

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 24 February 2019

Welcome 환영합니다

Ἰῴῃσθε 欢迎

Ki ora Malo ē lelei

Epiphany 7C, 2019, Luke 6: 27-38

Love your enemies

*You shall love your crooked neighbour
With your crooked heart.*

1. This week we "meet Jesus again"; to grapple with one of his most difficult teachings: "Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you."

The Greek word for enemy in our text is echthros, which literally means, "hated". Is Jesus saying, love those whom you hate, do good to those who hate you?

Crucial to this teaching is to create an honest, courageous and reflective relationship with our own powerful feelings of dislike or hate, and what we feel when others dislike and hate us! As William Loader implies this when he writes:

Many people get a buzz out of hate and find solidarity (communion) in hating common enemies. It can shape national and ethnic identities, as it can denominations, and ideological and theological movements. To live with all people with respect, accepting the need for difficult negotiations and for courageous conflict resolution is demanding. Short-cuts through complexity do violence not only to the truth but also to people.

Yes, as Loader reminds us, it is easier to give free rein to strong, aggressive feelings about others we do not like or who have harmed or upset us than to step outside of them and create a dialogical, reflective relationship with their complexity, humbly discerning our part in the violence, and being empowered in the process.

2. John Calvin once wrote, "without knowledge of self, there is no knowledge of God". We can adapt this wisdom to our text and suggest that without knowledge of self, there will be no knowledge of the crooked hearts intertwined in hate.

3. These difficult, opaque sayings of Jesus are not simple a 'code' of ethics. They represent a 'psychology' of ethics that stimulate our "imagination" so that we go deeper into all that motivates our self; dealing with underlying, unconscious aspects that inform and shape our thoughts, feelings, imagination and actions.

Jesus' examples of "the second mile", or "turning the other cheek", are exaggerations and hyperbole to stimulate our imaginations. To re-activate our feelings, like role-plays: so that fear, anger, anxiety can rise and we can sense what they do to us, and grow in emotional intelligence, and allow our minds, feelings and behaviour to be engaged in hate's complexity.

Yet the radical nature of Jesus' teaching is that we are to learn to love the enemy, the people we don't like, in the act of loving them! This is the paradox, a dialectical process of practising and learning, which means, it is complex and multidimensional.

This is what holistic spirituality is! What Jesus practised!

Vladimir Korotkov

PRAYER POINTS

We pray to our gracious, loving God:

- ✚ For all those impacted by war, especially those who are persecuted and have been forced out of their homes and their country.
- ✚ For people who have special needs in our community – those who are housebound, those who experience many different kinds of disability, the mentally ill, the sick, those who are facing death and those who are grieving.
- ✚ For healing in our community where there is anger, hurt and division – for families torn apart by friction and discord, for neighbourhoods divided by status, class, race, gender or sexual orientation, for churches at odds with one another over issues of doctrine or worship.
- ✚ For honesty and integrity in government – for a commitment to the well-being of all people and for an openness to address the major issues of our time without reference to personal gain, entitlement or the preservation of privilege.
- ✚ For tertiary students and staff as the new academic year gets underway.

A Prayer for Today

God, we are so conditioned to respond in kind.

Teach us to love with skill.

Teach us to love with precision.

Teach us to love with abandon,

trusting that when we step into

the ocean of your abundant love

we will receive the blessings of

your abundant life.

Amen

- Todd Grant Yonkman -



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.



This marks the beginning of Lent,

a period of reflection and preparation for Easter.

A special service to acknowledge this day will take place in the church on

Wednesday 6 March at 7.30pm.

ALL WELCOME

Ecumenical Lenten Services Tuesday evenings at 7.45pm during Lent

Tuesday 12 March: St Alban's Anglican Church
Speaker: Father Peter Dowd

Tuesday 19 March: St Gerard's Catholic Church
Speaker: Rev Greg Woolnough

Tuesday 26 March: Epping Baptist Church
Speaker: Bishop Ross Nicholson

Tuesday 2 April: West Epping Uniting Church
Speaker: Rev Paul Weaver

Tuesday 9 April: Epping Uniting Church
Speaker: Rev Andrew Hall



Looking at Luke

A seminar for lay preachers and those who want to understand the Bible more deeply

On: Saturday 16 March
Presenter: Rev Bill Loader

Emeritus Professor at Murdoch University



1. Gospel/'Good New' according to Luke
2. Faith and Ethics according to Luke
3. Scripture and Identity according to Luke

At: Blacktown Uniting Church,
59 Bungaribee Rd, Blacktown

Cost: \$15 (includes refreshments and lunch)

Interested: Pick up a flyer from the table in the foyer

THEATRE TICKETS

Epping Uniting Church have again kindly offered us 10 tickets to the preview performance for their upcoming play, 'Caravan'. The preview performance is to be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 27 March. Tickets are \$20.00 each and all proceeds will go towards our work here at West Epping Uniting Church.

The tickets are available on a first in, first served basis. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jennifer West on 9873 2753.

'Caravan' ~ *Three couples, two weeks & one caravan!!!!*

By Donald McDonald
Directed by Joy Sweeney

Community News

PRAYER GROUP ~ If you would like prayer for yourself or for others please contact Lois Rees, Helen Campbell or Annabelle Avern 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.



Thank you! to all who have showed us love and care after the sad passing of our dear brother (in law) Rod Mackenzie. We are the richer for the wise, thoughtful and caring person that he was. A true gentleman. He will always be a large part of our lives. We miss him so much.

