



Bible Readings

8am Hebrews 5:1-10
 Mark 10:35-45



9.30am Job 38:1-7
 Mark 10:35-45

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 9AM

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
 and Roland Bryant

9.30—Worship
 Led by Hugh Darling
 and Clive Pearson
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Sandra Morell
 and Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 21 October
9am—Sorting and Pricing for Op Shop and Garage Sale
 lower hall
7.30pm—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

TUESDAY 22 October
9am-2pm—Op Shop Includes Vintage Fashion sale lower hall
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church
7pm-9pm—NEW Bible Study
 In church or community room

WEDNESDAY 23 October
9am-2pm—Op Shop Includes Vintage Fashion sale lower hall

THURSDAY 24 October
9am-2pm—Op Shop Includes Vintage Fashion sale lower hall

FRIDAY 25 October
No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 26 October
No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER
8am—Worship
 Followed by morning tea
9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea
5pm—Shine
6.45pm—Worship



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

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:
 ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003
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LOCATION:
 CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
 BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:
 BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
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WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
 Weekly newsletter available on website

FACEBOOK:
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

20th October

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

Focus passages for our Service:

Job 38: 1-7
Mark 10: 35-45
Hebrews 5: 1-10

Caring About Caring

In a talk by Lawrence Freeman which we recently listened to as part of our Monday night Christian Meditation group, he raised the issue about the complexity of care. In English there are so many nuances or interpretations or applications of this seemingly simple word. We can care. We have cares. We care. There is carelessness and uncaring which is very different from being care-free. To say to someone, "Have a care!" is very different to telling them to take care. To take care is similar, but different to taking care of someone or something. This complexity of meaning was not something that I'd cared to explore in much detail or care enough about to take time to ponder it before. So, here we go with a mind bending and thought-twisting exploration of care as part of faith and discipleship.

The Bible is a book full of wisdom if we care to listen for it and discern what that wisdom of God might be. This is the important thing. It is the wisdom of God that we should care about not human wisdom. As the writer of 1 Corinthians asks us, "Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" [1 Corinthians 1: 20]. If we care to ask God for wisdom, then God will gift it to us. The writer of James states this clearly when he writes, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." [James 1: 5] What is then the wisdom we should care for?

The Revised Common Lectionary has been tracking through the book of Job in the Old Testament readings which is set as part of it. This isn't something that we have been exploring in our services at this time but it good to touch upon, and this reflection is an opportunity to do so. The book of Job seems to be about the wisdom of care. Job cares for God. The Satan suspects that Job only cares because he has much wealth and many good things in his life. So, Job has all these things taken away, and on top of all this tragedy, he is afflicted with horrible disease which makes his life even more miserable.

Many see the book of Job to be about seeking wisdom around the issue of why bad things happen to good people, or why a good God allows suffering, which most of us would judge as being bad. In the book, it is clear that God cares for Job. His friends seem to care for Job but, in the end, they seem more to care about defending God than caring about Job or caring for Job. Job cares to challenge God and ask, "Why?" It is then that things dive into deep philosophical and theological areas, if they weren't doing so enough already.

Continued next page

Caring about Caring—Continued

I encourage you to care to watch the video by the Bible Project about Job which is a very helpful summary and interpretation. Here is the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQwnH8th_fs&t=3s

or you can do an Internet search for 'Book of Job Summary: A Complete Animated Overview.'

What God cares about and how God cares for us seems as complex at times as the meaning and uses of the word care. Job questioned whether or not God cared about justice. God challenged Job to care to consider the complexity of creation and the depth of justice or the consequences of dealing justice in the way Job cared about. God also calls us to care about what we care about and this is a key theme in Scripture.

As followers of God who we know in the person of the Christ and who speaks wisdom to us as Spirit we should take care in relation to what we care about and how we care for others. The commandments, Jesus's exhortation that the greatest focus we can have in life is to love God with our whole being and do the same by loving our neighbours as ourselves, all the prophetic teachings of the prophets such as Micah 6: 6-8 and much of the teachings of Paul and the other writers of the Epistles, all often have a strong leaning to speak about what God cares about and therefore what we should care about if we care about God. They also speak to how we should go about being caring as we seek to embody the love and will of God.

