



Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

1 Timothy 6: 6-19
Luke 16: 19-31

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship
Led by Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship
Led by Dean Drayton
and Clive Pearson

KUCA in Recess

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Abbey Sim
and Clive Pearson

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for
Op Shop lower hall

TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
in the church
7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER

9am-12pm—Op Shop & Mini Mart
in lower hall
10am—Care and Prayer
In the church

**SUNDAY
2 OCTOBER**



8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA

in recess for school holidays

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

Weekly newsletter available on website

EMAIL: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

True Wealth

1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

Themes to do with rich and poor are a mark of Luke's gospel. It is like a recurring theme that has been anticipated in the Magnificat that Mary sings when she is told she will bear a child and, again, in the reading taken from the scroll of Isaiah that Jesus reads from the synagogue of his own home town.

Several parables field this theme. One of the most dramatic is the parable of the rich man (which is what the word Dives means) and Lazarus. This is not the same Lazarus that is found in John's gospel, the brother of Mary and Martha and the one whom Jesus raises from the dead. Lazarus is a Greek version of the Hebrew name Eleazar meaning 'God will help'.

Once again this parable—of the rich man and Lazarus—is only to be found in Luke. It has been one of the most frequently painted parables in Christian art—especially during the medieval period. One of the most celebrated representations is to be found in the Codex Aureus of Echternach (11th century). This Codex is an illuminated manuscript of the gospel. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex_Aureus_of_Echternach)

It is a parable that has often been cited in literature—for example, Herman Melville in *Moby Dick*, Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*, T.S. Eliot, *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*). The gap between rich and poor that depicts in the pivot upon which a liberation of a theology of the poor has turned on in Latin America.

In the world of the parable the rich man would have a name and much honour: being dressed in expensive purple and fine linen, dining well, is a sign of him being rich. Everybody would know him but in the parable he has no name. The one who is named is Lazarus, a poor man covered in sores which even the dogs would lick. Lazarus is the only character in any of the parables who has a name. Being rich is not an asset in Luke's gospel, though.

The two men die. The rich man is cast down into Hades and is tormented; the poor man is by the side of Abraham and in comfort. There is a great chasm between the two that cannot be breached. The rich man wants to send a warning to his five brothers. The parable anticipates the passion narrative. There is no warning sent: the brothers have been exposed to the law (Moses) and the prophets: they are not likely to pay heed to someone being raised from the dead.

This theme of wealth and true riches is also played out in the concluding section of 1 Timothy. The epistle is written to Timothy and gives advice on the organization of the church. It gives instruction on public worship, the relationship between men and women, young and old, slaves and free, the need to protect the truth of the gospel and then ends with this encouragement made on behalf of a godly life. It is the equivalent of our 'sending' in worship. The call to 'fight the good fight' comes in this concluding section: it highlights the need to be active, well aware of the need to protect and to make a stand for the gospel and its truth.

Music:

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQoP9iLwoos>

Maddy Price (folk) Dives and Lazarus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI3xFnoDZ_I

June Tabor Dives and Lazarus

<https://open.spotify.com/track/2obWllyVhQQJNTnBQt6w7W?autoplay=true#login>

On the Codex Aureus of Echternach

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6HocA_pho8

On Romero!

A Life for God and for the Poor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPMJ9UgkBqQ>

Last sermon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luZV6whwj1g>

The Courage of Oscar Romero

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avLoQhGLtx4>

Desecration of the Eucharist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REMBkUWM-Cw>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Doug Mathewson
Bruce Bills

Lyn Short
David Short

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

25 September—1 October

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

New Worship Rosters for October 2022 Have been emailed

If you don't have email or would like a hard copy please take one from the display in the Church foyer. There are a few spaces still requiring volunteers for the October roster. There is a copy of the roster in the foyer with duties that are Hi-lighted. If you can help with any of these please fill your name in the gaps.

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.



Being prepared for next week's worship:

2 October 2022

Pentecost 17

**The Metaphors of Faith
"Increase our faith"**

**Sunday
2 October:
8am, 9:30am &
6:45pm**

**Bible Readings:
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10**

The images or metaphors that are used to describe the life of faith can often be confronting for Christians living in twenty-first century. The Luke reading is a case in point. In the first instance faith is likened to a mustard seed that can uproot a mulberry tree. This is not the same saying that takes the form of the parable of the mustard seed. This time a mulberry tree features: in recent times there has been studies done on the root systems of trees. Peter Wohlleben is the author of the much acclaimed *The Hidden Life of Trees: How They Communicate—Discoveries From A Secret World* (The New York Times Bestseller, 2016).

The mulberry tree has a highly invasive root system that spreads far and deep and quickly. At face value it is hard to see how a mustard seed can cause much if a problem to a mulberry tree. It is at this point that it becomes helpful to observe what Jesus has said immediately before this reading. Jesus had warned people not to put a stumbling block before the 'little ones'. He has spoken of the need to forgive and the disciples have responded with a request to 'increase our faith';

The New Testament references to slaves does not travel well in today's world. The very institution

of slavery is offensive: in the New Testament world it was an accepted part of life. Slavery in those times was not quite like the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the plantation system in the United States. There could be bonds of loyalty and even friendship—even though you were still a slave. On occasions Paul describes himself as a slave of Christ. It is a slavery marked by obedience and love. In the case of this often neglected text in Luke the slave does his duty. He does what he has commanded to do. Jesus is likening the life of discipleship to that of a slave who, in effect, belongs to another and simply does what he/she should do.

This sense of belonging to another is set out in the greeting and thanksgiving to be found in 2 Timothy. It is an intriguing reading inasmuch as it reflects Paul's affection for Timothy ('My beloved child') and some reference to Timothy's family—to Lois, his grandmother, and Eunice, his mother. Insofar as the call to live a 'holy life' and serve has come from Christ, Paul advises Timothy not to be timid or ashamed of the gospel: he is to 'guard' that 'deposit'.



