



Bible Readings

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

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
8am & 9.30am only

8am—Worship
includes Communion
Led by Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship
includes Communion
Led by Daniel Gibb
and Clive Pearson
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
includes Communion
Led by Barbara Gibb
includes **Lenten Study Final**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 3 APRIL

9am—Sorting and Pricing for Op Shop lower hall
3pm—Care and Prayer

in the Church

7.30pm—Holy Week 20min Service on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

TUESDAY 4 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30-11am—Christian Meditation

in the Church

7.30pm—Holy Week 20min Service on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches upper hall
7.30pm—Holy Week 20min Service on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

THURSDAY 6 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop
7.30pm—Maundy Thursday Service at the church



FRIDAY 7 APRIL
Public Holiday

9am—Good Friday Service at the church



SATURDAY 8 APRIL

7.30pm—Holy Week 20min Service on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>



SUNDAY 9 APRIL

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



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

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Palm Sunday

Who do we sing for?

2 April

Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21: 1-11

Our readings for today mark the beginning of Jesus' last week. In the gospel of John he has been to Jerusalem on a number of occasions, but not so in Matthew. This entry is for the first time. The city is a walled city; in the time of Jesus it is a heavily fortified city set on hills. In the period immediately prior to Jesus' time Herod the Great had undertaken a number of significant building projects – including the extension of the Temple.

The name Jerusalem means 'the city of peace'. In the past it has been subject to attack and occupation. It is the site of the Temple. Even though Judea is under the control of the Romans the daily life of the city is in the hands of the High Priest and his council. Pilate did not live in Jerusalem, but rather on the coast at Caesarea Maritima. When he made his way into the city he stayed at a palace that had been built by Herod the Great.

Jerusalem was thus unlike the cities in which we live today: there were no mass transit systems. You needed to enter through one of the city gates. The streets were narrow; the population was diverse due to the Jewish diaspora already in place. It may have numbered around 50,000 people but, during a festival like Passover, it may have swelled 3 or 4 times that number.

Jesus has carried out his public ministry to the north – in Galilee, gradually making his way southwards through the Judean countryside via Samaria. The gospels report how his ministry crowds who were often amazed at his teaching and wondered where this teaching came from. Sometimes 'great crowds' gathered and followed; sometimes he withdrew from the crowds. There has been no previous indication in Matthew (prior to this reading) describing how Jesus will enter the city.

Our first reading is from Psalm 228. The psalms are songs. The word itself comes from a Greek word that means 'a song sung to a harp'. There are many different types of song or psalm. On this Palm Sunday Psalm 118 is a song of victory, praise and thankfulness. It presumes the steadfast love of the Lord and entry through the 'gates of righteousness' and 'the gate of the Lord'. The Psalms are often psalms of waiting and lament, sometimes of abandonment as is the case of Psalm 22—'my God, my God why have you forsaken me'. But this Psalm set down for Palm Sunday is one of celebration: 'this is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it'. It captures the mood of a procession...and it seems so appropriate for the day in which we recall Jesus riding humbly into Jerusalem.

You might like to read the Psalm in full: the passages not selected by the lectionary refer to the distress of the psalmist and how 'the Lord is on my side'. It refers to 'looking in triumph at those who hate me'. It captures a sense of foreboding and menace.

Some care needs to be exercised when crowds assemble:. Crowds can be very fickle. One crowd is not the same as another crowd. In John's gospel the crowd who accompanies

Jesus from Bethany to Jerusalem have seen him raise Lazarus. They have borne witness to a 'sign'. The crowd who will then cry out within a short span of time is not the same crowd. They have been subject to other pressures.

In the gospel of Matthew the entry into Jerusalem by way of donkey and a colt. The community for which Matthew is writing is primarily a Jewish church. In keeping with one of his habits he sees Jesus' request for the donkey and colt as a fulfilment of a prophecy from the Hebrew Scriptures—in this instance, taken from Zephaniah. The symbolism is of a king, a messiah riding in peace into the city: it is a very different image from the ones of military might and commanders that Jerusalem had known.

