



**Bible Reading**



**8am & 9.30am:**

*Romans 10: 8b-13, Luke 4: 1-13*

**Response after Bible Readings**

**Leader:** Hear the word of the Lord

**Response:** Thanks be to God



Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.

Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.

**OPEN FROM 9.30AM**

**Livestreaming**

at all three worship services

**8am**

**9.30am**

**6.45pm**

**8am—Worship**

*Includes Holy Communion*

Led by Mike Strong and Clive Pearson

**9.30am—Worship**

*Includes Holy Communion*

Led by Daniel Gibb and Clive Pearson

**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-6



**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**

*Includes Holy Communion*

Led by Jane Cole and Clive Pearson

**Thank you for worshipping with us today.**

**What's happening this week at St. Matthew's**

**MONDAY  
7 March**

**9am-Pricing** lower hall

**TUESDAY  
8 MARCH**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**9.30am—Christian Meditation**  
in the church

**WEDNESDAY  
9 MARCH**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**10.00am—Women's Fellowship**  
Upper hall & church

**THURSDAY  
10 MARCH**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**7pm—Netball Assoc meeting**  
Upper hall

**FRIDAY  
11 MARCH**

**7pm-9pm—Fusion**

**Youth Group** at the church  
Water games

**SATURDAY  
12 MARCH**

**No Scheduled activities**

**SUNDAY  
13 MARCH**

**8am—Worship**

**9am—Worship @ the Willow's**

**9.30am—Worship**

**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-6

**6.45pm—Worship**



**MINISTERS - EVERYONE**

**SUPPLY MINISTER**

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024

Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS  
MINISTRY WORKER**

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*

Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**SENIORS PASTORAL CARER**

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*

Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

**OFFICE :** 9686 3003

**LOCATION:**

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS  
BAULKHAM HILLS

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

**WEB SITE:** www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**Weekly newsletter available on website**

**EMAIL:** office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**FACEBOOK:**

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**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au

## The Lure of a Temptation

Every one of the first three gospels provides an account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. In some ways it mirrors the wanderings of Moses and the tribes of Israel in the Sinai desert. The forty years there becomes forty days in Jesus' temptations. In the case of Luke the temptations follow on from his baptism and come before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee, his reading from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue in his own home town, the calling of the first disciples and the sermon on the plain. The placement of the temptations in Luke is important. They show forth his integrity for the work that is to be carried out and his faithfulness to the purposes of God before he enters the public stage. There was no ICAC in first-century Palestine: a good temptation scene serves the equivalent of that purpose.

The German scholar Michael Welker has emphasized the role of the Spirit in Jesus' down-to-earth public ministry. The Spirit descended at his baptism and now, full of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit leads him into the wilderness. The temptation scene itself is crafted as a contest between the devil and Jesus. The biblical scholar, Walter Wink, has argued that we are all surrounded by impersonal powers and forces that tempt us, woos us, lead us into choices that are good and bad. Wink even suggests that congregations have their own angels and demons: he is not thinking of personalities, individuals here, but habits, suggestions and influences. On that basis we might well ask in this Lenten season of temptation and wilderness experiences, what are the angels and demons in our congregations? For a temptation to be worthy of being a temptation it needs to be attractive, alluring, enticing. There is no point in presenting a temptation or overcoming it if it is not worth resisting! The temptations offered to Jesus are timed for a moment of vulnerability: after forty days fasting he is famished. He is presented with the options of food (thus, physical sustenance at a time of great hunger), power and authority along the lines of how the 'world' normally thinks of those things, and a superman/spiderman/batman-like equivalent of divinity. It is a cleverly constructed dialogue: the devil poses his questions in the form of a hypothetical, a maybe, a possibility.... if .....Jesus responds in a

more active voice: 'It is written'.

Just as Peter will later deny Jesus three times, and Pilate will say three times that he finds no reason for Jesus to be put to death, so the devil tempts Jesus three times. For the moment the devil retreats but the contest is not over: the devil remains waiting for 'an opportune moment'. On the cross it is not the devil who poses the questions 'if you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'. The temptations at the last come through 'the leaders', the soldiers and one of the criminals.

### 'Signs of the Times'.

One of the key ideas in Luke is the capacity to discern the signs of the times (Luke 12:54-56). This week we have before us the war on Ukraine and extreme weather events. Around the world Christian leaders have been calling for peace and a ceasefire. Pope Francis called upon the Roman Catholic Church to observe Ash Wednesday as a day of fasting and prayer for peace in the Ukraine. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2022/03/01/ash-wednesday-ukrainians-invasion/> <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/pope-francis-prayer-peace>)

For a song for peace in Ukraine, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYR8EuJ7sQI>

The following prayer is adapted and comes to us from the Pilgrim Uniting Church in Adelaide. It was prayed in response to last year's floods.

