



Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Acts 1: 1-11, Luke 24: 44-53

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



Ascension Sunday

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 . 8am
three . 9.30am
worship .
services . 6.45pm

8am—Worship
Led by Michael Strong, Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship
Led by Albert Olley, Clive Pearson

CUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8



5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Daniel Gibb, Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 30 MAY

9am—Sorting for Op Shop
lower hall

TUESDAY 31 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church
7.30pm-9.30pm—Thrive Bible Study lower hall

WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

THURSDAY 2 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop and Mini Mart in the lower hall
10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery
Guest Speaker Clive Pearson
Topic: Confessions of an Accidental Theologian
in the upstairs hall and church

FRIDAY 3 JUNE

7pm-9pm—Alive Youth Group upstairs hall

SATURDAY 4 JUNE

9am-12pm—Op-Shop and Mini Mart in lower hall
10am—Care & Prayer
in the Church/Community Room
10am-3pm—St. Matthew's Endurance Series
in upstairs hall

SUNDAY 5 JUNE

8am—Worship
9.30am—Worship
CUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
6.45pm—Worship



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:

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The Ascension

Thursday this week was Ascension Day. In some parts of the world – and, in others in past times – you would have got a holiday. In contemporary Australia it passes unnoticed. It cannot compete, it seems, with the aftermath of the federal selections or the latest sporting triumph – besides which there are so many other things to do. In the Uniting Church the ascension of Christ rarely creates a ripple across the surface. All this is strange. The ascension of Christ has profound implications for you!

It is likely that its relative neglect is due to the imagery it evokes. Jesus ascending in a cloud seems to defy gravity and seemingly suggests a three-tiered universe. It is arguably the case that the resurrection is a little easier to handle. There is an irony here. The ascension of Christ has become popular amongst artists – the most notable painting would be the one by Salvador Dali back in 1958. Dali's 'The Ascension of Christ' was painted at a time of growing concern over the possibility of nuclear conflict.

Of all the gospel writers it is only Luke that shows any particular interest in providing an account of the ascension. He does so, not once but twice. The gospel of Luke ends with the ascension and the book of Acts begins with a slightly modified version. That this should be the case raises an interesting question as to why Luke alone feels obliged to give so much attention to an 'event' that seldom disturbs us in the Uniting Church.

Luke addressed his gospel and the book of Acts to 'Dear Theophilus'. He is writing primarily for a Gentile audience. Through his account of Paul's missionary journeys we see the gospel spreading well and truly beyond Palestine – and all the while time is passing. Except for a handful forays during this ministry did not venture far beyond the borders of Galilee and Judea. In the immediate wake of the empty tomb the resurrection appearances happen in Jerusalem, on the road to Emmaus and in Galilee. In a manner of speaking the resurrection leaves the risen Jesus in first century Palestine. It will be his ascension that allows Brian Wren to write the words

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now,
and conquer every place and time.

This contemporary hymn is often sung on Easter Day – but, strictly speaking, it is an Ascension Day hymn. That use signifies a tendency we sometimes have of collapsing the resurrection and ascension of Christ into one. It is a mistake. The resurrection represents 'the standing up again' of the crucified Jesus in the midst of disciples and followers; he may appear and disappear but it happens in a kind of down-to-earth way. The ascension signifies the crucified and resurrected Jesus taking leave of apostles and disciples and returning to the presence of God. It is like an

act of 'completion'. Being back in the presence of God makes this Jesus – through the Spirit – available to other times and places – hence, to us.

In the gospel of Luke the disciples, following Jesus' ascension, head to the Temple in joy. Until the coming of the Spirit – Pentecost – it leaves open what might happen next. That space, that moment in time, could easily lend itself to a number of questions and uncertainty. That point in time has been captured in the words of a hymn that Michael Earl, the minister at Bowral, captured some years ago.

