



Bible Readings

John 12: 1-8
Philippians 3: 4b-14



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*
Response: *Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.*



LENT 5

**Remember
 to put your
 clocks back**

8am—Worship
Includes Communion
 Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship
Includes Communion
 Led by Jon Humphries
 Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship
 Hosting
 Filthy Hope Live Podcast

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 9AM

Livestreaming

at
**8am and
 9.30am only**



Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 7 APRIL

Church Office Closed

8.30am-12pm—upstairs Hall in use

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

TUESDAY 8 APRIL

8.30am-12pm—upstairs Hall in use

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

**9.30am-11am—Christian
 Meditation**
 community room and church

7-8.30pm—Lenten Studies
 In the church

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop

**10am-12noon—Women's
 Fellowship**
 Upstairs hall and church

THURSDAY 10 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 11 APRIL

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY 12 APRIL

No Scheduled Activities

**SUNDAY
 13 APRIL**

8am—Worship

**9am—Worship @ at the
 Willow's**

9.30am—Worship
 Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess

6.45pm—Worship
 Community meal



PALM SUNDAY

MINISTER

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

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY:
 LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8AM-2.30PM
 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

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

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

6 April

LENT 5

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Gritty Love

What motivates you in faith? What keeps you going? Moreover, what motivates God? What keeps God going on this quest to love humankind into being better, especially in the face of what can seem like unending resistance? Why does God persist in loving us when we as humankind continually reject or flaunt or take God's love for granted and fail to grasp the power and beauty and amazingness of love and how love – ἀγάπη [agape]/self-giving love, can lead to flourishing? Why does God not simply abandon us to our own self-centred self-destruction? Why did God go to such lengths in love to become human in the person of Jesus and seek to lead us into the fullness of life, and then in the faith of suffering, rejection, enmity, hate and humiliation, cruelty, injustice, and rejection, which ultimately took the form of crucifixion, still continue to love us? Why does God persist in dwelling within us and making ours being God's temple as the Holy Spirit when we so often undervalue, and even disdain such a wondrous gift? These are such important and powerful questions.

I believe the answer to be deeply embedded in the notion of ἀγάπη [agape], this highest and most full expression of love. We often talk about the self-giving and self-sacrificing nature of ἀγάπη [agape] but one of the aspects of this kind of love, which is a true and authentic expression of the character of God, is that of the grittiness of God and God's love. Grit is a term that we may not be used to using. However, it has come to the fore with the work of Angela Lee Duckworth who has done a lot of work and research into how grit is an indicator for success and flourishing because it is a foundational element for both.

"Grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals. Grit is having stamina. Grit is sticking with your [desired] future, day in, day out, not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years, and working really hard to make that future a reality." This is a quote from Angela's TED Talk. Here is a link to it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H14bBuluwB8> Grit has much to do with ἀγάπη [agape] love because it is about passion and purpose. God's love is about God's passionate desire for us to embrace the deepest purpose in life which is the fullness of relationship. God's desire is that we might have the fullest of life – eternal life – which is not simply unending but has the richness of flourishing. This life comes from the essence of God who is the source of life and flourishing, and God passionately create all thing for this purpose and passionately desires us to join in this.

Continued next page

Gritty Love –continued

We are called to discipleship, to follow God, whom we know in Jesus, on the way of the cross, to join in God's mission to transform and redeem the world through [ἀγάπη \[agape\] love](#). The way of the cross is about grit. We need to grasp the goal of the Kingdom of Heaven/God and the powerful vision that it presents for fullness of life for all and the way into flourishing. This is the life in abundance which Jesus speaks about as a core part of his mission and purpose for coming. [John 10:10] This abundance is found in through ἀγάπη [agape] love, and such loves is gritty.

Flourishing doesn't come without effort and discipline. To be physically well we need to be disciplined in what we eat and how we exercise. To be emotionally well we need to take the disciples of flourishing which involve and cultivate helpful mind-sets. To be spiritually well we need to take up disciplines which connect us with God and God's love such as meditation, prayer, practising the Fruit of the Spirit and being the Church together. To be eternally well we need to live a discipline of ἀγάπη

[agape] love because God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. [1 John 4: 16] All this discipline require grit passionate, resilient, determined, sustained, persistence to work towards the future that we know in our hearts as being the ultimate goal in life and of life.