That Jesus should come in this manner is highly provocative: those familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures would recognize that this was acting out a prophecy. The cry of the crowd, 'hosanna', 'blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord' intensifies that expectation. It presents a challenge to the religious establishment; in the background lies the power and menace of Rome. The city is uncertain who this Jesus is. Those with him describe him as a 'prophet from Galilee'—which is only partially true. The city is in 'turmoil', though the Greek actually says 'shaken', as in an earthquake.

Historical:

Jerusalem in the time of Jesus
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Jerusalem+in+the+time+of+Jesus&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vid=cid:a6c5ac84,vid:Sgge3Mds8RE>

Holy Week:

Rowan Williams on holy week
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCP2NZtY9QI>

N.T. Wright: Matthew, Palm Sunday
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u60Kfk2_dTY

Music

'Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKHwBamBSPk>

'Hosanna' (Jesus Christ Superstar)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaledWEX7m8> 1 973
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x530xSkAdk> 2000

Africa University Choir, Sanna, sannanina (Hosanna, save us Lord).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSw57M1O6gk>

'Ride on, ride on in majesty'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViKds8bWuWs>

;All glory, laud and honour'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBfJyjDolwA>

'Travelling the road to freedom'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUEZPOP95-M>

The Adventist Vocal Ensemble Up above my head
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m20AMz4n2lc>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



Easter Services:

Our Easter services this year will follow a mix of how this part of Jesus' ministry was described in the gospels of Matthew and John. The focus for each day will be in a different place or 'site'. In our Holy Week services last year we focused upon 'characters' in the story rather than places. It can matter where we stand—and when—as to what we see.

The Holy Week services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be on-line at 7:30pm. They will be a time of prayer, song (on video), art and reflection. They will last around 20 minutes each.

The zoom connection is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

Monday 3 April Ephraim. John 11:45-57 Sara Weinand will reflect

Tuesday 4 April Bethany John 12:1-11 Clive Pearson

Wednesday 5 April Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-56 Dean Drayton

Maundy Thursday will be a Tenebrae service in the church, including a recollection of the last supper. It will begin at 7:30pm and **not** be live streamed. The readings will be taken from Matthew and end with Jesus before Caiaphas, the chief priests and the elders—and Peter's denial, hence Matthew 26:57-64. The site is thus Caiaphas' Court.

For *Good Friday* there will be one service at 9am. The Easter site moves from Pilate's headquarters through the streets of Jerusalem to focus on **Golgotha**.

On *Saturday night*, on zoom, we will wait at the **Sealed Tomb** for a short vigil. In many denominations Holy Saturday (as it is called) is a part of a 3 day vigil and is itself a significant time of worshipful reflection.

On *Easter Day* we return to three services and contemplate the **Empty Tomb** as told by Matthew: we renew our baptismal vows.

Music for Easter:

Good Friday

O sacred head, sore wounded

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

The Gesualdo Six

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M4uUJibpvw>

King's College Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwgM8R7akeU>

Chet Valley Churches

Here hangs a man discarded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EXisOisQHA>

Ruth and Joy Everingham

Holy Saturday

When will you rise?

Austin Stone Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDXXF8hpJsO>

Canon of Holy Saturday, Ode 9

Lesser Znamenny Chant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Sbo7BT9iOY>

Easter Day

Christ the Lord is risen today (arr. Rutter)

Kyiv Symphony Orchestra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_x-HM7IroA

And Chorus

Jesus Christ is risen today

Hereford Cathedral

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duLZz7c-Uaw>

Because you live, O Christ

Renae Wolfsberger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-TNFdhH26I>

Report on Congregation Meeting of 19th March 2023

Welcome

Barbara Gibb opened the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting was to inform the Congregation about progress in obtaining both a new minister and a supply minister and to explain the next steps as Rev Dr Clive Pearson's time with us draws to a close.

Thank you Clive

Barb welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave some details of Clive's ministry to us all since his arrival and acknowledged that this ministry will close at the end of April, this year. Barb thanked Clive and Mary for their ministry and the knowledge shared in their time with us. Luke and Matthew now have a new life with us all plus a bit of Mark and John thrown in for good measure. Barb also thanked Clive for the wonderful support and encouragement for all those in our Church family who have received care, visits and conversations. Barb then wished Clive and Mary safe travels in the period ahead.