- 1. Now in this middle time,
expectant and unsure,
Lord Jesus, shall your love
remain forevermore?
Will mercy still be shared,
the kingdom still arrive,
the broken hearted made anew,
the dead, alive?*
- 2. For with us you have been,
your presence, God's, own will,
we pray now in your absence,
you'll be present still.
Available to all,
no bounds of time and space,
the living hope for all who look
upon your face.*
- 3. We wait, we wait, to go,
your witnesses to be,
the pilgrim people of
the new community.
But only in your power,
your love and joy to share,
will we the church with power,
your love and joy declare.*
- 4. We raise our eyes to see
you disappear from sight,
restored to God's right hand,
you reign in power and might.
But relocate our hearts,
that though we live in you,
the suffering world would be the sphere
we witness to.*

Music and art for Ascension Day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmA1bt1mpxs>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Barry Gregory
Lachlan Fear

John Kolosowski
Barbara Mallyon

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

Save the Date

Coffee and Discovery 10am Thursday 2 June

Speaker Clive Pearson

*"Confessions of an
Accidental Theologian"*

The church council has approved the following representatives on the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) to call a new minister for St Matthews.

Eulalie Herat – 8.00am

Dean Drayton - 9.30am

Helen Olley -9.30am

Karen Vandenberg- 9.30am

Mike Underwood-9.30am

Alexander Lawless – 6.45pm

Presbytery appointed representatives on this committee are

Rev Grant Aitkin's (Chairperson)

Carmel Ieraci

Please continue this process and the committee members with yours prayers.

The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Click on the metal bird image / publications.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

29 May—4 June

Angola, Mozambique



**Thursday 2 June
9am-2pm
and
Saturday 4 June
9am-12pm**

**Electrical and Books
(Fiction, Non-fiction & Children's Books)**

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

St. Matthew's
Uniting Church
growing together

All Group Leaders and Others

Please remember to **ALWAYS** lock and activate the security alarm at the conclusion of your gatherings at the church.

Please also **ALWAYS** turn off all lights, close windows, **turn off air-conditioners and fans.**

And leave the space neat and tidy ready for the next group. *Thank you.*

With Love to the World

Pentecost



'With Love to the World'
a daily Bible reading guide
based on the
Revised Common Lectionary
**Volume 16, Number 11
Pentecost**

16 May 2022—14 August 2022
is available in the foyer.

Please place **\$5**
in offering bag
to cover costs. You may
also pay via Pushpay

Vol. 16, No. 11 16 May - 14 August 2022 ISSN 0729-042X



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

5 June 2022

Pentecost

*On being
a person
of spirit*

5 June 2022 Sunday:

8am

9:30am

6:45pm

Bible Readings:

Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17

Throughout the gospel that bears his name Luke has frequently invoked the Spirit. More than Matthew and Mark the Spirit is at work in the public ministry of Jesus. His life ends on the cross with him committing his Spirit back into the hands of God. Now his sequel, the book of Acts, takes up the narrative of the Spirit at work in the mission of God, the life of the church, and prepares the way for an understanding of the Spirit in the personal Christian life.

On the day of Pentecost the Spirit fulfils two functions. It enables people to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. That is one of the functions or vocations of the Spirit in the Christian faith. The other is that allows people from different parts of the Roman Empire (and beyond) to hear the good news in their own language. There is a vital point to be made here. IN the course of the twentieth century movements arose in the church where people spoke 'in tongues'. They spoke in words that they did not understand – and seemingly others around them did not as well: in his epistle to the church at Corinth Paul will reflect on the need to understand what happens in worship and the test of that is whether the stranger in the midst will comprehend. This speaking in tongues is called

glossolalia. That is not what is happening on the day of Pentecost in this reading from book of Acts. This account is much more closely related to the reversal of the story of the tower of Babel where God confused the languages of people (Genesis 11:1-9).

Some years ago I was teaching a class on cross cultural ministry and theology. One of our Korean women wrote an impressive essay which went on to win a prize for being the best in the Sydney Theological College. It was reckoned to represent new voice on the Australian scene. It sat along such writings and reflections from other Korean and Pacific Island migrants who wondered what it was like to sing the Lord's song in a strange land (echoes of Psalm 137 and Boney M's hit, "By the waters of Babylon"). Our Korean prize-winner made an important distinction between hearing the gospel, praying and singing in the language 'we get by in' (in this case English) and her 'language of the heart'.

