



Bible Reading

Matthew 15: 10-28

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship
Led by Vivienne Strong
and Geoff Stevenson

9.30am—Worship
Led by Daniel Gibb
and Geoff Stevenson
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Daniel Gibb
and Joyce Tangi

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**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 21 AUGUST

9am—Sorting & Pricing
for Op Shop lower hall
11am—Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of Sylvia Leader
Followed by refreshments
at the church

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST

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

WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop
7.30pm—Church Council Meeting
at the church

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 25 AUGUST

5pm-7pm—Happy Hour
@ The Winston
5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
in the upstairs hall
"The Amazing Race"

SATURDAY 26 AUGUST

No Scheduled Events

**SUNDAY
27 AUGUST**

8am—Worship

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

5pm—Shine

6pm-8pm—Jazz on Hammers
@ Northmead Uniting Church
3-7 Hammers Rd Northmead

6.45pm—Worship



**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

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@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570
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Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Lectionary Notes

Pentecost 12

August 20

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, is now the all powerful "Lord of all Egypt" He is informed that his brothers were visiting Egypt from Palestine. He directs that they are to be brought to him in a private meeting. They are dismayed at being ushered into the presence of power, not knowing or recognising who he is. They are even more distraught to find that he is their brother. Joseph makes himself known as the one whom they sold, but whom God sent before them to preserve life, and to keep alive his own people through a dreadful famine. "So it was not you who sent me here, but God." (45:8) Joseph then uses his power and position to help the twelve tribes transition to Egypt where in the next centuries they flourish. Egypt becomes home for perhaps four centuries.

There has been a great search to find out who Joseph is in the history of Egypt. It seems most likely that these events occurred in about 1800 years B.C. It is a confusing and changing time in Egypt with very limited archaeological evidence available. There is a broad agreement that the description of Joseph's role and power rings true with the power of a person second to the Pharaoh at that time. For Israel, this pivotal time in the history of the twelve tribes provides the setting for them later to become a nation under Moses. Moses' story starts next week in the Lectionary reading.

Psalms 133

This is one of the shortest Psalms in the book of Psalms. It was traditionally recited by Israelites on their way to one of the great festivals, a song of Ascents. A time of anticipation. A time of God's blessing, God's anointing. "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." It is 'very good' and 'pleasant' when we live in God's blessing.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

In chapters 9-11 Paul discloses how God has been at work in human history, through the great victory of the cross, where in the language of his letter to the Corinthians, he declares that God has made foolish the wisdom of the world. (1Cor 1:20). In a world in which laws rule social life, it is clear that no one can keep them all. And even Israel when given God's Law was unable to keep it. God has opened a new way of relationship, that of mercy. All people, Gentile and Jew alike, have been imprisoned in disobedience. But God opened the way through the cross to be merciful to all. It is as he writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18 "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Matthew 15: 21-28

In the last 70 years this passage in Matthew and the parallel passage in Mark (it is not in Luke) has become a contested text. It has been claimed that Jesus' encounter with this woman from another culture was a decisive breakthrough in his understanding of his mission. What was the breakthrough? In this meeting Jesus said he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. After this confrontation with her his mission is seen to be open to women and men of all cultures. It is helpful to compare the earlier passage in Mark with this later passage in Matthew. First we need to keep in mind that Matthew writes from within the life of the Jewish Christian Church which is both threatened and persecuted by Israel after the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.

Let us summarise the passage in Mark in italics and the parallel passage in Matthew underlined.

The Meeting.

MARK *The woman is a Gentile, of Syro-Phoenician origin, who comes and begs at Jesus feet to cast a demon out of her daughter and Jesus speaks to her immediately.* MATTHEW The woman is a Canaanite who comes at Jesus shouting for her daughter to receive mercy because she is tormented by a demon. Jesus does not answer her, and the disciples urge him to send her away because of her shouting. Then, Jesus says that he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. In Matthew it is much more of a confrontation with an aggressive and demanding foreigner, with Jesus rejecting her approach.

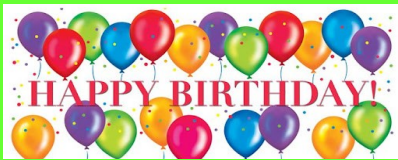
The Response.

MARK *Jesus says, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She counters, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Jesus replies, "For saying this, you may go – the demon has left your daughter."* MATTHEW Jesus says, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs". She says, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table." Jesus says 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.'

What differences do you find here? The claim that this is a decisive breakthrough is primarily derived from Matthew's account.

In grace and peace,

Dean



PEOPLE NEWS

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

20— 26 August

Liberia, Sierra Leone

Sympathy to the Leader family on the death of Sylvia Leader on Saturday 12th August.

A Thanksgiving Service for the Life of Sylvia will be held at St. Matthew's on Monday 21th August at 11am.

Followed by refreshments in the upstairs hall.

Op-Shop Donations

We are now accepting donations of Christmas decorations and other Christmas items; such as Christmas paper, plates etc.

Continue to bring in your Bric-a-Brac to sell in our Op-Shop and at our Mini Mart.

The Op Shop are in need of a replacement vacuum cleaner. If you have a spare lightweight stick vacuum cleaner that you could donate to the Op Shop they would be very appreciative.

Please contact the church office.

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 dove image / publications or find in recent posts.

AUGUST SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

6 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

13 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

20 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

27 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

3 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

10 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

17 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

24 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

25
AUG

5-7PM
FRIDAY



COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Noni or just come along
none81@gmail.com



Am I Not Your Neighbour?

Is Global Warming Real?

Does Climate Change Matter?

Come and listen to Dr. Clive Pearson in conversation with Dr. Maina Talia

The theme of the neighbour is based on a reading of the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Thursday 14th September, 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

St Matthews Uniting Church, Baulkham Hills
Crn. Edgar & Charles St. BH

Maina Talia is a former co-chair of Global Indigenous Forum on Climate Change, author, climate activist. Maina has participated in every COP conference since Paris 2015; he has organized numerous workshops; addressed the German Parliament; been reported in major Australian and overseas newspapers. He recently completed his doctoral thesis on the situation in Tuvalu: three of the world's leading theologians on climate change believe his thesis should be published immediately.

RSVP: Email St. Matthew's Uniting Church office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Walking Together Workshop

Want to learn more about the Uluru Statement from the Heart that is the background for the referendum on the Voice later this year? Here is a great opportunity to do so. Walking Together and Sydney Alliance are running a series of complimentary workshops. The closest one is :

Walking Together - Castle Hill

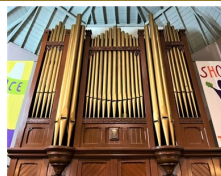
Date: Thursday, August 24

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: **Rebellion Room, Castle Grant Cultural Centre**
(under Castle Hill Library)
14 Pennant Street, Castle Hill

Registration:

[Walking Together Workshop - Castle Hill](#)



Organ & Strings Benefit Concert

Sun 20th August 2:30pm

Leigh Memorial Church,

119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

Tickets \$20 each or \$50 Family (2 adults & 2 children)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO



To purchase tickets, scan the QR code or visit

<https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert>



Come and join us each month for an evening of live music, dinner and fellowship.

When: August 27 (please note this change of date)
Sep 17 and Oct 15 from 6-8pm

Where: Northmead Uniting Church, 3-7 Hammers Rd Northmead

Cost: Donations welcome for pot luck dinner

Who: All ages are WELCOME!



For more information contact Noni Medcalf: nones81@gmail.com