



**10 MAY 2026**



## Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, and happy Mother's Day to all who 'mother' within our community.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 10 May 2026 (Mothers' Day)

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

### Next week 17 May 2026

Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

## Trivia Night

We are planning a Trivia night for Saturday 13 June, more details to follow but save the date now.

## Volunteer drivers wanted

We didn't receive food for our Hands & Feet clients this week because Hands & Feet has so many drivers off sick they were unable to collect or deliver the food on Tuesday or Wednesday. If you or someone you know, would be interested in driving a van (car licence) or small truck (LR Licence) please contact them at [info@handsandfeet.com.au](mailto:info@handsandfeet.com.au)

### A prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers who have gone before us.  
**For their love, sacrifice, struggle and joy, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember the mothers of Scripture who are a part of our story as we are a part of your story.  
**For their courage, faith, love and fierceness, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember those who have not given birth to us, but are mothers to us.  
**For their gift of themselves that they have given, we thank you.**

For the women who struggle with fertility, for those women whom society labels as less in their childlessness, for those women who have lost children.  
**For their tears, for their strength, for their wisdom, for their lives, we thank you.**

In your name we pray. Amen.

by Claire Schoepp





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## Rev Gail's Message

As promised this Grapevine will focus on how the books of the Old Testament came to be written. I approach this with some trepidation because it is a long and complicated story that may possibly challenge long held beliefs that God somehow dictated every word. This can lead to an understanding of the Bible as inerrant and true in every way. This is probably how we all approached the Bible in our Sunday School Days. The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which it **hears the Word of God** and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated. (Basis of Union paragraph 5)

**Hearing the Word of God** in scripture means we need to be open to the Spirit of truth and reflective in applying the Word to our daily lives. For those who believe that every word is the literal truth as if written by God there is far less work to do but a whole lot of inconsistencies and contradictions. With The Uniting Church's understanding of the scriptures, "we can acknowledge that God has never left the Church without faithful and scholarly interpreters of Scripture, or without those who have reflected deeply upon, and acted trustingly in obedience to, God's living Word. In particular the Uniting Church enters into the inheritance of literary, historical and scientific enquiry which has characterised recent centuries, and gives thanks for the knowledge of God's ways with humanity which are open to an informed faith. (Basis of Union paragraph 11). Denominations that hold to the inerrancy of the Bible are less open to any kind of scientific or scholarly interpretations. Does this make their witness to Christ and faith any less viable, of course not. So take the following exploration of how the Old Testament came to be as a very Uniting Church perspective and one that you are more than welcome to question and challenge.

Let's start at the beginning, with the beginning, the story of Creation. Within the first two chapters of Genesis there are two slightly different accounts of God creating humankind. In Genesis 1:26-30 we read about God making man, both male and female, which seems to indicate humankind in general, however in Genesis 2:4-7 God makes a man, Adam, and then a woman, Eve. So what is going on here? Did God need a better editor or have two accounts of the same story been included because they were both highly valued and God inspired. The answer is of course the latter. Historians and scholars who research ancient texts tell us that Genesis was most likely written in the fifth century BCE by a number of authors using different sources.

More conservative approaches hold to the theory that Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. Moses' writings may have been a source for the final compositions, however as no originals copies of Moses writings have survived the ravages of time we can never know for certain.

The oldest piece of the Old Testament still in existence today is dated to the seventh century BCE, the second oldest and most famous texts are the Dead Sea Scrolls dating back to 250 BCE. More on the Old Testament next week.