JNC

Karen Vandenberg then explained the progress of the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC). Karen is the spokesperson for the JNC Team for our Church and she gave details of the progress or lack of progress and the reasons behind it. Lack of ministerial candidates is the main reason. Karen asked for prayers going forward for the work of the JNC.

Preaching Roster

Barbara Gibb then mentioned the plan for a six-month preaching roster with visiting lay preachers and ministers, without putting extra stress on our Lay Preachers.

Worship Committee

We are planning to start a Worship Committee to provide consistency to our worship services during this time without a Minister. Normal rosters will continue as the worship committee will have extra responsibilities. Ideally this Committee should have one to two representatives from each worship congregation. Please contact Barbara Gibb for more details or if you are interested in being apart of this committee. We are currently looking for representatives from the 8.00am service and 6.45pm service.

Worship Volunteers

There will be an increased need for volunteers (particularly the 8am and 9:30am) in the following areas:-

Worship Committee	Prayers for the people
Preaching	Morning tea
Liturgy	Leading Singing
Welcoming / Door Stewards	Multimedia operation

Fundraising

David Neideck then spoke about Fundraising which is always important. There has been a great response to the 40/40 campaign started last year and the Church is grateful for some large donations, which have been applied to reduce the principal of the roof loan. Additional initiatives include an Open Garden by Katherine Pedersen at her beautiful garden, Trivia night (enjoyed by all). Please send any ideas to the Secretary, Terry Oliver at terry.oliver@bigpond.com.

Acknowledgement of a bequest – Terry Oliver acknowledged that St Matthew's has been the beneficiary of a bequest of \$20,863 from the Estate of the late Elaine Dunning. This bequest has made a significant contribution to the Church by reducing the term of the Roof Loan by up to seven years. The letter of thanks has been sent to the Dunning family.

Barbara Gibb closed the meeting with prayer for future.

Please continue to pray for –

JNC

Organisation of the Preaching Roster

Worship Committee

Volunteers for each Worship service

Following the meeting a light lunch was enjoyed by all who stayed.

Attendance – Sixty-one with seven apologies.



PEOPLE NEWS

Lynn Toovey
Darren Cameron

Michael Hill
Marion Bindley

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

2—8 April



Albania. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia

Congratulations Kopy

Some of you may remember that St. Matthew's once held English classes for some Tamil asylum seekers. That was ten years ago. One of the young boys was Kopinath Kanapathipillai, who lived with us for some time and then, when we moved to a retirement village, with Michael Hill. He was very often seen around the church at worship or helping before and after garage sales. After ten years without any resolution of his request for asylum in Australia, he returned to Sri Lanka just before Christmas. His family had arranged a bride for him and naturally he was very keen to marry her. On Monday, 27 March, the wedding took place before his family and friends. We wish him and his bride every happiness in their marriage.

Sandra Gordon

APRIL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

2 April - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion
9 April - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
16 April - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
23 April - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
30 April - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming continues for 8am & 9.30am services only

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

Maundy Thursday - 6 April @ 7.30pm
Good Friday - 7 April @ 9am
Easter Sunday - 9 April @ 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at 7.30pm, 9am, 8am, 9.30am services only

All St. Matthew's Groups Leaders

We are currently updating our 2023 details for all St. Matthew's groups.

Group leaders please send your group information to the church office by 15 April.

This includes

- name of group
- description of group
- meeting days, times & place
- position holders and titles
- current members

Many thanks

Katherine Pedersen Open Garden

Dates for APRIL

Wednesday mornings of 19, 26, at 9.30am- 12noon

Saturday afternoons of 1st, 22, 29 at 1.30pm-3.30pm

Up to 8 people can visit on any open day.

\$10 adults 18 years and over includes drink and sweet or savoury offering of the day.

\$5 school children to 18 years includes drink and sweet or savoury offering of the day.

(Children must be constantly supervised by their parents or carers and follow the Instructions for their safety.)

