



8 SEPTEMBER 2019

Welcome

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

Thank you everyone

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to Chris's thanksgiving service on Thursday.

So many people worked together to provide a great morning tea and a really special service.

We have really valued your prayers and support over the last 8 months, Sue, Leon and Kate.

Sue will be on leave for a time so please contact Peter in the office if you need anything.

Congratulations

To Ben Smith our long time drummer on his engagement to Kris.

Reminders for this week

Allity Aged Care Service - Tues 10th
at 10.45am

Ladies Bible Study -Fri 13th at
7.30pm

Looking ahead

Elders Council -Wed 18 Sept

Church Council-Thur 19 Sept

Prayer and Fasting Day -
Now moved to October
[details to come]

Church Picnic- Afternoon on the green: On Sunday 27th October between 1-4 pm we have the green booked at Merrylands Bowling Club. Some of the Merrylands Bowling Committee will be there to help form groups and spend an afternoon playing barefoot bowls.

Sports Breakfast (Early advice): The next Sports breakfast will hopefully be on Saturday 23rd November between 8.00 and 10.00 am. We will have 2 speakers and they will be both a past and a present National Rugby League referee. Still to be confirmed.

Electronic Sign Progress

There have been few setbacks but hopefully it will be completed this week. We plan for a blessing and a live launch next Sunday 15 September [all being well]



Greystanes Uniting Church

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Mark's Message

Since protests began more than 12 weeks ago over an extradition bill that would allow Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China for trial, the city's Christian community has taken an active role.

Christian groups regularly participate in the marches that have coursed through Hong Kong's streets every weekend since June, and their pleas for peaceful protests and their hymns and prayers are often heard along with protest chants. One hymn, "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord," written in 1974, has caught on as an anthem of the protests, sung by believers and nonbelievers alike. The Christian hymn not only inspires, it grants the protesters some protection under a technicality in Hong Kong law of public assembly that exempts religious gatherings. The bill that brought the protesters out into the streets has since been suspended, but the demonstrations have continued, turning into a larger campaign for democracy and for maintaining the "one country, two systems" model agreed upon when the former British colony returned to China in 1997. While some Hong Kong residents see violence as the only way to obtain their demands, many, including most Christians, choose to support the protests through peaceful means. The city's Christians number about 900,000, or 12% of Hong Kong's population of roughly 7.5 million. Christian organizations including the Hong Kong Christian Council, the Catholic Diocese, the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong and the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union have officially voiced their concerns over the extradition bill. The protests have provided Christians with an opportunity to voice their concerns about religious freedom. If China ends the "one country, two systems" status quo, they fear, the persecution of religious denominations in mainland China may spread to Hong Kong. On August 23rd, thousands of people gathered in Chater Garden for the first large-scale political rally specifically for Christians. With the motto "Salt and light, for justice we walk together," the rally aimed to "provide all Christians a platform to express themselves outside the church, hoping people would safeguard Hong Kong by singing, praying, worshipping God and at the same time speaking up for justice and standing together with all the Hongkongers in difficult times. *Ministry matters/Alexandra Radu*

Roster for 15 September 2019

Worship Leader: Rev Mark Beaton
Elder: Laurie
Bible Reader: Peter S
Welcomers: Vicky & Mandy
Morning Tea: Elizabeth & Peter
Cleaning: Peter & Karen
Sound: Brian
Powerpoint: Kaye
Kids Talk: Karen

Lectionary Readings

This week 8 September

Jeremiah 18: 1-11
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18/
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14: 25-33

Next week 15 September

Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28
Psalm: 14
1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Luke 15: 1-10

Lord hear our prayers

We pray for those Christians who suffer from religious oppression and persecution. Grant them courage and protection as they peacefully fight for freedom to express the Christian gospel to so many people who have yet to experience the "good news".