What do we really care about and how is that different to what we care for, as opposed to who we care for? We may not care for, that is feel like or want to, care for others in the way God call us to, but if we care about God then we should care about what God cares about and go about caring for those whom God cares for. Maybe we need a better word than 'care.' Yet, it is the word that we have and so it is the one we seek to better understand. If we have cares and worries, do not others have such things too? If we care about the instruction from Jesus to do for others what we would have them do for us, then we should care about their cares just as much as they should care for ours. When we care for each other then we create a caring community which is a bringing the Kingdom of God nearer and realer into being.

We who are the Church should be a community of care. It is what we are called to be. We are called to care about what we think about. We are called to care about who we care about. We are called to care about the way that we go about caring. We care called to care to make priorities in life as part of our faith and discipleship as we care to love God and those whom God cares about, which includes ourselves. Caring is a very complicated idea. It has many nuances and layers of meaning, but is also central to who we are as we seek to bear the image of God. So, apologies for my overuse of the word, but thinking about what we care about is most definitely something to care to think about.

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Ruth Duignan
Melanie MacWilliam
Terry Oliver

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

20—26 October

The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (18 October 2024) please see link :

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

**Elders
Elections**
Elections will take
place on **new date**
Sunday 10 November
at all 3 worship
services.

**OCTOBER 2024
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**
at the church

6th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

13th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

20th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

27th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

Please
return
completed
forms by
27 October

Volunteer Form

Assisting with
Morning Services



December 2024, January, February 2025

Have been emailed or
collect a copy from the foyer.

**NEW HELPERS
WELCOME**



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



To find out what's happening at St. Matthew's



during October click below:
Or go to the St. Matthew's website.
www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

To be included in the November edition of
In FOCUS please send your articles and group

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.



LECTIONARY READINGS

Bible Study Tuesday Evenings

Everyone is invited
to come along.

Commencing
Tuesday 22 October

*We will be Focusing on the Lectionary
readings from the previous Sunday.*

First readings—20 October 2024

Start Date: Tuesday 22 October 2024

Where: St. Matthew's UC
Church or Community Room

Time: 7pm-9pm
(last half hour will be supper)

Weekly: On a Tuesday night
until 17 December 2024
(excluding 10 December)

Will restart weekly from
Tuesday 28 January 2025

Led by Jon Humphries and Alastair Burn



To all our
beautiful customers.
In the lead up to
Christmas the Op Shop
are requesting
donations of:



- Ceramic glazed, decorative pots
 - Large good quality black plastic pots
 - Unwanted/unloved pot plants
 - Hanging baskets
 - Bird baths
 - Chimes
 - Statues
 - Hose reels
 - Hose hangers
 - Sprinklers
 - Gardening tools
 - Unwanted plant food, fertilizer
 - Plants stands/patio plant display/shelving/small round tables
- Pick-up may be available depending upon location, weight etc.

If you require items to be collected,
please contact the church office.

The Galston Concerts Sunday 27 October 2024

a pre-concert chat c. 1.40, the concert (& players' relaxed comments) 2 till 3.15ish, then 'meet the musos' afternoon tea, in Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston

Founders Farewell Gala

Stars return: **Louise Johnson** (Sydney SympH Principal Harp alumna); **Evgeny Sorkin** (Sydney Con violin virtuoso) with pianist **Rachael Lin**; prize-winner organist **Samuel Giddy**.

Adult \$40, Conc&Senior \$30,
Students \$10,
Children 12u free

A farewell
to artistic directors
**Robert Harris &
Dorit Herskovits**,
with great music by Bach,
Handel, Brahms, Gershwin,
Grainger; Russia,
France & Spain -
wonderful!



Bookings advised on trybooking.com
(search Galston 27 October)
Cash-only sales at the door on the day.
Enquiries phone 9653 2039



FROCK UP



Vintage Clothing Sale

from the 1950's, 1960's,
1970's, and 1980's

in the lower hall
Edgar St Baulkham Hills

Starts

Saturday 19 October 9am to 12pm

Then

Tuesday 22 October 9am to 2pm

Wednesday 23 October 9am to 2pm

Thursday 24 October 9am to 2pm

OVARIAN
CANCER
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

Op Shop News:

'Frocktober' is a fundraising event for the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

To celebrate, Op Shop is having a Vintage Fashion Sale this month.

We will be trading on an extra **Saturday on 19th October** from 9am to 12 noon. We will also have a display of vintage fashions for sale in the lower hall on 19th October and for the following week.

Op Shop will be raising funds for the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

The amount of the donation will be 10% of the Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Op Shop income for the four weeks of October (excluding the two Saturday trading days).

Come and join us at the Op Shop from 19th October to celebrate Frocktober!

