



Bible Readings

Psalm 78:1-7
 Matthew 25:1-13



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

Led by Vivienne Strong
 and Jon Humphries

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

Led by Warren Arthur

9.30am—Worship

Led by Hugh Darling
 and Jon Humphries

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship

Community Meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER

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

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER

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

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches
 upstairs hall
10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea
 McKell's Café Circa Norwest

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

No Scheduled Events

**SUNDAY
 19 NOVEMBER**

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

Includes Baptism

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

**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

Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

12 November
24th Sunday After Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Dark Sayings from of Old

We have had a series of parables recently in our Gospel readings. These are often familiar to us. If we are 60 years old and have been in the Church all our life, then subtracting 20 years for the time we were young and sent out of Church for kids activities or we may not have been listening well, then we will have likely heard about 40 years of sermons. Given the that the lectionary repeats every three years that means we will have been through thirteen cycles, and if we adjust for the times people don't use the lectionary and may not always use the Gospel reading for the sermon the chance is that we will have heard possibly eight sermons on each of the readings. Of course, many of us are not 60 years old, but we can do the numbers for the amount of times we may have heard sermons on the same passage. So how do we find fresh meaning in them?

Erna Kim Hackett offers us a lens to examine Scripture in a new way. In an article published in 2020 which she wrote about privilege in society, she described how many of us read the Bible with a kind of Disney princess theology." This is about how we usually see ourselves as the hero or heroine in the story, not the villain or the antagonist. If we stop to think about it, Jesus's provocative parables and teachings are usually directed at the listener, whether then or now, to move us into transformation, often through repentance. Although we often think of ourselves as the person doing or being good in the stories, the reality is that it is probably more helpful for us to consider to what degree we are like those with flaws and failings in the stories. I am not suggesting that we are bad people, but we do fall short of the glory of God, and it is good to face the truth of in what ways we do that so that we know what we have to work on.

The following prayer is one that I wrote, when I reflected on the way that Christian people often comes across as judgmental and moralistic in their condemnation of others and the way other people live or behave or about what other people believe. I put myself in those shoes, for the truth is that I do sometimes wear them, and applied the implications of Jesus's teachings to myself as one who would be on the foolish or flawed side of his stories. You may not connect with the sentiment, but it is something to think about. God bless.

Who Will I Meet in the Line for Hell?

Christ,
Who will I meet in the line to hell?
Alongside murderers and thieves and all the sexually immoral,
Will I meet the religious and self-righteous?
The idolatrous and infidel?
The ignorant and complacent?
I guess I'll meet the well-intentioned,
Who heard your call,
But never found the will or the way to love or live as you would have them,
Even though they wanted to at heart?
Will I meet dissenters and the fractious,
Those who preached discord and division?
Will I meet the morally superior,
Those who maintain the whitewash of the tomb of their belief,
By condemning those whose sin they name as greater and more grievous than their own?
I guess I won't meet the rich,
As they will probably already be inside,
But maybe not,
Because surely I'll be standing in their group.
Will I meet other hypocrites like myself, Who along with others have logs in their eyes,
Grown from unattended specks,
And splinters in their fingers from pointing them at others,
Or the misguided and surprised,
Those silly goats,
Who were so certain that they knew you and what you were about,
And yet, did not actually get it?
But maybe I'll meet you,
Expecting you to judge me,
And usher me to where I belong,
Or, yet, maybe you will just confront me with the truth,
Your truth,
The truth of my flaws and failings,
The awful truth of the ramifications and consequences for others,
The truth of my failure to love
The truth of my sin.
And yet will you not also confront me with your grace,
Your confronting love
And your unrelenting mercy?
Will I have the faith to trust you as God's Word,
Or will my guilt
And/or the condemnation of the righteous,
Mean that I fail to notice you standing there,
As I have so much throughout my life,
So that I simply walk in with the flow?
You know the outcome of such things,
Thus, I simply pray.
Amen.

God bless.

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Janine Cameron

Janice Caldwell

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

12-18 November

Aotearoa-New Zealand, Australia

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 3 November 2023 please see link :

[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](https://uca.org.au)

NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

5 November - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

12 November - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
Community Meal

19 November - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

26 November - 9am (combined) & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

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

<https://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au/>

Click on the metal dove image / publications.

Elders Elections

Elders voting will be held after a **combined 9am service on Sunday 26th November.**

Elders Nomination Forms are located in the upstairs foyer and Nominations close on Friday 10th November.



A list of nominees will be available from Sunday 12th November.



UNITINGCARE
ST MATTHEWS PRESCHOOL

COMPLETED
RENOVATION WORKS
OPEN DAY
& BBQ

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023
10.45AM - 12.30PM

LOCATION
St Matthews Preschool
ST MATTHEWS LANE
BAULKHAM HILLS

You are invited to visit the preschool to see the recent renovation works that have been completed.

The works include a new roof, entrance/reception area and staff room / library area.

The Open Day includes a BBQ with the St Matthews Church Community



Volunteers needed to help organize and cook the BBQ on the day. If you can help contact the church office.

The Church Council and Elders are working with Jon to gather some feedback about how we can continue to grow ways nurture people in faith and discipleship. There is a survey that we are asking you to complete. It also asks for feedback about some of the new things that Jon has introduced in recent times.

You can scan the QR code below or use the link below.



<https://forms.office.com/r/EV8b6YqQmY>

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

24
NOV

5-7PM
FRIDAY



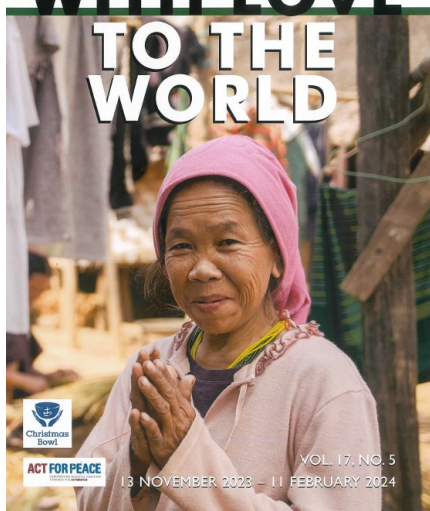
COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.



RSVP to Belinda or just come along
bdschuster@gmail.com

ADVENT CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



ADVENT CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary

Volume 17, Number 5
13 November 2023
to
11 February 2024

is available in the church foyer.

Please place \$7 in offering bag to cover costs.

Rosters Non-availability December 2023, January & February 2024

Thank you to all who have responded and have returned their **Worship Roster Non-availability Form for December 2023, January & February 2024**.

If you haven't let us know, that's ok, it is not too late. If you help on the roster regularly or not please let us know your Non-availability dates for this period by Monday 13 November. Just email the office or you can call to let us know.

**Many thanks
for all your assistance.**