

# HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH

## 27 March 2020 Update

Good morning everyone. There's no "newsheet" as such this week, but here are some updates on worship and the activity of the church.

### WORSHIP THIS WEEK

This week we are going to focus on the story of the woman who anoints Jesus, breaking a jar of costly ointment. What was she thinking? What do we make of the layers of meaning – a response of extravagant love, but also a preparation for Jesus' death? The story is reproduced for you here:

#### **Mark 14:1-9 (New Revised Standard Version)**

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; <sup>2</sup> for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

<sup>3</sup> While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

<sup>4</sup> But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

<sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup> For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

For our worship, I encourage you to find some fragrant oil or perfume, or a scented candle. Imagine how the fragrance of a jar of costly nard must have smelt as it was poured out for Jesus' anointing... If you have the nose for it, by all means engage all of your senses in this.

Worship will be held at 9:00 and 10:40 as usual, by phone-link and zoom-link respectively.

#### **TRADITIONAL:**

Phone in just before 9am:

Phone           **(03) 7018 2005.**  
Meeting ID   **616 254 006**

We'll spend a little time greeting one another, and have some prayer, Bible reading and reflection. 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 just by phone.

### CONTEMPORARY:

Children (and their parents) are invited to Zoom in at **10.25am** in order to do some preparation together for what they will present and contribute during the worship time soon after. Hannah will be in touch with more details. The rest of us will gather just before **10.40** as usual. The link is the same as last week:

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

Or phone: **(03) 7018 2005**

with meeting ID **556 610 676**

### WEBSITE:

The website will be updated with information about linking to worship. Reflections will also be accessible in text format there. <https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/>

### OFFERINGS

If you are not connected to regular direct debit, one-off or regular offerings can be made to the church at

FRANKSTON UNITING CHURCH

BSB **063 133**

Account **800128**

Description **OFFERING**

### PHONE NUMBERS; ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH

Next week I will be circulating a list of all leaders' phone numbers. Please stay in touch with each other. There is no regular activity at the church, though the church office phone number and email address are being monitored. The May Fete has also been cancelled.

### EASTER

Church Council has met by "Zoom". There are going to be some Holy Week resources prepared and circulated. On Mandy Thursday night the Thursday night Bible study group will host a special gathering by zoom/phone for all who can join in. Good Friday resources will be prepared with a zoom/phone link at 11:00am. On Easter Sunday, there will be a phone-in service at 9am and a video-link service at 10:40am, following our normal pattern of services. More details will be circulated next week.

### FINAL NOTE

Please keep in touch with those around, and take opportunities for prayers for others, for phone calls, and for appreciation of the things we can notice in nature around us in our own time of quiet. "The Lord is our light and our salvation" (Psalm 27:1) The peace and grace of God be with you,

David