

WEST EPPING UNITING CHURCH

Our Vision:

*We are people sent to share the love,
hope and compassion of Jesus Christ with
all the world*



Sunday 20 May 2018

Welcome 환영합니다

സ്വാഗതം 欢迎

Ki ora Malo ē lelei

ONE FOOT PLANTED ON TWO PLACES!

The pivotal question who am I and where am I, as a Tongan-Australian can be summed up in the words of, Tupou-Thomas, Jung Young Lee and other Theologians of diaspora. We are in the liminal positions, "In between means we are neither here or there. [We are] neither in the centre nor on the margin, neither at the top nor at the base, neither a true-blue Aussie nor a pure Tongan. [We are] in between the past and the present, the centre and the margin, the core/norms and the fringes/borderlines." I migrated to Australia when I was 9 years old, and now in my mid 30's, it may suggest that I am a full Aussie. Or maybe not so sure!

In most Pacific cultures the term for umbilical cord is the same for land. In Tonga, we say fonua and where the cord is buried, that place or location connects you to that land and its people. Therefore, land is sacred and any exploitation or disturbance will affect everyone. This is why we "liminals" mostly, feel torn between two places, it becomes away of life having to balance the two cultures that we embody. To be in-between is a gift of a richness to one's life experiences. At the same time it has its down side, there is confusion of belongingness, sometimes you don't realise that you are more absorbed in one over the other.

Our family home in Tonga was renovated in 2015. My parents and I were over there for the Christmas break. We arrived on a Saturday night just before midnight. A very late dinner was prepared for us, afterwards our guest went back to their own place. And we realised we were in an empty house without any grocery. Looking over to the corner shop, it was closed for the sabbath. In Tonga, all businesses cease on Sunday even the airport, only the police station, hospitals, and petrol stations are open.

The next morning we only had some of the left overs from the night before. We couldn't call any of our family because everyone had their own church commitments. My uncle returned later that day. He reminded us we were back in the islands and it was okay to ask our neighbours for coffee, tea and bread etc. This happens every time I'm in Tonga. There is a bit of sadness in me that I have become over self-dependend and chosen to be an individual, and I have forgotten the Tongan values of community and sharing. Where are the places you feel out of place? What and who reminds you of your connection to it?

Tau'alofa Anga'aelangi

PRAYER POINTS

- ✝ Pray for Christians in certain parts of the world. Who although they are a tiny minority, they have the courage to witness to the gospel and find the strength to live according to God's word – those who in spite of danger dedicate their lives to others.
- ✝ Pray for the rich natural resources – the incredible ethnic diversity in places – cultural traditions and practices that have been maintained against modernisation.
- ✝ We pray for the church and families who have lost their loved ones in the terror attack on the churches in Indonesia.
- ✝ We pray for all people to stand together, against terror attacks on churches in Indonesia, innocent people and to call for an end to violence.
- ✝ Remember the millions of displaced people around the world.
- ✝ Pray for the ministry teams of West Epping, their commitment, preparation and their work in and outside the gathering community.
- ✝ Pray for the moderator, and the Synod of ACT/NSW, the president, the Assembly and all the people who continue to discern God's direction and decision for the church.
- ✝ Pray for Christian Church's around the world and for other faiths who are prosecuted daily for what they believe.
- ✝ Pray for the health and wellbeing of our most fragile members.

A QUOTE FOR TODAY

What is hope?

"Is hope a belief, a feeling or an emotion?
Is it a vision or a way of being?
Is Hope something one wilfully discovers or something one is offered as a gift?
Is it a dynamic or an entity in and of itself?
Does Hope arise from the internal world or is it something external to human beings.
It is likely that Hope is all of these things and more."

(Marshall 2016)



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we gather, the Wallumedegal people of the Eora nation and give thanks for their care of the land over many generations.

TODAY IN WEST EPPING

Today is Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter when the Spirit of God came upon Jesus' followers in the form of wind and fire. Pentecost is a time when we celebrate this coming of the Spirit and we give thanks to God as God gives us the inspiration, the strength and the power to be Jesus' witnesses in the world today.

As part of today's service at 8am, Alex Kennedy will declare his faith and be confirmed into the life and witness of the Uniting Church in Australia. We give thanks for Alex's commitment. Let us stand by him, encourage him and pray for him in his journey of faith.

Confirmation



HEALING SERVICE

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

The Healing Service is a response to Jesus' invitation to come to him with our weariness and our burdens.

Our focus is on wholeness of being. Here we come before God with the things that concern us or weigh us down. We do so through prayer, the reading of scripture and the opportunity to listen and, where appropriate, to share. We do this with the conviction that God loves us and wills for each one of us life – life in all is fullness.

**This service is for everyone:
Sunday 27th May,
4pm in the Cottage**



CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA SYDNEY

The CSI Sydney Congregation is a vibrant, growing congregation involving, children, youth, young adults and seniors. This community shares facilities with us here in West Epping and worship in the church every Sunday at 5.30pm. Activities begin with choir practice at 4.30pm and continue with Sunday School at 7pm.