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: **Friday 15th October**

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.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

You are invited to come along to the church on

Tuesdays at 9.30am—10.30am

All are welcome

The Muscle of Attention

During September and October the Tuesday morning
Christian Meditation Group will be listening to
these 10 - 20 minute talks given in 2021 by Laurence
Freeman as part of the hour long session.

We then do the work of silently repeating our mantra,
giving attention only to the mantra to take
the attention off our distracting thoughts.

We meet in either the Community Room
or Church Sanctuary.

Everyone is welcome to join this group to find out how
exercising our muscle of attention produces love
and community.

Please contact Rosemary Sexton or Katherine Pedersen

043 777 2011

kathped56@gmail.com to find out more about the
World Community for Christian Meditation.

There are groups all over the world and you can join
many online groups, watch podcasts, seminars,
introductory sessions and undertake courses online.

[https://meditationtalks.wccm.org/cd/
cwkSXCfLd4mxpGb6pFGc](https://meditationtalks.wccm.org/cd/cwkSXCfLd4mxpGb6pFGc)

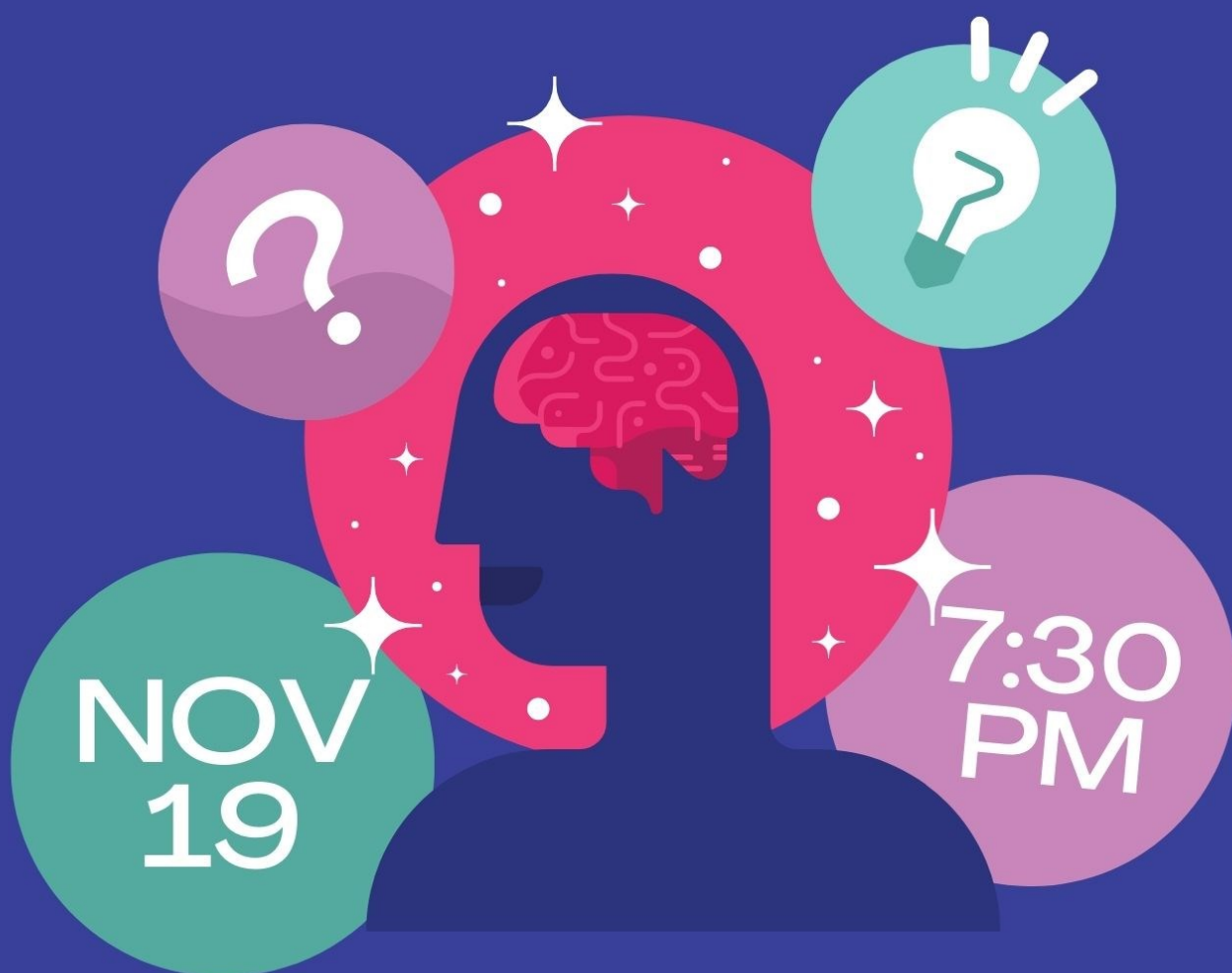
Daily Wisdom

*We have to understand how we have become such
a distracted civilisation. On the one hand, we have
this inability to pay attention, to make healthy
relationships that demand attention to the other
and to take the attention off ourselves in order to
make relationships. How can you make a
relationship if you are only thinking about
yourself all the time? So we have to learn to take
the attention off ourselves, which is why meditation
bears fruit in all our relationships and the first fruit
of the Spirit.*

(Attention and Love 1 by Laurence Freeman OSB)

————— ST MATTHEW'S —————

TRIVIA NIGHT 2022



TABLES OF 8 - \$15 PER PERSON

**ST MATTHEWS
UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS**

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

| DANIEL@STMATTHEWSUNITING.NET.AU