



Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33



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

includes Communion
Roland Bryant and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

includes Communion
Daniel Gibb and Clive Pearson
KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8 

6.45pm—Worship

includes Communion
Barbara Gibb and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

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

TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

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

WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches upper hall
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

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

FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool
5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
“Giant Games Night” in upstairs hall

SATURDAY

10 SEPTEMBER

No scheduled events

SUNDAY

11 SEPTEMBER

8am—Worship
9am—Worship @ the Willow's
9.30am—Worship includes Baptism
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
5pm—Shine BBQ offsite
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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The Cost of Discipleship

The German martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, made the phrase 'the cost of discipleship' widely known. It arose out of his reading of the sermon on the mount found in the gospel of Matthew. The cost of discipleship has often been associated with Peter's response to Jesus' question concerning 'who do you say that I am?'. The very idea that something is going to cost assumes a price to be paid and possibly a degree of difficulty.

All the gospels have 'hard sayings'. Luke will emphasize the priority of the gospel through references of the first being last and the last first, for instance. This morning's reading is one of the hardest of hard sayings. It includes the troubling reference to 'hating' family members in order to be a disciple. There are other sayings that are designed to encourage the would-be disciple to work out for themselves what might be involved in the leading of the life of discipleship, but this is the one that stands out most. The others to do with building, war and diplomacy do not cut across the most intimate and closest of relationships.

The way in which it places so much weight on following Christ at the expense of family matters may not travel so well today—though it is true that many who seek to follow Christ in our kind of society do so and are the only members of their families who do that. There can be a degree of discomfort about that. Some perspective might help: in the ancient world this saying of Jesus would have been extremely counter-cultural. Family units / households were much more tightly bound back then. It is a saying that would have created much shock on first hearing.

Looking back: The Christian faith and slavery

The epistle reading comes from the shortest book in the New Testament. There are only 335 characters in Philemon. The story concerns a runaway slave, Onesimus, who also seems to have stolen some money from his master, Philemon from Colossae. It would seem as if the church in Colossae meets in Philemon's home. Onesimus is befriended by the apostle Paul (who sometimes describes himself as a slave of Christ). Here he is in prison. Onesimus has been of much help to Paul and he is to return to Onesimus as 'more than a slave – a brother'.

The infant church included in its membership both free and slaves. The baptismal formula to be found in Galatians declares that there is neither free nor slave in Christ. The fact that Paul did not seek to remove the curse of slavery—and that it was tolerated within the Christian faiths—for so long can leave those of us who live now bewildered.

Of all Christian advocates of the dignity for all the one who would surely be the most disappointed at the rise of the Atlantic slave trade would have been Bartholomé de Las Casas (1484-1556). He bore witness to the impact of the Spanish *conquistadores* on the indigenous peoples of what we know as Latin America. Las Casas protested at their mistreatment and earned for himself the description of being 'the Apostle to the Indies'. In a way that was shocking to his fellow countrymen he looked upon

the 'Indians' as 'the scourged Christ'. He campaigned on their behalf over and against those who believed the indigenous peoples to 'a third thing'—somewhere between being human and a beast. Las Casas won the case but as a consequence the Spanish then began the slave trade from Africa to the Americas.

The Christian tradition holds in its midst a tension here. The Bible has been used to justify slavery; those who were slaves were able to identify with Moses' cry, 'Let my people go'. Christian politicians like William Wilberforce took the lead in the abolition of the slave trade. (View: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WR226pQkyFI>) Wilberforce's story is closely bound up with that of John Newton, himself a former slave trader, turned abolitionist. Newton composed 'Amazing Grace'. (View: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=738-231XkkQ>)

Music for the week ahead

Aretha Franklin, 'Amazing Grace',

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

Barak Obama 'Amazing Grace'

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

Chris Tomlin 'Amazing Grace' (My Chans Fell Off).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-4NFvI5U9w>

Carl Ellis and 200 bagpipes 'Amazing Grace'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-4NFvI5U9w>

Harlem Gospel Choir 'Amazing Grace' /

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaKf6P2nhKg>

Blind Boys of Alabama 'Amazing Grace'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0EN_Hmq534

Library Search:

The Camden Theological Library holds the following books:

Stephen Tomkins, *William Wilberforce: A Biography*

Jonathan Aitken, *John Newton, From Disgrace to Amazing Grace*

Gustavo Gutiérrez *Las Casas: In Search of the Poor of Jesus Christ*.

