



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**  
growing together



## Weekly Newsletter

24 March 2024

Palm Sunday

### Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am Services



**John 12: 12-16**

**Mark 11: 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 and 9.30am only**

### 8am—Worship

Led by Vivienne Strong  
and Jon Humphries

### 9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb & KUCA  
and Jon Humphries

*Includes the Baptism of Theodore and  
Bronte Symonds*

*We welcome the family and friends  
of Theodore and Bronte to worship  
today.*

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

**Followed by morning tea**

### 6.45pm—Worship

Led by Nicola Lawless  
and Abbey Sim

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 25 March

9am—Sorting and Pricing for  
Op Shop lower hall

#### TUESDAY 26 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation  
community room

#### WEDNESDAY 27 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop

#### THURSDAY 28

##### March

9am-2pm—Op  
Shop

7.30pm—Maundy Thursday  
service



#### FRIDAY 29

##### March

9am—Good  
Friday Worship



#### SATURDAY 30 MARCH

No Scheduled Activities

## SUNDAY 31 MARCH

### 8am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

9am—Worship @ the  
Willow's

### 9.30am—Worship

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

Followed by morning tea

### 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

**OFFICE :**

9686 3003

Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

#### 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

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Thank you to all who have  
contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

## 24th March

### Palm Sunday

#### Lectionary Readings:

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Mark 11: 1-11

John 12:12-16

#### ***Hosanna. Hosanna in the Highest***

What do you think that hosanna means? Growing up, I thought that it meant something like hallelujah and had to do with praising God. Now, I know that it does and it doesn't. It literally has nothing to do with praising God. It literally - that is what it literally means in Hebrew – has nothing to do with praise, but is an asking God or someone else to save us. However, even though the word doesn't actually mean anything other than 'save us we pray', it has come to be used as a way of praising God who saves us, with the notion that our praise is rightly due because of that. So, I have done a bit of researching to work out why what something once meant has become to mean something completely different.

Here is a link to '*Hosanna | 1 Minute Definition*' which is ironically a four-minute video talking about what hosanna means. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Jc5CCuAR5k>

The video basically sums up what the Encyclopedia Britannica explains. "Hosanna, in modern speech and liturgical usage, a cry of praise to God. It has acquired this meaning through the assumption that it was so meant by the multitude

that hailed Jesus on Palm Sunday (Mark 11:9). If it was, it must already have become a Jewish liturgical cry rather far removed from its original meaning—the word is a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew hōshî'ah-nna' "Save, (we) beseech Thee!" It meant, thus, entreaty, not praise (as in Psalms 118:25). If the crowd still knew its original meaning, they must have been addressing it to Jesus as the new David, as a plea for political salvation." <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hosanna>

Wikipedia, tells us what is pointed out in the video, "The word hosanna (Latin osanna, Greek ὡσαννά, hōsanná) is from Hebrew הוֹשִׁיעָה-נָּא, הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא hōshî' â-nā and related to Aramaic ܫܠܫܢܐ (ōsha'nā) meaning 'save, rescue, saviour'. In the Hebrew Bible it is used only in verses such as "help" or "save, I pray" (Psalms 118:25)." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosanna#:~:text=The%20word%20hosanna%20\(Latin%20osanna,\(Psalms%20118%3A25\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosanna#:~:text=The%20word%20hosanna%20(Latin%20osanna,(Psalms%20118%3A25)).

Similarly, Christianity.com explains, that Hosanna is often translated "Please Save Us." It is a Greek word "ὡσαννά" that most scholars believe is the transliteration of two Hebrew words- יָשָׁא "yasha" which means "to save or deliver" and אָנָּא "anna" which means "please, I beseech." Other scholars believe its Hebrew roots come from a different verb tense of "yasha" יַשִּׁיעַ which means to cause or to bring about salvation. In this tense, hosanna becomes a command to bring about or cause salvation. I recommend reading Penny Noyes' full article to get a fuller understanding of "hosanna." <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/what-is-the-meaning-of-hosanna-in-the-bible.html>

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## **Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest continued**

There is a lot about this word that I took for granted for so long. At its roots it is a cry for salvation. The people may have been praising Jesus as he came into Jerusalem, but they may also have been calling and beseeching him to save them from the Romans and become king of a free Israel. Today, we might say that it is about us understanding our need for salvation for our sins, especially if we have a cross/Easter focus. Certainly, Christ died for our sins and is the 'King of Salvation.' Yet, even if we do want to cry for God to save us from our sin, what are we meaning by that? Is Jesus, as the person of God whom we relate to as human, just there to mount some spiritual offensive to drive out the devil and sin from our lives? That is a nice idea, but on closer reflection are we missing the deeper meaning like the crowd did. Jesus didn't come to raise rebellion and drive out the Romans through war and fighting. Somewhat, similarly, Jesus didn't come to drive out sin and the work of hell in us through miraculous spiritual warfare.

The cross is the focus. It is about self-sacrifice and humility. It is about death and resurrection. This makes repentance and being saved from sin a work of discipline and discipleship in our lives. We are of course saved by grace. God simply wipes our sin away and remembers it no more. We don't earn forgiveness. We don't work for it. It is never owed to us. Neither is it dependent, even, on us asking for it, for whilst we were still sinners Christ died for us and on the cross beseeched God to forgive us because we don't know what we are doing. We are forgiven by God through grace. However, the work for us is repentance and to stop sinning because as 1 John 3: 6 states provocatively, "No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who

continues to sin has either seen him or known him." Yet, we know that we all do continue to sin. This is where we need to step out of the crowd. We need to rediscover the heart of hosanna.

Hosanna is a prayerful plea to God for help. It is rooted in the knowledge of the truth that we need God's help. It is rooted in the need for repentance, not only repentance of the mind, but repentance of the heart. We need help in changing our being. We need God's help to save us from ourselves and the continuing poor choosing that we do. Hosanna is at the heart of Lent, even though the recollection of it comes towards the end of this liturgical season. Hosanna is a liturgical term, but it is not just a nice old word to sing or say. It sets for us work as people to put effort and will to joining with God and opening ourselves so that God can work transformation and salvation in us. Despite us accepting God and claiming to be God's people, salvation is an ongoing process. As the old song 'Father Welcomes All His People' goes, "Let us daily die to sin. Let us daily rise with him." Hosanna leads us to the cross. In faith we enter not only the story of Easter, but we enter into death and resurrection as we seek to both die to sin, losing our lives which are not full of eternal living, and then being raised to eternal life, being born again in the grace and love of God. Hosanna is so much a word and idea to think about.

God bless.

*Jon*



## PEOPLE NEWS

Amanda Manson

Carl Denison

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

24—30 March

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

## 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 \(uca.org.au\)](https://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

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connecting communities for life

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WWW.LENTEVENT.COM.AU

**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



## 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!**



## 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@stmatthewsuniting.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

**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.**