



Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:
Psalm 139:1-11
Hebrews 12: 1-2
Luke 12: 54-56

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 Pamela Leslie and Clive Pearson

9am—Worship @ the willow's

9.30am—Worship

Led by Hugh Darling and Clive Pearson

Includes the Baptism of

Harvey Edward Crawford Stillman.

We welcome the family and Friends of Harvey to worship today.

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

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Alexander Lawless and Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 15 AUGUST

9am—Sorting & pricing for Op Shop lower hall
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

TUESDAY 16 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation in the church
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am—In Stitches upstairs hall
10am—Men's Morning Tea Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Blvd, Bella Vista
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

THURSDAY 18 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

FRIDAY 19 AUGUST

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool
7-9pm—Alive Youth Group in upstairs hall

SATURDAY 20 AUGUST

2pm-4pm—Church and community room in use

SUNDAY 21 AUGUST

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

5pm—Shine

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

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Sign of the Times

In our reading taken from Luke this morning Jesus gives a weather report. It is rather different from what you get on television these days. We live in an age where weather report has become professional with its own science—and indeed social commentators would say it has become 'commodified'. What they mean by that has to do with how the weather can serve economic interests. None of that existed back in biblical times: the weather was different! It was sometimes reckoned that the weather was God's gift—an element of creation. It could also be the stage upon which a moral barometer was set. Bad weather might be a sign of God's disapproval, good, growing weather might be seen as a sign of God's providence—in other words, how it produced the necessary goods for our survival.

In his address to the gathered crowds Jesus plays upon how the local people would know how to read the weather: in first century Palestine if the wind was coming from the west, then there was a chance of a build up of clouds and rain. If the wind was from the south, then they would know the weather was likely to be extremely hot. The reference to the wind is itself interesting as in Hebrew the word for wind is the same as the word for spirit and breath.

Jesus uses this weather image for a particular reason. It is almost like the equivalent of a parable for it is concerned how we discern the breaking in of the kingdom. For this purpose he makes use of a special word for time. In the Greek language there are two words for time. *Chronos* has to do with the time of the day, a diary, a watch, what's the time. This word gives us the English word chronology. The other word is *kairos*. It means the 'right time', the opportune time, God's time. *Kairos* time breaks in upon *chronos* time. This other sense of time is present throughout Luke—for instance, when Zacchaeus is told 'today, salvation has come to this house'. This word *kairos* has its origins in archery and has to do with shooting for the bullseye! It passed into rhetoric where in the rough and tumble of debate, you look for the right time to insert your key point.

Sometimes in this passage in Luke the *kairos* moment can refer to the 'signs of the times'. We are able to see what is going on around us and we begin to interpret. Jesus asks a different question: in the midst of these signs of the times, can you discern the breaking in of the kingdom of God?

A Little History: Constantine

One of the most important times in the life of the church has to do with the Emperor Constantine; he was Emperor between 306 and 337. Most of his life he lived as a pagan; following a dream before a battle in which Christ appeared to him he began to favour the Christian faith. Up until this time the Christian faith was a minority religion, subject to periodic outbursts of persecution, the subject of scoffing and mockery from the best educated. It was a faith on the margins and attracted much caricature. Constantine bestowed tolerance on the Christian faith through the Edict of Milan (311) and made the Christian faith the religion of the empire.

So much was now open to change: churches were built; Constantine's mother was the first to initiate the practice of pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Constantine would oversee the council of the church that would produce the Nicene Creed and the move towards formalizing the New Testament took a step forward.

Constantine would in due course become the first emperor to convert to the Christian faith. He did so on his death bed. He founded the city that came to bear his name Constantinople (now Istanbul) was named after him. Eusebius, the first 'historian' of the church, reckoned that Constantine was the 13th apostle.

