



Bible Readings

Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26



Response after Bible Readings

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

2nd Sunday after
Pentecost



8am—Worship
Includes communion
Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship
Includes communion
Led by Jon Humphries

KUCA — Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship
Includes communion
Led Jon Humphries

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

twitch.tv

Livestreaming at
8am, 9.30am and
9am in January each
year

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 8 JUNE

Kings Birthday

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 9 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

community room and church

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship

church & upstairs hall

THURSDAY 11 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 12 JUNE

5.30-7.30pm—Fusion Youth Group

"TV gameshows"

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship

KUCA — Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

2pm-4pm—upstairs hall in use

6.45pm—Worship
Community meal



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND
SUNDAY am , MONDAY, TUESDAY
Email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL : lynns@nswact.uca.org.au

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TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

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Something to think about

7 June

Pentecost 2

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

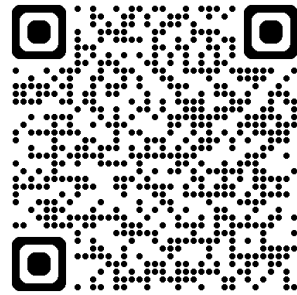
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Being in Love

I'd like to talk about being in love. This is not about being in romantic love, as great and as important as that might be, but being in the love of God. God is love and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them. [1 John 4:16] God is the 'ground of our being' [Paul Tillich] because 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' [Acts 17:28] Our being is in love, because our being is in God.

This idea of God being is love and our being in God's love is made clear in the video, 'God Loves You, But What Does That Mean? (According to the Bible)' by the Bible Project.

God is who we are about. It God as Christ and as God as Holy Spirit which our identity is centred in as the Christian Church, as well as God as Creator/Parent/Father whose mission gives us purpose. Jesus was the incarnation/



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfbyFLqs_NM

embodiment of God's love. He was the embodiment and the centre point of God's mission. "For God so loved the world that he sent his only son..." [John 3: 16] and "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us [as Jesus, the Christ]. We are the followers of Jesus, disciples of his way and the Body of Christ the Church. It is Jesus that we are trying to be like. Jesus shapes our way of being as the Church and as individual Christians. It through Jesus that we learn about God who is 'The Father' and how we learn about God's love and what that calls us to.

Continued next page

So, what is love? What kind of love are we talking about, because there are different types of love. Here is a good refresher about love: 'Agape – Love' by the Bible Project.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slyevQ1LW7A>.



Jesus was God as human. That is what incarnation means. When we name Jesus, as the Christ, and God-incarnate we are naming Jesus as God in human flesh. In another description we name Jesus, Immanuel – God with us. [Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:23] Jesus was God as a human being, and our aim as disciples is always about being like Jesus. Jesus was not just God as a human, but the way humans can be. Being like Jesus, with God as Holy Spirit being in us and at work with us, means that human being is about being as God calls us to, that is God who is love and in whose image we are created in. [Genesis 1:26] Human being is about being in love.

The last part of this theological logic trail about being in love as human beings is then what does this look like? What does being like Jesus mean for us who can't be God-incarnate like Jesus? Well, that is where Scripture and Pentecost come into

play. God is incarnate in us. We are not God, but God lives in us and has made home in us and we become the living temple of God as Holy Spirit. Thus, we look to stories like Jesus' love and inclusion of people on the margins, his challenging of simply making religion to be about rules and ritual sacrifice and more about compassion and mercy. Some of those stories we have in the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel reading this week in Matthew 9:9-13 and 18-26.

We have it about being in love in the teaching that the greatest of God's commandments is to love God with all our being – our heart, soul, strength and mind – and love our neighbour in the same way. [Matthew 22:34–40; Mark 12:28–34; Luke 10:25–28]. We have it in the epistles, especially spelt out by Paul in lists such as what love is like in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 and in his description of the Fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5: 22-23].

In all of this, it is never just about what we do. It is not about just keeping to rules or ethical and moral guidelines. We are not called to be human doings. We are called to be human beings. It is about us being in love, because in being love we are being in God and being like God. This does involve us caring about what we are doing, but it takes us deeper than just our behaviour and actions. It is about our identity in Christ, who is being God and being love as a human. It is about centring ourselves in the presence, will and way of God who lives with us and within us as Holy Spirit. It is about honouring God who is creator in all that we are, as well as all that we do, for it is this God, who is love, whose image we are created in.

Who are we being? How are we being in love? This is something to think about, at least for us who seek to be Christians.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Faye Butel
Anne Hanna

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

7 —13 June

*Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa,
Eswatini*

A message to all groups and individuals using the Church property

When using any part of the Church property at any time, please ensure that when you leave, you turn off all lights, fans, air con's and properly lock and alarm the premises if required.

Please ensure you correctly turn off the automatic door when you leave, it is easy to set it to the wrong setting .

Thank you

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (29 May 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2026 - 29 May](#)



Congratulations to Vivienne and Mike Strong who celebrated their 60th Wedding anniversary. Vivienne and Mike were surprised by their daughter Rebecca with a beautiful cake that was enjoyed by all after the 8am service last Sunday.

PIRATE DAY



St Matthews Uniting Preschool
Pirate Day Fundraiser
Raising money for childhood
Brain Cancer.

We are fundraising for Pirate Day because we want to help turn the tide on kids' brain cancer. More children in Australia die of brain cancer than any other disease and treatments can result in substantial and permanent side effects.

