



**Bible Reading**

**Matthew 16:24-28**

*Response after Bible Readings*

**Leader:** Hear the word of the Lord

**Response:** Thanks be to God



**8am—Worship**  
*includes Communion*  
Led by Roland Bryant  
and Dean Drayton  
**Followed by morning tea**

**9.30am—Worship**  
*includes Communion*  
Led by Daniel Gibb  
and Dean Drayton  
**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8  
**Followed by morning tea**

**6.45pm—Worship**  
Led by Daniel Gibb

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 4 SEPTEMBER**  
**9am—Sorting & Pricing**  
**for Op Shop** lower hall

**TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am—Christian Meditation**  
in the church  
**7.30pm— Thrive** in lower hall

**WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—In Stitches**  
upstairs hall

**THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery** *Speaker John Nichol*  
"Religion in Japan Past & Present"  
in the upstairs hall and church

**FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**  
**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group**  
"Balloon Night" upstairs hall

**SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER**  
**No Scheduled Events**

**SUNDAY  
10 SEPTEMBER**  
**8am—Worship**

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

**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  
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

# Lectionary Notes

## Pentecost 14 September 3

### Exodus 3:1-15

In this passage we jump forward from Moses' birth to his being a fugitive in the desert. After growing up in Pharaoh's household as Prince he had fled to the desert after murdering an Egyptian he saw oppressing his people. There, as a shepherd, he is puzzled by a burning bush, blazing but not consumed. It is important to realise that this bush was on Mt Zion (or as it is called here, Mt Horeb). God first called his name, and then commanded him to keep his distance; barefoot, for he was on holy ground. God then announced "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." and Moses was terrified.

God then disclosed his call upon Moses to confront Pharaoh and bring God's suffering people out of Egypt. And when Moses said he needed to know God's name, the answer came. "I AM WHO I AM" with the instruction to say to the Israelites, the God of your ancestors has sent you, Moses, to free them.

### Psalm 105:1-6,23-26, 45b.

The reading has shortened the forty five verse history of the people of Israel to ten verses. The psalmist begins with praise for what God has done.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgements he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.(5,6)

After recounting the story of the events of Genesis we have a synopsis of how God rescued his people as events soured in Egypt.

Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

And the Lord made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes,

Whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.(23-26)

And the rest of the Psalm tells the story of the leaving of Egypt, the Exodus, in great detail, to return as a people to the land promised to Abraham.

The lectionary readings for this day in Exodus and the Psalm celebrate the story of the founding of the nation of Israel, their national day. Verse 45b says simply and profoundly this is the Lord's work "Praise the Lord." It is worth reading the rest of the Psalm.

### Romans 12:9-21

Would you like a check-list for church life? In this passage one is given. It goes to the heart of what constitutes the life of the church, and not once is the word church found. It is so easy to focus on what is required to keep the church operating as an organisation and lose touch with whose the church is. In last week's reading Paul appealed to the congregation in Rome to present themselves as a living sacrifice to God, discerning God's will as they worshiped God. In verses 3-5 he focused on how they were to evaluate themselves according to the measure of their faith, while acknowledging the diversity of the body of Christ. Verses 6-8 then outlined the differing gifts of the Holy Spirit that will find expression.

All this is to set the scene for verses 9-21 in which Paul describes how the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be found in their midst. What a check list it is. Here is love expressed in numerous practical ways. Here are a few of the many ways we are to be the community of Christ in the community of Baulkham Hills.

"Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly."

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all."

And many others. Check them out.

### Matthew 16:21-28

The countdown to the cross is underway. These are three incidents in today's reading that follow immediately after Jesus' questioning of the disciples as to who he was. First, Peter gets it wrong - Second, disciples are to take up their cross - and Third, the future of the Son of Man is to be disclosed. All three are about the cross.

**Firstly**, Peter's rejection of the cross in Christ's future. "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." And Jesus immediate repudiation, "Get behind me Satan. You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Phew! Even his disciple did not get it!

**Secondly**, if you want to be a disciple don't try to save your own life, but take up your cross and follow me to life.

And in a word for all people of all times. "for those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Echoes of "Seek first the Kingdom of God." (Matt 6:33) All other ways are finally dead ends.

**Thirdly**, the Son of Man will bring the glorious reckoning of the kingdom of God. The last two verses are not easy to understand. Verse 27 seems to point in the far future to the culmination of all when the way of Christ and his kingdom will be vindicated and all that is not of the kingdom will be lost. Verse 28 seems to point to the cross in the near future for "there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." Whichever way the stress is put, whether on the cross, or a day of judgement, the church in the time of Matthew said daily (in the Lord's Prayer) that the kingdom of God was coming. The truth for them was caught up in the great vision of the Ancient One in Daniel 7: 9-14. In this passage the great kingdoms of the world are brought before the judgement seat of the Ancient One and ended forever.

"As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages would serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed." (13,14)

The cross of Christ is about ultimate matters. Jesus is preparing his disciples for this journey through the darkness into the light. One can tremble here in an awareness of the sense of eternity and the presence of the visible glory of God. What a relief it is that it is Jesus who leads us into the reality of the kingdom to the presence of his Father. It is not easy to put these matters in words, yet they are of such immeasurable importance. These three incidents are vital. They speak to each of us.

In grace and peace,

Dean



## PEOPLE NEWS

Peter Duncum  
Moira Bryant  
Belinda Schuster

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

3 — 9 September

*Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo*

## 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*



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

**When:** 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

## Save the date

*Rev Jon Humphries  
Induction Service*

**3pm Sunday 15 October**

at St. Matthew's Uniting Church

*Please join Jon as he begins his ministry with us.*

More details to follow.

## *Morning tea Sunday 3 September*

Please join us this Sunday

**3 September**

for morning tea after both our 8am and 9.30am services.

All are welcome.

## 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](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)  
Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.



# *The Galston Concerts 2023*



**Sunday afternoon- 1.30 organ preludes  
concerts 2 till 3ish,**

**in Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston**

**10 September**

**Glenn Amer, pianist & vocalist!**

Global star Glenn Amer is 'King of the Keyboards', a prince of the piano, in a multi-style program of popular Classics: *Clair de Lune*, Percy Grainger, a waltz medley; the Warsaw Concerto, movie music (the theme from *Laura*) plus (as an Opera Australia vocal coach) his sung selections including *September Song*. Presented in his renowned relaxed style Glenn will also perform our organ prelude (yes, he's a church organist too!)

Bookings on-line <https://www.trybooking.com> (search Galston) Adults \$30; Seniors \$25; High school & tertiary undergrad \$10; 12 & under FREE

Your diary date for our last Galston Concert in 2023:

**5 November**

**Enquiries** to Robert Harris, Artistic Co-Director, 0428 248 348  
or to Galston Uniting Church, 9653 2039