you are keen to cultivate a deep discipleship consider subscribing to the website's newsletter which will be sent to you free of charge via your email address.