Every dollar counts, so let's make childhood brain cancer walk the plank!

Please look for the donation box in the church foyer

or

Head to the link below to donate or use QR code

<https://www.pirateday.com.au/st-matthews-preschool-baulkham-hills>



Friends of the Middle East

Re: E-books for the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut.



If you would like to consider offering some financial assistance, **please email: library@nswact.uca.org.au with the subject 'NEST'.**

Every donation counts.
***Donations of over \$20
will attract a tax deduction.***

The only way to donate specifically to the e-books is directly via the library as shown above and not via the FME website.



Saturday

6th June

9am-12pm

Pre-loved
Household Items,
Electrical, Toys & Books
(Fiction, Non-fiction & Children's Books)

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

ST. MATTHEW'S
BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
growing together



St Matthews Baulkham Hills

Parallel Floral Workshop 2026 - Open to everyone!

Date: Saturday 27th June 2026

Time: 9.30-12 noon

Venue: St Matthews Upper Church Hall, Cnr Charles & Edgar Streets, Baulkham Hills

Cost: \$20 if you bring your own container/ vase and flowers and foliage. **Or \$35** if you **don't** bring your own vase/container, flowers or foliage and they will be provided for you.

Details about materials to bring will be given when booking in. Morning tea will be supplied. A donation of \$8 per person will be forwarded to charity.

RSVP: by 23rd June 2026

Contact: St Matthews' Church Office or Katherine on (02) 9686 3003



St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Climate Change – phasing out fossil fuels – Pacific Nations taking centre stage.

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) in its May email, has highlighted the outcomes from the first international Fossil Fuel Treaty conference held in Santa Marta, Columbia, in late April 2026.

Jonathan Watts and Fiona Harvey in Santa Marta reported in the Guardian newspaper that:

'The single most important thing to come from the first Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels conference, in Santa Marta, has been a change of mood. Whereas the UN's annual climate summits, or Cops, can often feel stuck and frustrating, with countries circling the same topics without resolution, nearly every delegate in Colombia felt liberated.' The link to the article is: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/may/01/santa-marta-colombia-climate-conference-ending-fossil-fuel-era>

The April 2026 conference has lit the fuse even though it barely mentioned the Treaty simply because nearly 60 countries spent a week working together on how to phase out fossil fuels. The next phase-out summit will occur next year in the Pacific nation of Tuvalu, where the calls for a Treaty will be much louder.

The Second Conference on the Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in Tuvalu in 2027, will be co-hosted by Ireland. The agenda that has been set out for the Second Conference was clear and ambitious:

1. Confronting economic dependence on fossil fuels, including 'unsustainable debt' and a global financial system that was not built for us and too often fails us.'
2. Addressing supply - i.e. tackling not just the consumption but the production of fossil fuels.
3. Strengthening international cooperation and closing the governance gaps that have left so many nations behind.
4. To prioritise international coordination, links to the UN system so as not to duplicate it, as well as de-liberate efforts to build momentum on three fronts:
 - countries developing phase-out roadmaps,
 - finance and economics,
 - making sure efforts are grounded in local realities.

Additionally, in 2027 there will be the pre-COP summit in Fiji, that will be co-sponsored by Australia. The question of phasing out fossil fuels will certainly not go away.

Blessings,

Amanda

Social Action Ministry Team (SAMT)

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St Matthew's
email Alexander on

alexander.lawless7@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church
Hall

Ness Williams-Henke and Jon are back with their all-age / intergen podcast, 'On the Way with Ness and Jon.' It has a new look to make it more appealing to all ages. This has taken some time to get set up. The latest season is ready for Pentecost and After Pentecost, looking at the Fruit of the Spirit.

Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@OnTheWaywithNessandJon>

or listen wherever you listen to podcasts


**LET'S CHAT ABOUT
LIFE AND FAITH**



On The Way with Ness and Jon

@OnTheWaywithNessandJon • 7 subscribers • 10 videos

On The Way is all about having great conversations about life and faith. Jon and ...more

 Subscribed 

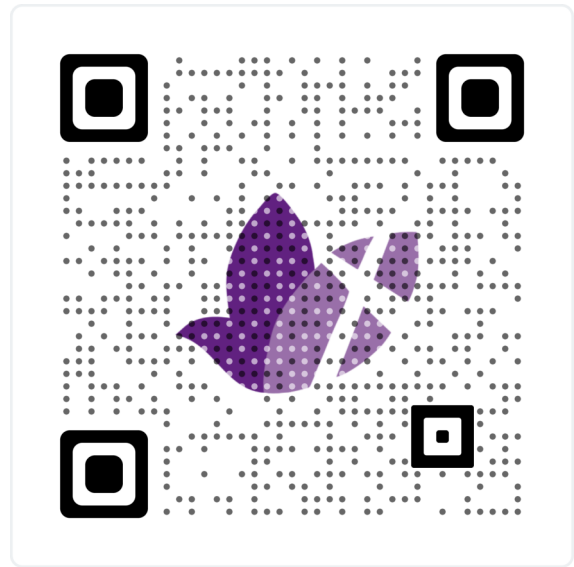


Why Is Love A Fruit Of The Spirit?



What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?

Please see QR Codes for links for YouTube,
Facebook & Twitch



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.