

HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH

18 July, 2021



LEADING WORSHIP: Rev Ian Cayzer

ZOOM – FOR ALL SERVICES

On a tablet or laptop computer:

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260> and use the password 3199.
(or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use the meeting number below)

To join on a phone without video

Call (03) 7018 2005

The meeting ID is 954 6849 3260 #

Participant ID – just press #

In recent weeks there has been a series of texts from Samuel which has focussed on David. First, we meet him as a shepherd boy who was anointed by Samuel. Then he dispatches Goliath with a pebble and slingshot. As time passes he becomes the King of Israel and finally King of the whole Jewish nation.

In today's reading there is peace across the land and David sits back to take his ease, and yet he is disturbed because the Ark of the Covenant which symbolises God's presence is still in a tent. His plan is to build a house fit for the Ark. He is planning his future to fulfill God's promise to him of being a great King by erecting such a fit house for the Ark.

The prophet Nathan, who initially thought it was a good idea, has a message in the night telling him that it wasn't. David's plan will have to wait for his son to bring to fulfilment. So he is told that he is not to do it. His choice is not the right choice.

In the Gospel, Jesus is far from at ease. He has sent the disciples off on a mission. Soon after learning of the murder of his cousin John the Baptist, they return elated and exhausted to find Jesus in the midst of a chaotic group of desperate people all wanting something from him.

Jesus has a choice. Does he accede to the demands of the crowd or deal with the other pressing problem which is his exhausted disciples? As we have heard, he chooses an attempt to gain some peace for himself and his disciples when he says, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." And yet they couldn't hide! "As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd."

This is a biting conundrum for anyone involved in any sort of ministry in 2021. Do we try to help everyone who comes to us needing help – or do we make space for ourselves and give ourselves a chance to recover so that we have the mental and physical capacity to help anyone into the future?

This is a question for Ministers, Church Councils and lay people alike! Often it is hard to understand the good news that Jesus Christ already is the Saviour of the world and we are not required to save it once more. What do you think?
Ian Cayzer



HEAL
COUNTRY!



STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Over 6 Tuesday nights, David will be running a small group study on the Uluru Statement from the Heart, using study materials prepared by the Uniting Church Assembly. This will be run over zoom, to enable a different range of people to participate, from 7:30 to 9:00pm. The first evening will be on July 27. Please contact David if you would like to join or know more. davidfoth7@gmail.com

Thursday study group:

David has advertised an online study group exploring the resource produced by synod on the Statement from the Heart, which emerged from The First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru in May 2017. The Thursday study group will also be using the study guide on the Statement from the Heart, and are open to new members who would like to have a face-to-face option (pending lockdown).

When: 7:30–9pm Thursday night, Fortnightly (starting July 22nd)

Where to meet: Arthur Poole's Unit

Unit 55 – Baxter Village

8 Robinsons Rd, Frankston South VIC 3199

*Enter Gate 3, then turn right, then left and left again – Then its on the corner (near the 'no through road' sign)

Please rsvp to Arthur Poole: 0448326971

INVITATION



The Uniting Church Assembly has the pleasure of inviting you to watch the
**Opening Service of the 16th Assembly and the Installation of
Rev Sharon Hollis as President of the Uniting Church in Australia,**
on Saturday 17 July commencing at
11.30am AEST (QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, and TAS), 11am ACST (SA and NT)
and 9.30am AWST (WA)

Go to <https://www.uniting.church/16thassembly> or watch on our **Assembly Facebook page.**