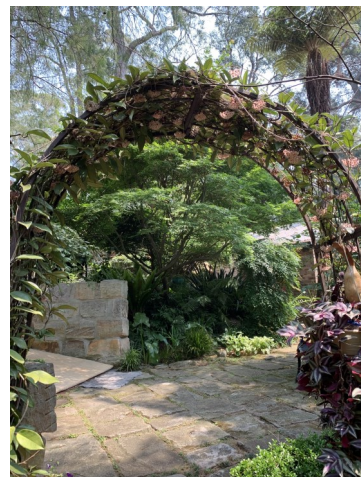
Cash is required for payment and some extra as there are plants for sale

Visitors must be physically able to walk down 100metres including a couple of hills. There is Water, steps, trip hazards, wildlife in the garden .

The garden will be open at various times each month of this year, sometimes on other days of the week.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the owners, Gary and Katherine Pedersen, kathped56@gmail.com

This initiative is a fundraiser to assist with the cost of replacing the St. Matthew's roofing.



Common Grace (the interdenominational Christian social justice advocacy organisation I work for) is running a training event on **Saturday, April 29 from 10am to 12:30pm at Northside Baptist Church in Crows Nest**, around the Voice to Parliament.

The training will be conducted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders. Common Grace is advocating for a Yes vote in the anticipated referendum and for implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

The event is free and registrations are through https://www.listentotheheart.org.au/sydney_training_event.

Abbey Sim

Opportunity to attend ABC's TV Show Q+A

Christa Hill a producer from ABC's TV show Q+A has contacted St. Matthew's by phone and email to offer congregation members the opportunity to attend and take part in ABC's TV show, Q+A.

If you are interested in attending please see the details below:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH

ABC TV's Q+A INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE AUDIENCE! On **Monday, April 10th, LIVE from 9.30pm!** Host Stan Grant is joined by a panel of decision-makers and commentators, discussing, and debating the issues that are important to YOU! Participate in the national discussion and watch live TV being put to air!

We will be running a free return bus service from BELLA VISTA/BAULKHAM HILLS to our studios in ULTIMO. for community members to join the live audience.

Do you want to Join us on the bus and in the audience? Here's what you need to do:

Q+A is free to attend, we just want to offer a space for diverse communities to participate in important discussions.

Please register your interest at the link below and in the last question, Q.15 "How did you hear about us" please write:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH

<https://www.abc.net.au/qanda/studio-audience/>

We will be in touch with more details if you are successful in securing a seat on the bus and in the audience - Hurry limited seats!

We hope to see you at Q+A!

Christa Hill – Q+A

0430023148

Audience Producer (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Blankets for Refugees

We are collecting blankets for Ukrainian refugees, some who have arrived in Australia and some who are in Poland. A lady whose family in Poland is supporting the refugees is organising a shipment of clothes and would like to include blankets. Her group is also supporting refugees who have arrived in Australia.



If you have any spare woolen blankets that you would like to donate please drop them in to the Op Shop. They can be in any condition as they can be washed and mended if needed.

Contact Pamela Leslie 0404 023 588 or Amanda Manson 0407 221 374



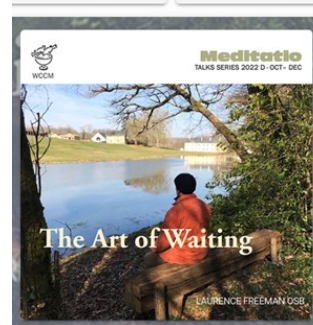
Meditation Talks Series beginning on the first Tuesday in April

Tuesdays at 9.30am—11am at the church

All are welcome

“The Art of Waiting”

By Laurence Freeman OSB



These talks invite us to understand patience as an essential condition for spiritual growth. The ability to be fully present to the moment that we are in, without the need for answers or control, is the poverty of spirit that allows God’s power to manifest in our lives. In a culture accustomed to speed and instant outcomes, this insight presents a challenge. Laurence Freeman says we need to relearn the art of waiting through the practice of meditation. The twice-daily discipline of reciting the mantra without expectations teaches us gradually to just be in the present moment, giving God the space to do his transforming work in us.

