

HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH NEWS

31 July 2020

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST – DAY OF PRAYER

This Sunday our cycle of Bible readings gives us the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21). It is also a Sunday that the **National Council of Churches in Australia**, the **National Day of Prayer and Fasting team**, and others have called to be a **Day of Prayer regarding the pandemic**. NCCA President Bishop Philip Huggins writes about this week's reading and the call to prayer:

Jesus is in that deserted place for a very poignant, personal reason (after hearing what has happened to John the Baptist). The desperate, yearning and hopeful come to find Him "on foot from the towns". Jesus comes ashore and sees a great crowd. He puts His own needs aside. What follows is both a model of leadership and our reason for praying to our Saviour now. We see Jesus' compassion; Jesus' non-anxious, peaceful presence; Jesus' creative response to this apparent crisis. We can see all this clearly in the text without any need to labour the point. Just to add that when the crisis is over and "all ate and were filled", there was plenty left over. Such is God's generosity, providence and loving presence. Hence we offer our prayers for all we need, including an end to this pandemic.

I commend to you the idea of committing deliberate time on Sunday to joining with people from across all denominations of the church in prayer. There are two specific actions that I invite you to consider:

*** Join a prayer meeting on Sunday morning from 8:00am to 8:30am**, using the links for the Traditional worship service. You can join using a phone, laptop or iPad in the same ways that we join for worship later in the morning. During that half hour of prayer, prayers will be specifically offered for all who are dealing with the pandemic and its impacts, with a mixture of quiet prayer and some prayers being offered aloud. Feel free to join in whatever way you feel able.

*** Fast from media/social media for the day.** Many of us spend a lot of time being bombarded with images and updates through the news and social media. Consider making Sunday a day of "fasting" from that media. During the day, when you notice that absence, offer a prayer instead, and practice listening for and trusting God. The aim of the fast is to free ourselves from our own anxieties and efforts to control and understand, and remember to listen for God's heart and God's peace.

Don't forget that during worship, we will be sharing Holy Communion, recalling Jesus' compassion and his feeding of the crowds – see the note below.

God's peace,
David

HOLY COMMUNION THIS WEEK

This week we will celebrate Holy Communion as part of the services. If you would like to share in this way, please have a small portion of bread with you, and a small drink of wine, grape juice, or something similar. We will share in Communion in both the Traditional and Contemporary services.

HIGH STREET TIMES

The most recent copy of High Street Times has been posted and/or delivered this week. It is also available on our website, www.frankstonuc.org.au, under the NEWS tab

ROOM TO LET

Trent, from the Contemporary service, has a room to let in his house in Mount Eliza, close to both the shops and the beach. Please contact David, or Trent directly, if you know someone who might be interested.

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 on a computer or iPad, go to zoom.us and "join meeting" using the Meeting ID details above, or use the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/616254006?pwd=MkhoWjdXemFiUjAyVmN3bXBxSURqUT09>

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

Zoom Meeting ID **556 610 676**; Password **3199**. Join meeting from zoom.us or use the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/556610676?pwd=T3k4RmVUV0NldGR2eEswZVlvVUIXUT09>

or phone **(03) 7018 2005**.

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

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 4 August, 7:30 – Church Council

Thursday 6 August, 1:00 – Elders

Friday 7 August, 4:00 – Open