



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

17 March 2024

Lent 5

Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am Services



Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

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 and 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Led by Pamela Leslie
and Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sara Wienand
and Jon Humphries

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

Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Alex Lawless
and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 18 March

9am—Sorting and Pricing for
Op Shop lower hall

TUESDAY 19 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
community room

7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
lower hall

WEDNESDAY 20 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches
upstairs hall

10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea
McKells Circa Norwest

7.30pm—Elders Meeting
in the church

THURSDAY 21 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 22 March

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
upstairs hall

SATURDAY 23 MARCH

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 24 MARCH

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

Includes Baptism

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

Followed by morning tea

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@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

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LOCATION:

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BAULKHAM HILLS

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Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

17th March

5th Sunday in Lent

Lectioary Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Right Glory

Have you ever thought about what right glory is? We talk about giving glory to God in Christian circles. It has become part of our Christianese (our in-house talk), and I am not sure that we fully understand what it means or its importance. Therefore, we may treat the idea too lightly (this is a pun which you might understand better as your read on). In this week's gospel reading John recounts Jesus talking about how he gives glory to God and is glorified by God. Glory can't get more right than this. So, as disciples of Jesus, who is the living incarnation of God, then it is important to think about how we give right glory to God.

The Hebrew word for glory is קָבוֹד [kavod/kabod]. This is a term with both social and moral implications, and stems from the root word for weight. It can mean glory, honour, respect, distinction, and importance. Glory in Hebrew should be seen as abounding in honour and reverence, almost to a degree that it is terrifying, like

when the glory of God shone from the face of Moses after he descended from the mountain from speaking with God. It is literally a weighty word. In many ways it is the weight of importance and influence of the presence of God.

In Greek the word for glory is δόξα [doxa]. We might be familiar with this, but in English we use it most commonly as part of our word 'orthodox.' In Greek δόξα [doxa] means opinion, judgment, view or estimate - whether good or bad concerning someone, but in the New Testament it is usually regarding a good opinion concerning one, resulting in praise, honour, and glory. It can mean splendour, brightness, but related to being of an excellent opinion of something is the notion of exaltedness of someone's or something's magnificence, excellence, pre-eminence, dignity, grace and majesty. This seems quite different to how we use the word orthodox, which usually means the traditional or most correct way or form of something.

Jesus when he speaks of glorifying God and being glorified by God is speaking about his crucifixion and resurrection. We have an indication of this in the Gospel reading where Jesus says, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Continued next page

Right Glory— continued

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.” (John 12: 23-26). However, this is even more explicit later in the Gospel in John 17: 1-5 where Jesus says as he prepares for his upcoming crucifixion, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

Glory is linked with the cross because it is Christ’s giving himself fully to the will of God and mission of God to redeem the world that bring glory to God and shows the weight of the love of God and the presence of God in the person of Jesus. The glory that Jesus spoke about was being in union with God and God’s purpose. It is the divine relationship. Therefore, for as disciples of Jesus, it is in giving of ourselves and laying down of our lives as a service to God through serving others and witnessing to God that we truly and rightly give glory to God.

If God is love, then the best and right way to glorify God is love God and being the love of God for others.

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

– John 15:8

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

- Matthew 5:16

The Bible Project has a helpful podcast about the glory of God. It is only an audio podcast, but is worth listening to for further perspectives on this very important concept. Here is a link to it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92UjGNLabiE> They make the point that when we image God well and rightly then we are rightly giving glory to God, after all we are created in the image of God.

In my sermon this week I will also be doing some unpacking of the character, Melchizedek whom Jesus is compared to in the Hebrews reading and whom he is shown to supersede. If you want to learn more about this enigmatic character in the Bible, again, the Bible Project has a helpful video. ‘How Abraham and Melchizedek Point Forward to Jesus’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIZjA-3hiys>

How we give right glory to God is something truly weighty to think about.

God bless.

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Anne Oliver
Yee-Cheng Eldridge
Dennis Bell

Barbara Brookes
Judy Lance

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

17—23 March

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter
for 8 March 2024 please see link :

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

Easter Services

at St. Matthew's

Palm Sunday
24 March
8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Maundy Thursday
28 March 7.30pm

Good Friday
29 March 9am

Easter Sunday
31 March
8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

APRIL 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

7th April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

14th April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

21st April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

28th April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

lentevent

14 FEBRUARY - 28 MARCH 2024

40 DAYS OF FAITHFUL ACTION
FOR GOD'S CREATION

UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

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reflections and
our weekly video
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email inbox.

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Supports critical climate action in vulnerable communities who are fighting to build resilience and mitigate climate impacts.

By supporting Lent Event, you're making a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Support Lent Event go to the website : [here](#)

LOST PROPERTY BOX

PLEASE CHECK THE LOST
PROPERTY BOX IF YOU HAVE
LOST ANY ITEMS WHILE
AT THE CHURCH.

**THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IS
LOCATED ON THE CABINETS AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.**

New Sanitary Bins

We have replaced the Sanitary
Bins in both the upstairs and
downstairs disabled toilets.

They are now suitable for

- lady's sanitary wear
- adult incontinence products
- baby's nappies

Volunteers are invited to take part in ***The Easter Experience***

**at Gordon Uniting Church
18th, 19th & 20th March**



**If you would like to take part please contact
Gordon Uniting Church at info@gpuc.org.au**

For 20 consecutive years just before the end of term 1, the Gordon Uniting Church building has been transformed into Jerusalem 2000 years ago. The place comes alive with people from ancient times telling the story of Jesus' last week on earth, in a production called "The Easter Experience".

We invite Year 4 children from local schools to come and experience this important story in an interactive way. In addition we run a Year 7 program in the afternoon, challenging the students to look at the Easter story in a new way, relevant to today.



The Easter Experience is staged each year with volunteer actors from our congregation and others. For many children it is their first experience of the Easter story, and they walk through the scenes of The Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Trial of Jesus in the courtroom scene, and then experience the impact of the empty tomb, with Jesus re-appearing to assure them that he is alive.

Smart debit regular giving

Do your own direct debit direct to St Matthew's

1. Login to your online banking
2. Create a schedule to 'Pay Anyone' from your acct
3. Create St Matthew's as a payee

BSB 634-634
Acc 1000 25924

4. Use reference :
Offering 8.00 or 9.30 or 6.45
5. Set the amount and frequency as you wish – weekly/monthly
6. Done!

- ✓ Similar to Pushpay but uses your savings accounts not credit card
- ✓ More flexible than a direct debit form lodged at a branch
- ✓ Start/vary/stop as you choose
- ✓ No fees
- ✓ Regular recurring gifts allows St Matthew's to budget more accurately

Thankyou to all St Matthew's regular givers whatever method – cash, envelopes, direct debit and Pushpay!

**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.**

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

“Be still and know that I am God”

Meditation is an ancient form of prayer. Its aim is to bring the distracted mind to silence and stillness, and rest in the presence of God. Even in our modern busy lives this is possible. We invite you to come along and try this form of prayer which is simple and peaceful.

Times and dates below for Introductory 6 week course.

For more information contact Katherine Pedersen



INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SIX WEEK COURSE

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS
Corner of Charles St & Edgar St, Baulkham Hills

CONTACT:
Phone: (02) 9686 3003
Office@stmatthewsunting.net.au

This course provides an opportunity for those interested in finding out about Christian Meditation to experience the practice in a small group, to learn about its origins and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

11.00am-12 noon
(Weekly for 6 weeks)
From 7 April – 12 May

TUESDAY MORNINGS

9.30am-10.30am
(Weekly for 6 weeks)
From 9 April – 14 May