

# HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH NEWS

22 May 2020

Dear Friends,

As I write it's a much colder morning – we're definitely heading towards winter now. My kids love it – they prefer to be able to rug up and snuggle up by a heater or in bed, but personally I prefer the summer! The more wintry weather may start to make some outdoor activities a little harder; and perhaps staying at home and staying warm will feel more attractive.

The Church Council on Tuesday night started to look towards the variety of activities run or hosted by the church, and began thinking about the what will be required for physical gatherings to take place. There will be a new edition of High Street Times delivered next week which will contain an article about the principles that we will follow around opening for any gatherings, the range of issues that will need to be addressed, and the formation of a small group to oversee our safe response to the hazards of Covid-19. The safety of all people and the good of the whole community are very high in our concerns; we will not be returning to large gatherings in a single physical space for some time yet, though we will continue to make use of what means we have for staying connected and reaching out, in the grace and love of God.

This week's Bible reading, following the Narrative Lectionary, is about hope, and the particular promise of the defeat of death through the resurrection of Jesus. Paul writes of his own experience of the risen Jesus, which turned him from being a persecutor of the church to being a chief advocate, and he writes of the many others who were early witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. The promise of the renewal of all the world, which is held in God's eternal embrace, gives strength to Paul to be steadfast in hope and to encourage us to "always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Perhaps the glimpses that we see of the green life in the garden when the sun breaks out after rain will be a context of our thanks for the life and the promise that God nurtures inside of us.

Peace and grace, David

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

NEXT WEEK, on 31 May, there will be a COMBINED service of worship as we celebrate the Holy Spirit who brings us together. This will involve both the Contemporary and Traditional congregations; it has not been possible to make arrangements with the Chinese congregation this year. Similar to Easter Sunday, this will be a service at **10:00am**, to which people can connect through phones or through zoom video links. The Contemporary Oversight Group has graciously suggested that we use the **Traditional Service phone numbers and links** for the service. Please remember that it will be a **10:00 service on 31 May**, with an opportunity for the **kids to connect at 9:45am** to engage with some age-appropriate activities.

## UPDATING ZOOM

If you are using Zoom to connect with worship, or for any other meetings, please be aware that there is now an update for zoom available (Zoom 5.0) which has improved data security. It is necessary to update your version of zoom by 30 May, which can be done by downloading the newer version from

zoom.us/download (for PC) or from your app store; otherwise, when you go to use zoom for the service on 31 May, you are likely to experience a short delay while it applies the updates. If you would like some help with this, please contact Alan Jenkins on 0412 643 804.

## OFFERINGS

If you are not connected to regular direct debit, one-off or regular offerings can be made to the church by transfer to FRANKSTON UNITING CHURCH BSB **063 133** Account **00800128** Description **OFFERING**. Alternatively, keep a bowl for your offerings at home, or mail a cheque to the church office, 16-18 High Street, Frankston 3199.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP LINKS

### TRADITIONAL (9:00am)

Phone **(03) 7018 2005**; Meeting ID **616 254 006**; Participant ID (none); Password **3199**.

If you want to join using a video link that is also possible by going to

<https://zoom.us/j/616254006>

but the focus will be on people linking by phone.

### CONTEMPORARY (children from 10:25, main worship from 10:40)

<https://zoom.us/j/556610676>

or phone **(03) 7018 2005**; Meeting ID **556 610 676**; Password **3199**.

**WEBSITE:** Reflections accessible in text format at <https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/>

## THIS WEEK

Wednesday 27, 7:00 Presbytery meeting

Sunday 31, 10:00 combined Pentecost service