



3 MARCH, 2019

Welcome

Welcome to worship, please join us for morning tea in the playground area after the service.

Healing Service

Our Healing Service is tonight at 7pm in the chapel, and all are invited to share this special time.

Sympathy

Our sympathies are with Lola and Charlie and their family following the passing of Lola's adopted mother in New Zealand this week. Please keep the family in your prayers at this difficult time.

New Treasurer

Thank you to Jac for volunteering to take on the role of interim treasurer for the next year. This means we are still needing a treasurer and Jac is looking forward to having someone working with him to learn the ropes. Church Council has split up the treasurer's role and the payroll will move to the Synod Payroll Bureau, and the bookkeeping and payments will be done through MYOB and done by the office, and so if you are thinking of taking on the role, this a great chance to work alongside Jac and work into the role.

Lent

Lent begins this week and we will be having a Lenten Bible study on Thursday mornings, commencing on Thursday 21st March. Details of the study material will be available soon.

Prayer & Fasting Day

On Saturday 16th March we will be having a Prayer & Fasting Day here at the church. The church space will be open for prayers so people are able to drop in and pray for the welfare and Spirit leading of our church.

We would encourage you to come and pray together for Jesus' church in Greystanes.

The fasting component will be between you and God, but there is a suggestion of fasting from 6am-6pm.

The day will start at 7am, and Mark will be leading the first hour, then the elders will be leading the rest of the morning until 12 noon.

*This is my
chosen Son,
listen to Him*

Luke 9:35



Greystanes Uniting Church

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Mark's Message

I imagine we are aware of Jesus preaching in his hometown synagogue declaring his (and therefore our) mission found in Luke 4:18-19. Here it is; *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

Interesting to note that his words *"recovering of sight to the blind"* is not quoted directly from the Old Testament, but appears to be inspired by Isaiah 35:5 or 42:7. Whether we accept the words of scripture literally or seek truth in the meaning of Jesus' words you must ask yourself who was Jesus specifically referring to if he is not prophesying Isaiah verbatim. You see it is easy to default that when referring to the blind we connect them with the other kinds that Jesus' mentions (i.e. oppressed, captives, poor) which may tilt you to think that the blind are as Paul describes the "have nots" of the world, those who have less be it money, wisdom or freedom. But Jesus' message to proclaim the good news is for all people because we personally know that at different times in our own lives we will feel like a captive- trapped behind the bars of illness and isolation, we will experience oppression by bureaucracy and legislation, and we will be poor-no more said. I feel Jesus' reference to blind are those who have very little but also to those who have much. We as people anointed by the Spirit are not only called to minister to the disadvantaged, refugees and the homeless (which seems the focus of church missions) but ALL people including the affluent and those super-comfortable in life. Where Jesus' words point to the those struggling in our community we must also have intentional ministries targeting those who dwell in opulence and privilege, those blinded by money and indulgence. To proclaim the Lord's favour means to help build up those who have little and to break down the walls of those who can't see over their walls of wealth.

Roster for 10 March, 2019:

Worship Leader: Rev Mark Beaton
Elder: Laurie / Adrian
Bible reader: Julie T
Welcomers: Laurie & Sabina
Morning Tea: Fero & Imi
Cleaning: Sue
Sound: Brian
Powerpoint: Kaye
Kids Talk: n/a - baptisms

Lectionary Readings

This week 3 March, 2019:

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2
Luke 9:28-36(37-43a)

Next week 10 March, 2019:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4: 1-13

Lord hear our prayers:

Father in heaven and on earth bless us with your Spirit that we may look in all areas of our lives, in all our relationships and connections to demonstrate the good news of Jesus Christ. Give us courage, make us fearless, help us to be considerate and compassionate for your sake. Amen.