



19 MAY, 2019

Welcome to worship this morning, please join us for morning tea in the child care centre playground after the service.

Free Filing Cabinets

We have 2 x 4 Drawer filing cabinets looking for a good home. If you are interested, please see Peter Stenning.

Church Council

Councillors are reminded that the next Council meeting has been moved to Thursday next week, 30th May, at 7.30pm in B & A.

*Greystanes Uniting Church
invites you to a*
Sports breakfast
Sat 22 June 8am
@35 Cumberland Rd Greystanes

**Bacon & egg rolls,
tea & coffee \$10**
*Money raised
supports Uniting Church
Farmers Drought Appeal*

RSVP Sue 9636 3245 or
office@greystanesuniting.org.au

GUEST SPEAKER:



*Michael Condon,
retired QANTAS Captain,
46 years flying
internationally, speaking
about becoming an
airline pilot, the lifestyle,
a typical B747 flight
routine & what happens
after retirement.*



Greystanes Uniting Church

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Mark's Message

When we look at the books of the New testament, Revelation stands alone as the odd-one-out. Also referred to as the *Apocalypse of John*, it is the only apocalyptic book in the New testament, which also makes it one of the most special books. Believed to be written around 90 years after Jesus' death by the same author of John's gospel and the three John letters, it comes at a time when Jewish converts believed that all prophecy from God had ceased and "the word" could only be found in the Law and Prophets. It's timing therefore was perfect because Revelation is a book perfectly designed to make us look at the familiar things in our faith from unusual and uncomfortable angles. Throughout the book, we are reminded of the supernatural nature of our faith and the way that aspects of our faith story are far more surreal and world-altering than we give them credit for. Revelation is a book filled with symbolism and strangeness that tells us the story of our faith on a cosmic scale. We are shown heaven. We are shown the throne room of God. We are shown Jesus returning to bring justice to the earth. Revelation forces us to look at these descriptions straight-on and acknowledge that they are definitively not normal understandings of faith. Through this discomfort and disorientation, Revelation reminds us that we believe in something much bigger and more destructive than we typically acknowledge. Revelation helps us to see the familiar in unfamiliar ways and stand in awe of a God who is far beyond our understanding. Through the centuries and still today interpreters and theologians have argued over the meaning of Revelation. Famous Swiss Reformist John Calvin wrote commentaries on every book in the bible except Revelation. Calvin may be much smarter than we have given him credit because to try and decipher Revelation is like entering the realm of God's dreams and thinking you can interpret them. Nonetheless, it is a must read for Christians as it speaks to the imagination, a place that God uses to speak to us.

Roster for 26 May, 2019:

Worship Leader: Rev Mark Beaton
Elder: Julie W
Bible reader: Leo Kefu
Welcomers: Laurie & Sabina
Morning Tea: Elly & Gwen
Cleaning: Sue
Sound: Brian
Powerpoint: Fero
Kids Talk: n/a - baptism

Lectionary Readings

This week 19 May, 2019:

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Next week 26 May, 2019:

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10,22 - 22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Lord hear our prayers:

We thank you God for the special and unique ways in which you speak to us individually and as a group. We pray that through the Holy Spirit you bless us by continuing to answer our supplications and prayers.