



**Bible Reading**

**8am & 9.30am:**

Galations3: 23-29, Luke 8: 26-39

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

**8am—Worship**

Led by Vivienne Strong  
 and Clive Pearson

**9.30am—Worship**

Led by Sharon Underwood  
 and Clive Pearson

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



**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**

Led by Nicola Lawless  
 and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 20 JUNE**

**7.30pm—Netball Meeting**  
 upstairs hall

**TUESDAY 21 JUNE**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am—Christian Meditation**  
 in the church  
**7.30pm-9.30pm—Thrive**

**WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**8pm—Church Council meeting**  
 in the upstairs hall & church

**THURSDAY 23 JUNE**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 24 JUNE**

**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group** 'Master Chef' upstairs hall  
**7.30pm—Choir practice in the church for Choir reunion**

**SATURDAY 25 JUNE**

**2pm-4pm—Church and Community Room in use**

**SUNDAY 26 JUNE**

**8am—Worship**  
**Includes Choir item**

**9.30am—Worship**  
 KUCA 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:**

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
 PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

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

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## Baptized .. into freedom

At face value the easier route this week is to focus upon the Galatians' reading. It is so well known, of course, because it expresses that conviction that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither male nor female, neither free nor slave. In the context of its own time and placing it is the most radical statement of inclusion that could have been made. It breaks through many of the constraints and boundaries of the ancient world and leads to the newly minted Christian faith being deemed to be a 'new race'. It is like saying that your Christian identity comes from your baptism. Today it can ask questions about how our Christian faith sits alongside our status as being citizens and residents in Australia which is expressed through passports and visas.

Paul was writing to the Galatians because they seemed to have fallen back into some old habits. It seems as if they are beginning to observe some customs of the law again – like those to do with diet and circumcision. Paul is disappointed: 'who has bewitched you?'. He is asking them what then has been the point of your baptism, your dying to the old self and rising to new life in Christ. What he is showing them is that in taking up the practices of the law like this they lose their Christian freedom.

Freedom is a buzz word these days: we have political movements that aspire after freedom. (As a matter of fact the Latin root of the word 'liberal' comes from the word to be free). During the height of COVID-19 lockdowns we had protest marches that gathered under the name of freedom. It is a word that requires some care and definition. In the Christian faith freedom does not mean 'anything goes'. It is freedom in Christ, freedom in and through your baptized life. In the context of the epistle to the Galatians freedom represents freedom from those practices of the law – but only because you are 'justified' through your faith in Christ and seek to live a life in keeping with that freedom. The epistle closes with a recognition of how it is a freedom to serve others – 'to do good to all' – and not just a personal freedom.

This focus on Galatians seemingly allows us to sidestep Luke's account of the Gerasene demoniac. In the ancient world there was a

firm belief in demons – as indeed there is in many non-western cultures today. One aspect of Jesus' ministry was the exorcising demons – and here is an account of such. We may not believe in demons like was believed in the ancient world: we now have names for many psychological conditions that could not be managed in the past. But that does not mean that there are not demonic or evil forces at work in cultures that bind and imprison people.

Jesus exorcises this demon that possesses the naked Gerasene man who lives in the tombs. His neighbours cannot restrain him effectively nor restore him 'to his right mind'. The episode closes with two rather powerful points. Jesus' capacity to heal this man, to drive out the demons, leaves the man's neighbours afraid. Maybe that fear is more like awe when a very difficult problem is resolved. Of equal interest is Jesus' words to the former demoniac. In response to his desire to now come with Jesus, he is told to return home and 'declare how much God has done for you'. The Gerasene is a Gentile. He lives in a land 'opposite Galilee'. Even before Jesus sends his disciples out to the villages of his own people he commands the Gerasene demoniac, a Gentile, to proclaim the gospel to his fellow Gentiles.

We might say that, in Luke's gospel, the Gerasene demoniac is preparing the way for that new baptismal identity of freedom: in Christ there is neither Jew, nor Gentile.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Clive*

The Gerasene demoniac sculpture

Steve Neve

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A\\_4kwDPhimM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_4kwDPhimM)

Works of art on the Gerasene demoniac:

<https://lectionaryart.org/2019/06/18/the-gerasene-demoniac-and-the-gadarene-swine/>

'Who is my mother, who is my brother?'  
(Shirley Murray)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6v9poBRV8I>



## PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Craig Longmuir  
Miles Medcalf

Bev Chivers  
Christine Haines

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

### 19-25 June

**Malawi, Zambia**

## Church Mowing

We have had a generous donation of a new mower which will be kept permanently in the garden shed at church. This opens the opportunity if you are considering joining the mowing roster you won't now need to transport a mower to the church.

For more formation contact George Haines  
0478693245

## Save the Date

**Coffee and Discovery 10am Thursday 7 July**

Guests Musicians

**Noleen & David Neideck**

Please come along and enjoy a concert filled with the music of Noleen and David.



## 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

## 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



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## '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

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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

Click on the metal bird image / publications.



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

**26 June 2022**

**Pentecost 3**

**Uniting Church  
Anniversary**

**26 June 2022 Sunday:**

**8am, 9:30am &  
6:45pm**

**Bible Readings:**

**Galatians 5: 13-25**

**Luke 9: 51-62**

The Uniting Church came into being in 1977. Its existence is a fruit of the ecumenical spirit. Its formation was reckoned to be a sign of hope and joy. It was imagined at the time that the Uniting Church would become a 'movement' rather than just another denomination. Its very name 'uniting' rather than 'united' captured that hope. It was recognized in its *Basis of Union* that, through time, the church must respond to fresh challenges; the Uniting Church professed its belief that 'in his own strange way Christ constitutes, rules and renews [the disciples] as his Church'.

Sometimes the church – the whole church – goes through a season of setback. The *Basis* actually refers to how we can run the risk of 'losing the way'. Our reading from the gospel of Luke reminds us that the journey of faith is an adventure that can cut across our default modes of

security and certainty: the we are called to follow did not have an election manifesto of promises and tax cuts. He reminds those who seek to follow that 'foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests but the son of man has nowhere to lay his head'. There is an open-endedness about a future that is breaking in upon those who set out.

In the midst of the current difficulties facing the Uniting Church we can recall that Christ has set us free; that we are called to love our neighbour as oneself. In demanding times the fruits of the Spirit that Paul speaks of in his epistle to the Galatians are priceless. What might it mean for a church to embody and witness to its neighbours a life in the Spirit that is marked by 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control'.

## **Preschool - Raising money for Kids Cancer and supporting one of our own community**

We would like to bring to the Church Communities attention the case of Demi, one of the Preschool students (and also daughter of Marly, a member of teaching staff)

Demi was recently diagnosed with a rare & incurable, inoperable brain tumor.

This has obviously been a very difficult time for her and her family. They are fortunate though to have amazing support within family and friends and have requested that instead of support for themselves that support be focused towards fundraising.

Last week the Preschool organised a fundraiser. The children dressed up as pirates to raise donations, this money will go to The Kids Cancer Project.

So far \$2053.25 has been raised. A great effort!

For anyone who'd like to donate, please donate via the below link.

<https://www.pirateday.com.au/unitingcarematthewspreschool>

Another fundraiser is also being planned for Term 3 – Beanie's for brain cancer. This one could give an opportunity to support in a more practical sense potentially. Once plans are finalised the Preschool will advise details which will be shared.

**Anyone who would also like to support the family can contact the Preschool office.**

**Please hold Demi and her family in your prayers.**