



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am



Mark 5: 21-43
 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

Response after Bible Readings
Leader: Hear the word of the Lord
Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
 Followed by Morning Tea

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by Morning Tea

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
 and Nicola Lawless

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**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 1 July

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
All Welcome

in community room and church

TUESDAY 2 July

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room

11.30am—Care & Prayer
 community room

WEDNESDAY 3 July

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches
 Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 4 July

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery
Guest Speaker: Colin Booth
**“What makes something a
 Treasure”**

Upstairs hall and church

FRIDAY 5 July

5pm-7pm—Fusion

“Secret Agent Night”
 Upstairs hall

SATURDAY 6 July

9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am-12pm—Garage Sale
 lower hall

**SUNDAY
 7 JULY**

8am—Worship
 Includes communion

9.30am—Worship
 Includes communion

KUCA in recess for School holidays
 Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES
 Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

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 BAULKHAM HILLS

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Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

30 June

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

Mark 4: 21-43

Hope, Faith, and Fear

Hope, faith and fear: These don't seem to go together, and they shouldn't, but they do. In last week's Gospel reading we had the disciples afraid and in fear wondering who Jesus was. This week we have two people coming to Jesus in faith, full of hope for healing, yet also with some fear. They may not be afraid of Jesus, but they were afraid of what others would think, and maybe also afraid that Jesus wouldn't help them. Sadly, religion is much to blame in the fear of these people and of many people today.

Religion, especially Christian religion [but in a lot of other religions too], sets rules and taboos and boundaries and acceptability and permissibility. Sometimes this is a good and helpful thing, but a lot of the time the people who make up and follow the religion then get hung up on the rules. Religious people can become self-appointed police of the rules and boundaries, or a kind of religious peer-pressure becomes established based around a sense of judgement.

Jairus who was a synagogue leader and in coming to Jesus would have feared the

reaction of other religious leaders. We can safely assume this, even though it is not explicitly stated, because the narrative so far in Mark has made it clear that the teachers of the Law from Jerusalem, and the influential sect of the Pharisees, not only disapproved of Jesus but had in mind to kill him because of what he was teaching, what he was doing, and more to the point, how many people were listening and following. The woman who was bleeding came knowing that she, who was ritually unclean because of her bleeding, could not be in public near others less she render others ritually unclean. In coming in secret to touch the hem of Jesus' robe we have a fairly clear indication that she was fearful of others finding out, or of Jesus finding out. Moreover, to be ritually unclean and to touch a religious teacher, let alone touch a man outside of her family, was a great breaking of rules and taboos, and she was likely right to be afraid of how the crowd would react.

We know the outcome of the stories of these two people and we know Jesus's approach to inclusivity of those pushed to the margins by religion and its rules and cultural pressures. However, the characters of Jairus and the woman didn't necessarily know how things would turn out, and certainly had likely reason to fear the reaction of their fellow religious people. We know the outcome and we know Jesus's approach to inclusivity of those pushed to the margins by religion and its rules and cultural pressures. Yet, people today are fearful of Christianity and Christian religious communities. This is sadly because they have had hurtful experiences at the hands of Christians or know of people who have.

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Hope, Faith, and Fear

Continued

The radical inclusivity of Jesus, who did not excuse people's wrong-doing, or minimise the reality of the harmful nature of our sin, is not something that we seem to always truly understand as the Church. We think righteousness too often has to do with sinlessness, the condemnation of sin, the separating ourselves from those who sin, and holy meaning that we cast out sin and those who do it to keep the Church pure. However, we miss the point that none are sinless and all fall short of the glory of God. This is a sad and true reality which isn't to be minimalised or downplayed, but it should lead us into radical humility and active compassion. We, who know our own sin and what it is to struggle with it, should therefore not be judgemental of others in their struggles with their flaws and failings. Our sinfulness should lead us into radical compassion. Righteousness – that is being right with God – is not a work that we can achieve but is only because of the grace of God. It is God who through grace brings us into right relationship. Nothing we can do can make us right with God. Yet, as we know through the person of Jesus, God will do everything that is right to bring us into right relationship.

People should not fear to come to, interact, or be a part of the Church. Because of the love, grace and acceptance of God which we seek to embody people should flock to the Church. Truth about sin needs to be spoken about, but it is a truth that we should first know and apply all too well to ourselves. Raising sin with other people should always come from a place of humility and compassion as we seek to love others. It is also a truth which needs to be spoken reservedly, and gently, with kindness and faithfulness and self-control. Often it is better to leave the truth to God to reveal, and for us to just get on with loving people and connecting them with God and God's love in word and deed (or the other way around).