- Week 1—Conditions for Breakthrough
- Week 2—The Art of Waiting
- Week 3—God is waiting for us
- Week 4—Conversion
- Week 5—Fruits of the Spirit & Divinisation
- Week 6 —Unified Consciousness
- Week 7 —State of Assurance
- Week 8—The last stage of saying the Mantra
- Week 9—Beatitudes; The new way of Being

Enq: Katherine Pedersen 0437 772 011, Rosemary Sexton

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

9 April

**Theme:
Easter Sunday**

**'Do not be
afraid'**

Sunday

9 April:

8am

9.30am

6.45pm

Bible Readings:

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 28:1-10



The way in which Matthew describes the day of resurrection is not expansive: there is no account of Mary meeting in the garden; there is no foot race between Peter and the other disciple to the tomb. There is no road to Emmaus story, nor 'doubting' Thomas and there is no fish breakfast down by the lake. Nor is there the exchange between Peter and Jesus about whether Peter loves Jesus and how he is told to 'feed my sheep'.

What Matthew provides can be described as a highly strategic reading for his community that is still seeking to come to terms with them having parted ways with the synagogue. They are mainly Jewish Christians, perhaps with a handful of Gentiles. How are they to understand these Easter events in the light of the cross seemingly fulfil a Hebrew scripture that would regard anyone hanging from tree as being accursed—and thus beyond God's blessing? How do we maintain their belief in the resurrection faced with the rumour circulated among 'the Jews' that the disciples have stolen his body during the night.

The women come to the tomb on the first day of the week: it is after the sabbath; it is the first day of the week. It is dawning. The reader is reminded of how this gospel began with an echo of the opening lines of Genesis: 'the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ'. The witness of the women will transform an understanding of the sabbath so that it becomes, for Christians, a Sunday and is associated with resurrection and the dawn of a new covenant.

Most paintings show 3 women at the tomb: Matthew has only two – Mary Magdalene and 'the other Mary'. Why they have made their way to the tomb is not made clear, other than to 'see'. They have no spices. Seeing is for them—and, for the church—key: they watched from a distance Jesus die on the cross; they saw where he was buried and now they will see the empty tomb. They are primary witnesses.

In Matthew's version alone there is an earthquake and strange events at the time of Jesus' death. No other gospel refers to how the stone is rolled away from the mouth of the tomb. Only Matthew. There is then a remarkable irony: The soldiers had been stationed to prevent the body of a dead man being stolen: they now become like 'dead men' as the one who was dead

now lives. Would this become something of a 'joke' in this community in due course?

This rolling away of the stone is the work of 'an angel of the Lord'. The word angel refers to a 'messenger': angels have played a significant role in this gospel, especially with reference to the words of warning to the magi. In other gospels we have two men or more than one angel. His appearance reminds of the dazzling appearance of Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration. The angel speaks directly to the women: 'do not be afraid'. That wording could mean more than just not to be afraid at this unusual sight: it suggests to Matthew community that they need. Not be afraid of those who oppose them because of their belief in the risen Christ.

The witness / testimony of the women is consolidated: they need to understand what they are 'seeing'. The 'angel' provides them with the interpretive 'message'. In this gospel Jesus predicted four times that he would be handed over, crucified and raised on the third day. Now the women are told that they are not to look for him in the tomb: he has been raised. The tomb is empty. And just to emphasize the point, the angel bids them to come into the tomb to 'see' where he had been laid.

The 'function' of the angel is thus to provide an understanding for the woman and enable the next step to happen. There are no disciples on site in Matthew's resurrection narrative. The women are to convey the message given to them that the disciples are to return to Galilee where they will meet Jesus again. Now there is no reference in Matthew to the disciples hiding away in an upper room for fear of the Jews. Nor had there been any previous mention of Jesus meeting them again in Galilee. In Mark the women leave the tomb in fear: in Matthew they do so in a mix of 'fear and great joy'. On their way back to the disciples these two women become the first to encounter an appearance of the risen Christ. In a rather striking phrase he indicates that he will meet with 'the brothers and sisters in Galilee'. They are not to be afraid. Those words of Jesus most likely resonate throughout the life of this community for whom Matthew is writing: they are a small minority surrounded by 'the Jews' in an occupied nation. There is plenty to be fearful about.