*God who walks across the water,  
reach out your hand  
to the people of New South Wales, and  
Queensland  
where the rains continue,  
roads are flooded,  
dams broken, rivers swollen,  
families evacuated from their homes:*

*Reach out your hand, O God,  
that makes in those who fear to sink  
new Peters –  
finding themselves lifted  
to help a neighbour,  
to share food, seek shelter,  
care for COVID protocols.  
And bless, O Holy One,  
the ministry of disaster recovery chaplain  
in the days of rain to come and the task of  
recovery Amen.*

Yours in Christ,

*Clive*



## PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Warwick Hayes

Alan Watson

Norma Hillier

*Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.*



*A reminder to everyone if you would like to attend the Lenten Studies.*

Beginning on Tuesday 15 March at 10.30am and 7.30pm, and continuing on Tuesday 22 and 29. It is preferable if you register so that we can plan how many copies of the study to provide, but even if you do not register, you can still attend and bring a friend from outside St. Matthew's.

Please see the March In Focus for more details.

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

### 6 — 12 March

*Ireland, and United Kingdom:  
England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales*

### *Being prepared for next week's worship:*

## Lent 2

**Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.**  
**Theme: Citizenship.**

This Lenten season invites us to consider the nature of citizenship. In our day and age citizenship has become an important factor in determining rights and responsibilities; some of us may have dual citizenships through the act of migration. Others are denied citizenship, residency, refugee or asylum-seeker status. In the Christian faith there are two traditions of citizenship – the earthly and the heavenly. This distinction has sometimes been described as the teaching of the 'two kingdoms' – the earthly city and the city of God. What Paul is seeking to remind the Philippians is how, though they live in a Roman colony, they have another citizenship which binds them to 'the cross of Christ'. The implicit tension between these two citizenships / 'cities' is further evident in the reading taken from Luke. The name Jerusalem actually means 'city of peace' – and yet Jesus laments its record: it is the 'city' (the power) that kills the prophets. It is at odds with this other citizenship. For us this theme of two citizenships raises a potential point of tension: what happens when your being a citizen in Christ is at odds with your being a citizen of Australia?

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE

The more people we have then the less often you will be required.



Earl Gray is working with the Office to organise a new roster. Contact the Church Office to volunteer.

**'With Love to the World'**  
a daily Bible reading guide  
based on the  
Revised Common Lectionary  
**Volume 16, Number 10**  
**Lent and Easter**

14 February — 15 May 2022

is available in the foyer.

Please place **\$5** in offering bag  
to cover costs.

**ST. MATTHEW'S BAULKHAM HILLS**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**  
**AS AT 1 DECEMBER 2021.**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Barbara Gibb  
**SECRETARY:** Terry Oliver  
**TREASURER:** Alastair Burn  
**ELDERS Chairperson:** Helen Olley  
**ELDERS Secretary:** Melissa Gibson-Darling  
**Co-Opted members:** David Neideck

**Karen Vandenberg (Staff HR Liaison/support)**

**To Contact CC Executive: please email Barbara -  
barbara.gibb@bigpond.com**

**CHRISTOPHER C. WALKER**

# DISCIPLESHIP: THINGS TO REMEMBER

SIX LENTEN STUDIES ON BEING A  
FOLLOWER OF JESUS IN OUR TIME

## THE AUTHOR

Rev Dr Christopher Walker is an ordained minister of the Uniting Church in Australia with a PhD in theology from Claremont University in California. Chris has served in a range of positions and places in the Uniting Church. Chris is an adjunct lecturer in the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University. He lives in Sydney with his wife, Dell. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Chris has written and edited over a dozen books, including *Thinking the Faith*, *Living the Faith: An Introduction to Christian Theology* (2017), *For Times Such as These*, *Commending the Faith in Australia Today: Eight Studies* (2018) and *Jesus Still The One, the Christian message for a postmodern world* (2019). Most recently, Chris has written two Advent Bible Studies in 2020 and 2021 and a Lenten Bible Study in 2021 published by MediaCom Education.

**MediaCom**  
EDUCATION

**Invitation** to a series of 6 Lenten studies, to be led by the author, Rev Dr Chris Walker. We had a great group with Chris in Advent 2021, so Chris is back by popular demand!

**What: Six-week Lenten study on the book: "Discipleship: Things to Remember".**

Session 1: "Remember where you came from and what God has done for you."

Session 2: "Remember your citizenship is in heaven."

Session 3: "Remember to seek the Lord, recognising that God's ways are not our ways."

Session 4: "Remember you are a new creation in Christ, called to the ministry of reconciliation."

Session 5: "Remember the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ and press toward the goal."

Session 6: "Remember to have the same mind as Christ and serve him unashamedly."

Order the book NOW from MediaCom:  
\$13.95 per copy

<https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/discipleship-things-to-remember-six-lenten-studies-on-being-a-follower-of-jesus-in-our-time/>

**Why:** To deepen your discipleship in life and specifically to prepare you to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

**Who:** Anyone who feels called to deepen their faith.

**When:** 7.30-9.00pm 6 Mondays: 7, 14, 21, 28 March & 4, 11 April.

**Where:** The same Zoom link each time:

Topic: PNP Lenten studies with Chris Walker (see above)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98886955795?pwd=aXorT2RLRlMzdE1uSVkyclVUNClPdZ09>

Meeting ID: 988 8695 5795

Passcode: 506655

**No need to register – just turn up on Zoom!**  
**Please email Rob to say you're coming.**

**Rev Dr Rob McFarlane**  
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Parramatta Nepean Presbytery  
Uniting Church in Australia

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