As for healing, that is something we can also leave to God. God heals. The reality is that God heals some and not others, at least in terms of physical healing. We cannot know how things will turn out. We can come in faith and hope, but shouldn't fear the outcome. Whether physically healed or not, God is always with us, working for good. We shouldn't fear, in our hope and faith, to pray for healing, nor should we fear the complexity and mystery around who is healed or isn't. The Kingdom of God is at work in us. As a well-known passage reminds us, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God, who have been called according to God's purpose." – Romans 8:28 We may not know the outcome or the purpose. Let's face it, in the case of the woman who was bleeding, Jesus didn't even know what was to happen or who it happened to when it did (or maybe he did, but the text presents it otherwise).

That leads us to a final thought. We are the Church, the Body of Christ – both together and individually members of it. [1 Corinthians 12:27] As such people like Jairus and the woman should be drawn to us. We should be a place of safety and healing for all. Partly this is something we can be agents in, but largely, because when people join with us and connect with us, they connect with God who is the one who heals, restores and transforms. As we continue growing together in the season of After Pentecost, let us open our hearts to God so that God might open our hearts to all so that all might be opened to the wonder or the working of God for good in the world and in the hearts of all people. How afraid are people of us the Church and how might we break down that fear as we seek to share God with them? That is something we can think about.

God bless.

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Jacinta Bell

Peter Sexton

Callum Wood

Julie Kolosowski

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

JULY 2024
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
 at the church

7th July - 8am, 930am, 6.45pm
 includes Communion

14th July - 8am, 930am, 6.45pm
 Community Meal

21st July - 8am, 930am, 6.45pm

28th July - 8am, 930am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

30 June—6 July

Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda

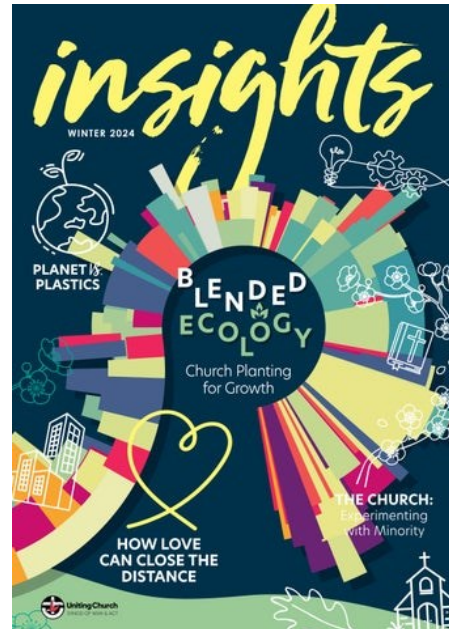


Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

Uniting Church in Australia,
Synod of
NSW & ACT stamp Committee

Recent contribution of stamps donated for sale by the committee was very much appreciated.

Sales to date for 2024 is \$9500.00



Please pick up the latest **insights** for Winter 2024 from the church foyer.

Giving Envelopes

The Giving Envelopes for the next financial year are now ready to collect from the church foyer.

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week (21 June 2024) please see link :

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



Op Shop Support Needed

People to help with:

- Sorting and Pricing 'trash and treasure' for the Garage Sales
- Washing pre-loved 'treasures'
- Sorting & Pricing second hand clothing
- Serving customers
- Creating shop displays



For more Information please contact the church office.

Katherine Pedersen has requested donations of used floral bowls. (See image).



If anyone has any of these bowls, would you please bring them in and leave them with the Op-shop. They will be used for a special project later in the year. **Thank you**



WCCM
MEDITATION & COMMUNITY



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Weekly Sessions

@ St. Matthew's Uniting Church
Baulkham Hills

Cnr Charles and Edgar Street, Baulkham Hills

MONDAY EVENINGS

7.30pm

Starting 20 May

TUESDAY MORNINGS

9.30am-10.30am

Coffee and Discovery
@ St. Matthew's

Thursday 4 July
10am to 12pm

Guest Speaker:
Colin Booth



WHAT MAKES SOMETHING A TREASURE?



Colin, a treasure collector, will speak about treasures he has collected throughout his life and some of the treasures that have been uncovered at the Op Shop and taken to auction to raise money for St. Matthew's.



These informal morning gatherings include devotions, morning tea and guest speakers which cover a large range of interesting and informative topics.

***** ALL WELCOME *****

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.