



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am

Ephesians 3: 14-21
 John 6: 1-21

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*

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 Michael Strong
 and 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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 29 July
9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall
7.30pm—Christian Meditation
All Welcome
 community room and church

TUESDAY 30 July
9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church
7.30pm—Community Room in use

WEDNESDAY 31 July
9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches
 upstairs hall
7.30pm—Elders Meeting
 upstairs hall

THURSDAY 1 August
9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee and Discovery
 Guest Speaker **Alan Wright.**
"The history of Celtic regions"
 upstairs hall & Church

FRIDAY 2 August
5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
"Fusion Olympics"
 upstairs hall

SATURDAY 3 August
9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am-12pm—Garage Sale
 lower hall

**SUNDAY
 4 AUGUST**

8am—Worship
 Includes communion
9.30am—Worship
 Includes communion
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship
 Includes communion



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES
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CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

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Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

28 July

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 11: 1-15

Psalms 145: 10-18

Ephesians 3: 14-21

John 6: 1-21

More Than We Can Imagine

What might Jesus have been thinking as he walked on the waters? Was it just an everyday kind of stepping out to get where he had to go given it being the only way before him? Was there a sense of calm nonchalance, or mindful focus on what was coming next and what had to be done, rather than a sense of awe and joy and relishing of an amazing experience, or was he wowed and elated by the wonder of what he was able to do, knowing the experience of the power of the divine as a human person? Was he just like us as we often walk along our streets not necessarily focusing on the beauty around us or the amazing technology and work that went into the paths we tread, or was he completely mindful of the powerful nature of what he was doing?

As Jesus walked on the waters, was there recollection of the ancient stories? Did he cast his mind back, being the Word and incarnation of God, to the waters of creation? As he stepped across the waves, was there memory of the waters of creation, over which his person as Spirit once hovered. Did he recall all the potential that existed in that time and the glory which could be as creation unfolded, and did he sense the falling and failing of those created in his image which was to come?

As Jesus walked on the waters, did the story of Noah come to mind? Could he hear the echoes of the cries of the children and their families as they were overwhelmed and swept away by the flood? Did he feel like Noah waiting for the chaos to subside so that new

things could happen? Did he long to bring mercy and love in new and better ways to people across the world and across the ages?

As Jesus walked on the waters of the Sea of Galilee was there recollection of the deliverance of the Israelites as in another miracle the Red Sea parted and the people could cross? Did he lament the loss of life of the Egyptians as a symbol of all the ills and wrongs of humanity which he had come to save? Did he see himself as being like Moses, seeking to lead his people into the promise of God?

Was there a sense of holy mischief? Did he have in his mind the surprise and amazement which was likely in to fill the disciples? Was there a sense of play and pranking as he came up on the boat like a ghost upon the waters? Did he relish, even just a little, what he was doing as he calmly came upon his startled friends who got quite a shock to meet him in this way?

Who knows the mind of God? We certainly only have a glimpse. Yet, we know this God and are enfolded in God's love. We know God our Creator who is love and with us as the ground of all being in all things. We know God in the person of Jesus who bore for us God's love and in whose way and example we seek to follow. We know God in the person of the Holy Spirit who is at work in us and who manifests the presence of God in our lives.

God is for us not against us. God is at work in our lives for good, even in the midst of hardship and suffering. We don't always comprehend the mind of God. We don't always understand the ways of God. We don't always perceive the presence or working of God. Yet, faith opens us in trust to God that we might find and have peace in our life. God is more than we can imagine and loves us more than we know. Faith calls us to seek understanding of God, not so much by just the efforts workings of our mind but by the contemplation of God's action as we join in God's mission to transform our lives and the world. God is love and those who live in love live in God and God in them. God is a love bigger than we can imagine, and yet we are called to discover the dimensions of its length, height and depth as we journey with God in relationship, moved to learn this love as we love our neighbours and ourselves. There is quite a lot to think about.

God bless

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

28 July—3 August

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

Please return completed forms by 28th July

Volunteer Form

Assisting with Morning Services



September, October & November 2024

Have been emailed or collect a copy from the foyer.

NEW HELPERS WELCOME



Please return forms to the blue mail tray or church office.



Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week (19 July 2024) please see link : [New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://uca.org.au)



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

AUGUST 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at the church

4th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm includes Communion

11th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm Community Meal

18th August - 9am Combined AGM

25th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

Request for donations of used floral bowls. If anyone has any of these floral 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

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.

17th National Assembly Meeting

The 17th Assembly meeting was held in July over six days from 11-16 July being a time of joyful Christian community, worship, prayer and discerning the will of God for the Uniting Church in Australia. More than 200 members from around the country came together on Burrumattagal land to do the business of the triennial Assembly. You can read more about it using the following link <https://uniting.church/assembly-full-summary/>


A key part of the meeting was the installation of our 17th President, Rev Charissa Suli who is the youngest president and first person of colour to hold this role. Rev Dr Paul Dongwon Goh was announced the next President-elect of the Uniting Church in Australia. Paul will serve as President from 2027-2030 and will be the first Korean to do so. Mr Andrew Johnson was appointed as the new Assembly General Secretary.

Several key issues were discussed and proposals accepted. There were decisions about our Covenant with our First Nations Peoples, an affirmation, welcome and honouring of the life and faith of transgender, intersex and gender diverse people in our Church, acceptance of ACT 2 directions, three ecumenical documents were accepted as "continuing witness" to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and a decision to continue our mandate to support and encourage the whole church to move towards zero emissions by 2040.



celtic REGIONS

-facts and other stuff



Guest Speaker: **Alan Wright**

The history of Celtic regions in Northern Europe dates back over many hundreds of years. Each has a unique set of traditions, some ancient, some relatively modern. This presentation is a look at some of the customs and practices of six of these regions and includes a wee bit of history and some other stuff.

Thursday
1st August
10am - 12pm

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.