



21 JUNE 2020

Please join us for worship on Facebook at 9 am this Sunday morning so we can all worship together.

Lectionary Readings

This Week June 21

Genesis 21: 8-21
Psalm 86:1-10,16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Next Week June 28

Genesis 22: 1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Church Directory Update

Thank you to those who advised us of changes to their details in the Church Directory. If you have changed your contact details in the last year or so, or if you are not currently in the directory and would like to be, please let Sue in the office know, either by phone on 9636 3245 or email at office@greystanesuniting.org.au.

COVID-19 REMINDER: DO THE '3'

Although restrictions have, and are being eased, members are reminded to 'Do the 3': social distancing, regular hand washing & if possible, get the COVID app.

All basic health precautions in relation to the virus remain in place. These are especially important for those planning to visit fellow members and/or re-engage with community activities.
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx>

Op Shop Re-opening

We are planning to re-open the Op Shop on Monday 6th July. We are installing sneeze guard screens and have undertaken a range of measures to help make the shop safe for staff and customers.

If you have been collecting items you are planning to donate to the shop, could we ask you to please consider whether some of the items could be kept until the church fete, which will hopefully be on later in the year.

We are expecting a very high level of donations in the first few weeks after we re-open and if you can consider holding off on some of your donations the shop will not be inundated and we will have stock to sell at the fete.



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SURRENDER

Genesis 28: 10-17, Romans 5: 12-19 and Matthew 10: 24-33

Love is transcendent. When someone loves someone else, their whole life is transformed.

Our reading from Genesis today is a familiar story of twin sons of Isaac, Jacob and Esau. Jacob tricks his father into giving him the birthright due to Esau. He flees into the wilderness where he realises how wrong he has been. Jacob falls asleep and, in a dream, sees a ladder on which angels ascend and descend; the idea being that God is both Lord of heaven and of earth. This is not difficult for you and me to comprehend, but for Jacob it was sensational. In spite of everything he had done, Jehovah was with him, even in the desert. He would never forsake him.

Once again, love is transcendent. When someone knows that God loves them, their whole life can be transformed.

Things aren't as they once were. Everything has changed so quickly. It may appear to some, and certainly feel like, we are alone; God is in heaven, but no longer with us on earth. Be assured that God still loves you. He has not and never will abandon you.

In our gospel reading today Jesus asserts the tremendous worth to God, of one person. ***Matt 10: 29 & 31 "not a sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent – even the hairs of your head have all been counted – you are worth much more than sparrows."***

That same God knows each of you intimately and loves you all the same. You are so valuable that as the apostle Paul wrote in the Romans reading today, ***"It is true that through one man's sin (Adam's sin), death began to rule-but how much greater is the result of what was done by one man, Jesus Christ. All who receive God's abundant grace and are freely put right with him will rule in life through Christ."***

There are many whose stories include times of loneliness and solitude, who, in that very loneliness have surrendered their lives to Christ. Many others can identify an occasion when in public, they sealed forever their relationship with God through Christ Jesus their saviour. Today in public, just as Jesus encouraged his listeners to do in Matthew 10:32, ***"If anyone declares that he belongs to me, I will do the same for him before my Father in Heaven."***

Whether you are lost and lonely at home, whether you are out and about in society, God wants to you to commit yourself to being his people and one of his followers. That may be by simply living a life of love towards others. It may require you to reset your priorities.

Whatever God's calling, I invite you to spend some time in prayerful consideration as to what that calling may look like in your life today, tomorrow and into the future.

Remember, God loves you.— Adrian