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Peter Duncum
Belinda Schuster

Vivienne Strong

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

4—10 September

Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo



*Being prepared
for next week's
worship:*

11 September 2022

Pentecost 14

“Lost”

Sunday

11 September:

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

Bible Readings:

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Luke 15:1-10

One of the patterns of Luke's gospels is for successive parables to feature a man and a woman. In this instance here we have a man who loses one of his hundred sheep and a woman who finds the coin she has lost. These two parables were directed at the Pharisees and scribes who were grumbling at the way in which Jesus welcomed tax collectors sinners and ate with them. The very act of eating together is itself a significant event given the purity laws that surrounded food. Whether a shepherd would actually leave the other 99 and go and search for the missing sheep is beside the point. Whether the sinners realized that they were 'lost' in the wilderness of this world is hard to know. They may well have been enjoying life but the parables presume something is missing—and they are lost as a consequence. The emphasis in the parables is on being found.

This passage sits alongside an oracle of lament. Over the last couple of decades the Bible has been subjected to more of an ecological interpretation than was previously the case. We have a default practice of focusing on what happens to do with the human characters in the text and how they relate (or do not) to God. What this ecological interpretation brings out is how when the people of Israel strayed from the covenant, the land suffered as well. It is desolate: cities are in ruins. One of the consequences of war and invasion is the cost to the land, the Earth system. In a way that is rather challenging in the face of ecological uncertainty the prophetic oracle describes the people as 'foolish' and as ones who do not know how to do good.

**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.**

THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IS FULL

**IF YOU HAVE LOST ANY ITEMS AT THE CHURCH
PLEASE CHECK THE BOX ASAP.
ANY UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO THE
OP SHOP ON THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER.
THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IS LOCATED ON THE
CABINETS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.**

Daily Wisdom

If you are truly attentive to someone, you are loving them. A key quote probably of our retreat on the Muscle of Attention is Jesus' teaching, 'Love one another, as I have loved you (Jn 13:34)' – pay attention to one another as I pay attention to you. So the contemplative response to the crisis that we are passing through globally is a very important component, I think, of our coming through this crisis in a healthy way and being able to rebuild a better world with more healthy attitudes and more healthy ways of treating the environment, of understanding social justice and human rights and the care of the young, and the meaning of education, the meaning of health, the meaning of democracy. These are all things that make us human. And these aren't in a separate category, from the rest of our spiritual life, because they are what make us human.

(**Attention and Love 1** by Laurence Freeman OSB)



An update from the Beanie for Brain Cancer Fundraiser

On Sunday 28 August– our church community helped support this very worthwhile cause and wore their beanies for Brain cancer and donated \$906.35 which is just phenomenal - massive thanks to everyone for so generously supporting this.
In total (including the church community donations) the preschool raised \$2,056.50

 Uniting Church Hawkesbury Zone:

“TWILIGHT OF JAZZ”

On the banks of the Hawkesbury River -
at Ebenezer Church

SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER 4:00PM - 8:00PM
Gates open at 3:00pm

Featuring:
HARMONIX BIG BAND

TICKETS \$20 per head - School students free
To prebook your tickets call or text Rebecca on
0439 309 303 or visit our Facebook page.
Tickets will be available on the night ~~from 5:00pm~~

Bring your chairs, blanket or a picnic.
Sausage sizzle, cake stall, tea & coffee
will be available to purchase.
BYO Alcohol

Find us on Facebook Ebenezer Uniting Church - Twilight Jazz
Funds raised go to the West Papuan Development Company- for clean water wells.