Services are led by the CSI Sydney minister, Rev Sujid David. Worship is in a South Indian (Kerala) language, Malayalam, with worship services in English every third Sunday.

A warm invitation has been extended to all West Epping people to attend worship, particularly on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 5.30pm when worship is in English.



www.weppinguca.org.au
www.facebook.com/weppinguniting

Community News

PRAYER GROUP ~ If you would like prayer for yourself or for others please contact Lois Rees, Helen Campbell, Annabelle Avern or Rev John Barr who convene a weekly Prayer Group each Thursday in the Cottage 12.15-1.00pm. **During this time we pray for all members of the West Epping Community and for the needs of others.**

New members of the Prayer Group are always welcome.



COTTAGE CRAFTERS ~ Tuesday 22 May
Commencing at 9.45am we meet in the cottage and begin with morning tea and a chat. All are welcome. This month will be UFO time. Bring along anything you have not quite completed or your own craft. Time to start thinking about those knitting needles, wool and patterns are available. Please bring your finished Suffolk Puff bags – it's photo time.

Enquiries: Margaret Wilson 9871 5649

CELEBRATE PENTECOST WITH OUR ECUMENICAL PARTNERS!



An ecumenical service to celebrate Pentecost will take place this Tuesday at the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford, St Gerard Majella's Church, North Rocks Rd, Carlingford.

Tuesday 22nd May at 7.45pm

LIFE AND WITNESS CONSULTATION FOLLOW-UP

Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery has produced an extensive report as a result of the recent Life and Witness Consultation in West Epping. A number of important recommendations have been made in this report. Presbytery representatives will meet with us to guide us as these recommendations are followed up.

This will be a very important meeting and everyone involved in the leadership of groups and/or activities in West Epping are encouraged to attend.

Tuesday 22nd May at 7pm in the Maurice Davies Hall.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability for Australia's 600,000 Muslims (just over 40% of whom live in Sydney). Ramadan is considered to be the most holy month in the Islamic calendar and many Muslims abstain from food and drink during daylight hours. This year Ramadan commenced in the evening of last Tuesday 15th May and it will conclude in the evening of Thursday 14th June. Ramadan ends with much feasting in the Muslim community as Eid al-Fitri is celebrated from Friday 15th June.



Diary Dates

- ◆ **Sunday 20 May** ~ Pentecost
- ◆ **Sunday 27 May** ~ Trinity Sunday
- ◆ **Sunday 27 May** ~ Service of Healing, 4pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 19 June** ~ Mid-week communion, 10am
- ◆ **Friday 22 June** ~ West Epping Women – Flower Arranging
- ◆ **Wednesday 11 July** ~ Lamington drive
- ◆ **Saturday 22 September** ~ Mystery bus tour
- ◆ **Thursday 27 September—30 September** ~ Uniting Women's Conference, Brisbane

Sunday Morning Worship 8am & 10am

RECYCLING USED BATTERIES

Did you know that used batteries should not go into landfill, and therefore should not go into our garbage bins? Well, we have the answer! A bucket will be left in the MD hall into which old batteries can be placed. Peter McAndrew has kindly volunteered to take them and dispose of them at a proper facility. This is one small way we can help protect our environment. Let's do the right thing!



West Epping Uniting Church is a member of an Ecumenical Covenant with the Anglican Parish of Epping, the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford, Epping Baptist Church and Epping Uniting Church.



What's on this week!		
Monday 21 May	10.00am 10.00am	English Conversation Classes KYB
Tuesday 22 May	9.30am 9.45am 7.00pm 7.45pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Cottage Crafters Life & witness consultation follow-up Ecumenical Pentecost Service at St Gerard Majella's Church
Wednesday 23 May	9.30am 9.45am	Men's Shed at Arrunga mainly music
Thursday 24 May	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Playgroup Thursday Craft Prayer Group
Sunday 27 May	8.00am 10.00am 4.00pm 4.00pm	Worship Worship : JAM for children Healing Service in Cottage CSI

Serving next Sunday 27 May

	8.00am	10.00am
Welcomers	Ron & Lurline Waterson	Elva Harris Jenny Whittaker
Stewards	David MacGregor Carolyn Button	Helen Davey Wes Gibbons
Ministers Assistant	Mavis Hall	Peter Brown
Reader	Carolyn Button	Sue Elliott
Prayer Ministry	Annabelle Avern	Pete McAndrew
Prayers for Others	Lofa	Lofa
Sound/Computer	Jan Venn-Brown	Tessa Bradbury
Flowers	Barbara Newton	



For Pastoral Care needs please contact:

Rev John Barr 0457 879 099

West Epping Uniting Church uses information and news provided by its members, adherents and officers for the purposes of conducting its pastoral ministry. In the course of that ministry, material published in this bulletin may reach an audience wider than the membership of the congregation.

Ministry Team

Rev John Barr 0457 879 099
 Rev Radhika Sukumar-White (on maternity leave)
 Tau'alofo Anga'aelangi (Lofa) 0403 283 756

Office Administrator

Helen Tattersall 9868 3574

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Erica Harrison 9873 3989

Church Office

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 Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8.30am—3.00pm
 Friday 8.30am—12.30pm

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