See attached video

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

Songs for the week:

Jehovah Shalom Acapella,

'Have a little talk with Jesus' (African version)

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

Thuma Mina (Send me, Jesus)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eik2HK7u9xA>

Cape Town Youth Choir

Thuma mina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MdP9IVSSH0>

St Hugh's College Chapel Choir

Hail, gladdening light (Stainer)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta4UwX_HXdl&list=RDta4UwX_HXdl&index=1

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Judith Johnston
Earl Gray

Don Dixon

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

14—20 August

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger



***Being prepared for next week's worship:
21 August 2022***

Pentecost 11

"The Sabbath"

**21 August 2022 Sunday:
8am, 9:30am &
6:45pm
Bible Readings:**

**Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Luke 13: 10-17**

One of the key religious and cultural issues of the Jewish nation in the time of Jesus was the observance of the Sabbath. There were a number of things you could not do. It was a day to keep holy and refrain from work (and no doubt Sabbath sports, had such things existed back then). The call to keep the Sabbath is the least popular of all the ten commandments that Moses received on Mount Sinai. Of all the denominations in Australia we rank fairly near the bottom here—which is rather strange and probably needs to be reviewed. It isn't just a case of what we do on Sundays (our sabbath). The Sabbath lies at the midway point between those commands to do with God and those to do with our fellow human beings. It is the link between the two. The Sabbath is also the crown of creation; today it carries care of creation themes along with ones to do with justice. In the reading for

today the leader of the synagogue has a much reduced understanding of the Sabbath. He takes exception to Jesus healing a crippled woman on the Sabbath because (in his opinion) it counts as work.

The Jeremiah reading has to do with the calling of the prophet. No one sets themselves up to be a prophet. 'The word of the Lord' takes the initiative. The tendency is for unlikely figures to be called to this office. Jeremiah is hesitant because he does not know how to speak and he is only a boy. His complaint would matter if indeed it was he who had to think up what to say in order to fulfil this prophetic role. It is not his agenda, though. On occasion he will act out his message as well as delivering 'the word of the Lord'.

Here is a question for your reflection. What do you think are the marks of a prophetic faith?

2022 Abraham Conference Sunday 14 August at 2pm

Theme: "Recovering faith in Faith"



Summary: Historically, the Abrahamic religions shaped lives and civilisations. In the last century, they are becoming increasingly marginalised, seen as a matter of private devotion and personal morality at best, or divisive and violent at worst. But religions remain a powerful social force. With the issues that we face in our globalised, pluralist world, how can we recover faith in Faith?

Speakers: ABC veteran journalists Geraldine Doogue & John Cleary

Panelists: Rabbi Moshe Givental (North Shore Temple Emmanuel Synagogue), Assoc Prof Salim Farrar (Sydney University Law School), Rev Dr Rob McFarlane (Uniting Church in Australia)

Time & Date: 2pm-4pm on Sunday, 14 August

Venue: Amity College, Auburn Campus, 26-28 Kerr Pde, Auburn

Tickets: \$15 (full price) or \$10 (concession)

Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/2022-abraham-conference>

PENTECOST/SEASON OF CREATION

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary

**Volume 16,
Number 12
15 August
to
13 November**

is available in the church foyer.

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

VOL. 16, NO. 12
15 AUGUST – 13 NOVEMBER 2022

Service of Closure for the St. Marys Congregation to be held at the church on **August 27 at 2pm.** There will be a catered afternoon tea following the service.

PLEASE RSVP your numbers by August 21
Kevin Burchell kevinburchell@hotmail.com

HELP NEEDED

Person with car to transport bags of clothing from lower hall to clothing charity bins once a week. Must be able to lift 20 kgs. The Op-shop donates any excess clothing to charity bins. Please contact Pamela on M: 0404023588 or Christine on M: 0401344800.

Church Property News Update

Program and status of works. Attached is Contractors program of works. Contractor is owed some wet weather EOTs. 17 Oct 2022 is still targeted PC date.

Status:

Roofing Update

- Stage 1 Roof Completed over Kindergarten
- Stage 2 - Tiger tails installed to power lines ready for scaffold erection
- Stage 2 Roof over Church booked for the 15th of August. Scaffold to be installed the week prior.

Kindergarten Update

- Water Meter Relocated so excavation and demolition works could commence
- External bulk excavation complete
- Internal strip out of old library and staff roof completed
- Demolition of external wall complete

Look ahead program (Works in August) include

- installation of structural steel components,
- continuation of demolition and excavation under old staff room
- as well as underpinning works.