Lent is a time to practise grit. We take on disciplines which build our stamina and willpower so that we can be more gritty in our determination to be better disciples. We practise grit through discipline so that we can better live out ἀγάπη [agape] love and thus join God in God's mission of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven further into being, whilst at the same time coming into the fullness of life. How are you working to be more gritty in your life and loving? This is something to do some gritty thinking about.

*God bless
Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (28 March 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Spotlight 2025](#) ([Synod Weekly](#))

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

6 —12 April

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia



FILTHY HOPE A Uniting Heart and Soul Podcast April 6 at St. Matthew's



Come along to be in the live audience/ congregation for the Filthy Hope Studios live podcast recording.

◆ *Free Pizza Dinner at 6pm*
◆ *Recording at 6.45pm*
So we know how many to cater for please sign up at <https://www.unitingheartandsoul.org/filthy-hope>

Rev Ness and Jonty Cornford will chat with Dr Ali Robinson—Lecturer in New Testament at United Theological College as their guest.

The event will be live streamed
<https://www.twitch.tv/stmattsuniting>



Please pick up the latest

insights

magazine
Autumn 2025

from the
church foyer



We need your help teaching KUCA

**During the 9.30am service
Preschool, Year K-2 and
Years 3-8**

Please see Jon if you can help.

We Would Love to Hear From You

We would love to share in your gifts. If you would like to lead our services through liturgy or preaching there is always opportunity to become involved, beyond reading the Bible and leading in prayers or other duties. We are blessed to have people willing to share their insights and wisdom and lead us into thought and reflection as we seek as a congregation to listen for and attend to what God may be saying to us. We would love to hear from you as well.

Here is a link to a survey form where you can sign up to preach or lead the liturgy. You can elect to do it as a once-off or nominate the pattern of your preferred involvement.

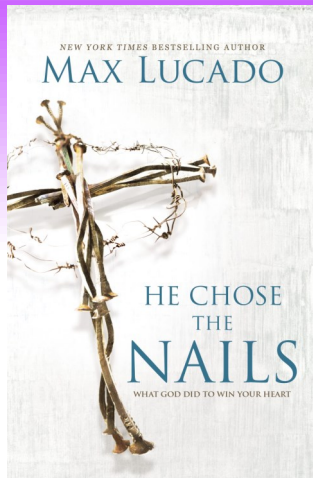
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**We Would
Love You**



**To Preach or
Lead the liturgy**





Lenten Bible Study Max Lucado "He Chose The Nails"

Where: St. Matthew's UC in the Church

Time: 7pm-8.30pm

When: Tuesday nights

beginning 11 March to Tuesday 15 April

Everyone is invited to come along.

The Easter Experience 2025

**at Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church
Sunday 6th, Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th
& Wednesday 9th April**

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

The Easter experience staged each year with volunteer actors from Gordon/Pymble congregation and others, an outreach to the local primary schools (year 4) telling them the story of Easter.

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.

lentevent

5 MARCH - 17 APRIL 2025

40 days of faith-filled
action for God's Creation

*"The impact of climate change
is very real in the lives of our
people in Tonga.*

*It means a lot to us that the
people of the Uniting Church in
Australia are standing with us,
through UnitingWorld."*

*-Rev Makoni Pulu, Free
Wesleyan Church in Tonga*



Take on a climate challenge! For 40 days, transform the way you eat, shop, travel or use energy. Set a fundraising goal and inspire your friends and family to sponsor you

Give generously to create a big impact. Your donation will support climate action led by people and communities on the frontlines of climate change.



Donate



Keep faith

Explore how your faith can inspire action, change lives and spread much-needed hope to face the climate crisis. We have great resources to inspire you on the journey.

\$20 can help our partners **plant trees** to stabilise landslide-prone areas and absorb carbon.

\$90 can help provide **seeds and tools** for a family to grow their own food.

\$200 can help equip local churches to lead **disaster preparedness and recovery** efforts.

\$500 can help supply **clean drinking water** to a remote community impacted by drought.

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/resources>