



5 JULY 2026

Welcome

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 5 July 2026

Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Songs 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Next week 12 July 2026

Genesis 25:19-34
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 119:105-112
Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Save the Date

Our next church family and friends Trivia Night will be on Saturday, August 22nd.



Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Proverbs 1:7, 32-33

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

³² For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”



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Rev Gail's Message

Over the month of July I will be reflecting on our church's values in each edition of the Grapevine. When churches are surveyed or asked to speak of their values, the answers tend to be fairly generic. We like to feel as if we are saying the right thing and more importantly the Christian thing, but this means we may only be committing to particular values on a surface level. I invite you to reflect each week on our values; which ones speak to your heart, which ones do you struggle with?

Belonging and Inclusivity

Feeling like we Belong is a deep need and yearning in the human psyche. Churches are in a unique position to nurture this vital sense of belonging to someone or something. We are a group of people who do not discriminate because the church has always been a group of 'all sorts', beautifully described by Paul in Galatians 3:8: *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* The church as the body of Christ should be the one place that welcomes all people. This is pretty easy on a Sunday morning because we are all united by our faith in Christ but how welcoming are we in other spaces, for example when a friend comes for food on a Wednesday morning wearing a hijab?

It is normal human behaviour to fear those who are different. It is also way too easy for us to vilify, blame and point the finger at those who are different, as the cause of all our societal problems. When we feel that our world views tend towards being exclusive, that is keeping the different ones out, what or whose voice are we listening to? Our families, our politicians, social media, our own voice or the voice of our Lord?

There is a fascinating encounter between Jesus and a woman, who was different, found in Mark 7. Jesus and his disciples have entered the region of Tyre, a gentile province. They are amongst strangers, people who do not share the Jewish faith. Jesus goes to a secret location there and enters a house, perhaps to get some rest from the busyness of his mission. However his presence is noted and it is not long before a gentile woman finds him and begs him to heal her daughter. Jesus then says something that sounds oddly exclusive, "First let the children eat all they want, for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs". Jesus is indicating that his first priority is to proclaim the coming of the God's Kingdom to the people who already know God, the descendants of Abraham, the house of Israel. The woman turns this statement on its head and replies, that "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." She gets the better of Jesus and because of her true and excellent reply, her daughter is healed.

Jesus teaches his disciples through this memorable encounter that the gospel is to be preached to all people. Later God will declare in Acts that Paul "is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel." So the people who were out (Gentiles) were now in and here we are two thousand years later as Christ's body, worshipping, witnessing and serving Greystanes. If we have been graciously included, who are we to exclude?