The descent of the Spirit in the book of Acts may lead bystanders to wonder if these folk are drunk at so early an hour in the morning. It more properly represents the Spirit singing in 'the language of the heart'.



Donations of fresh flowers

Katherine Pedersen is asking the church for donations of fresh flowers and foliage from members of the congregation who have excess to their needs. Katherine uses the flowers and foliage to make up arrangements to sell at the Op shop, and also to give to people we know who would benefit from receiving a gift from the church community.

Please contact Katherine Pedersen on 0437 772 011



Uniting Mission & Education

Out of the Box Missional Conference 2022

The mission Enablement team would love to **extend an invitation** to your congregations to attend **Out of the Box Missional Conference 2022 "Equipping disciples for a growing, contemporary, and courageous church"**, coming this

July 29th-30th.

Josh Wyatt – as part of UME’s Mission Enablement Team – is making PNP a very generous offer of a discount for pre-booked and group tickets. This is an amazing opportunity for teams of people from PNP congregations to participate in the conference. Attending as a team enables the learning at the conference to translate into action in congregations. Often, there can be great learning at conferences for individuals who come back enthused but are then deflated. Being part of a group keeps the momentum going.

Additional discounts are available when 8 or more tickets are purchased in a single transaction.

See more on the UME Website: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/out-of-the-box-missional-conference/>

OUT OF THE BOX

MISSIONAL CONFERENCE

29-30 JULY 2022 - CENTRE FOR MINISTRY NORTH PARRAMATTA
ume.nswact.uca.org.au

Out of the Box Missional Conference will sell out, so we want to offer you Presale Discounted Tickets when they go on sale 10AM, Thursday 19th of May.



REV TIM COSTELLO AO



REV ELLIE ELIA



OUT OF THE BOX
MISSIONAL CONFERENCE
29-30 JULY 2022 - CENTRE FOR MINISTRY NORTH PARRAMATTA
ume.nswact.uca.org.au

Uniting Mission & Education

Our Speakers...

This year we are thrilled to welcome Rev. Tim Costello AO and Rev. Ellie Elia as our Keynote Speakers. What’s more, be a part of Missional Masterclasses: bespoke electives focussing on a range of subjects such as: intercultural ministry, music, digital, storytelling, pioneering, and more, lead by Rev Dr Grace Ji-sun Kim, Dr Byron Smith, Natasha Holmes, Rev Dr Karina Kreminski and Dr Armen Gakavian, and Josh Wyatt.



DR BYRON SMITH



REV DR GRACE JI-SUN KIM



DR ARMEN GAKAVIAN



REV DR KARINA KREMINSKI



NATASHA HOLMES



JOSHUA WYATT



Penrith Uniting Church Hub Young Adult Worker 2.5-3 days per week Commencing as soon as possible

Penrith Uniting Church Hub is a development of the Uniting Church congregations and groups within the Penrith LGA in Western Sydney. We minister to people from many cultural and language backgrounds in places with varying levels of disadvantage. We also connect with the Kingswood Campus of Western Sydney University.

We are looking for a person to come and grow the collection of younger adults in the region. through developing connection, discipleship, and leadership. Our hope is that as this group grows and strengthens together, this ministry will extend into the local community, including into the University campus.

We are seeking someone who can hit the ground running in developing this ground-breaking ministry with younger adults, especially from multi-cultural backgrounds. The successful applicant will work with the support of the Team leader and a growing ministry team which is beginning to be put in place. There is also support from PULSE from the Synod. The position is funded for 2 years, and we intend to develop it to continue after that time.

Applicants must hold a valid Working with Children Check Clearance from the NSW Office of the Children’s Guardian before applying for this position.

It is preferable that the Applicant will have a good knowledge of the Uniting Church and have completed Ethical Ministry Foundational training and Safe Church Awareness Training (or be prepared to do so).

For all enquiries and applications, please contact Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly for a detailed Position Description or for more information. cbaykel@gmail.com or 0409 925 607.

CLOSING DATE: 30th May 2022