Love from

Robyn and Elva Harris, Gwenda and family.

COTTAGE CRAFTERS ~ Tuesday 26 February Meet at 9.45am in the Cottage for a cuppa and chat. As this is our first meeting for the year we will start to put together Change Mats to be included in the Baby Baskets we take to the neo-natal ward at RPA Hospital. Please bring your scissors (suitable for cutting fabric); we are a happy group and enjoy being together. Enquiries: Margaret Wilson 9871 5649

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1 March at WEUC, 10.30am

Speaker: Rev John Barr.

Please bring a sandwich for lunch and stay for fellowship after the service with people from our neighbouring churches. Everyone is welcome!



CONTINUOUS FOOD DRIVE ~ is part of the Ladies Fellowship outreach into the community. Start collecting an extra packet or tin of non-perishable foods such as: cereal, long life milk, coffee, tea, pasta, rice, canned vegies or fruit, pasta sauce, meal bases, one cup meals, lunchbox items, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, conditioner, when shopping and bring them in on the first Sunday of each month. The food collected is given to Christian Community Aid at Eastwood.



Church Council Elections:

Phil Chapple and Morris Ross were resoundingly re-elected for a further 12 months as Chair-person and Treasurer.

We congratulate them and offer them our full support as they undertake this work for the body of Christ at West Epping.

Luke 6:27-38

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Report on UCA Parramatta Nepean Presbytery (PNP) meeting

held at Blacktown Uniting Church Saturday 16 February at 9:30am.
Lois Rees and Helen Aiton represented WEUC.

At this meeting some time was devoted to the basic 'housekeeping' that any well-run organization needs. But amongst the other business, some of the high-lights were:

- Tau'alofa (Lofa) Anga'aelangi was presented as a candidate for ordination. In the secret ballot that followed, approval was unanimous. Lofa will be ordained when she receives a call to ministry.
- Lois Rees was one of two speakers on the topic of the role of the specified Ministry of Pastor. She was asked to report on the preparation she did before becoming a Lay Pastor, to tell of one of the best things about being a Pastor, and to indicate what further support could be given to people in the various roles of Pastor.
- Approval was given for the extension of Rev Keith Hamilton's ministry as Senior Minister/Group CEO of Parramatta Mission for a further two years.
- The Presbytery is undertaking a new ministry in the South West Sector of our Presbytery. A new minister, Rev Phil Newton, is now in placement at Gledswood Hills, a very new suburb. He was introduced to us by Rev Andy Carlisle, minister at Campbelltown Uniting Church. We can look forward to hearing about how this church will grow.
- Sydney Alliance will be holding a meeting at the Sydney Town Hall on 14 March. The Alliance is seeking action to alleviate housing and energy costs for ordinary Australians.
- And for those involved in church finances: All employers will be required to send monthly updates to the ATO using the 'Single Touch Payroll' system.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.

Report by *Helen Aiton & Lois Rees*

Sunday Morning Worship
8am and 10am



MYSTERY COACH TOUR

Saturday 13 April 2019

There are still a few vacancies.

Cost for the day is \$42.

Payment now due!

If you have already booked, payment can be made to Cathy Prowse or Joan Ross.





Diary Dates

- ◆ **Wednesday 6 March** ~ Ash Wednesday Service, 7.30pm —Beginning of Lent
- ◆ **Monday 11 March** ~ Inter Church Men's Fellowship
- ◆ **Tuesday 12 March** ~ Ecumenical Lenten Service at St Alban's Anglican Church, 7.45pm. Speaker: Father Peter Dowd
- ◆ **Tuesday 19 March** ~ Mid-week communion, 10am
- ◆ **Saturday 23 March** ~ West Epping Women's Breakfast, Saturday 23 March, 8.30am
- ◆ **Tuesday 2 April** ~ Ecumenical Lenten Service, 7.45pm at West Epping
- ◆ **Saturday 13 April** ~ Mystery Coach Tour
- ◆ **Saturday 4 May** ~ West Epping Women's Retreat

PRAYERS

If you would like to know of some specific names of people with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please **contact Annabelle Avern** (member of the Pastoral Care Team) on 9484 4146, preferably on weekday evenings. Alternately, you are welcome to come along to the Prayer Group that meets on Thursdays at 12:15pm.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

In thinking about how the Uniting Churches in this region might work together, it has been proposed to explore the possibility of forming a Social Justice Group, with representatives from each of the Uniting churches.

An initial meeting will be held on **Sunday 26 March** at **2pm in the cottage**. If you are interested at all in this group, please speak to Phil Chapple or Lois Rees.

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.

What's on next week!

Monday 25 Feb	10.00am	English Conversation Classes
Tuesday 26 Feb	9.30am 10.00am	Men's Shed at Arrunga Cottage Crafters
Wednesday 27 Feb	9.30am 9.45am	Men's Shed at Arrunga mainly music
Thursday 28 Feb	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Playgroup Craft Group Prayer Group
Friday 1 March	10.30am	World Day of Prayer
Sunday 3 March	8.00am 10.00am 5.30pm	Worship HC Worship HC : JAM for children CSI Worship

Serving next Sunday 3 March

	8.00am	10.00am
Welcomers	Jan Dunstan Yvonne Roden	Elva Harris Helen Elvery
Stewards	John Planner John Norman	Morris Ross, Peter Sugunanathan
Ministers Assistant	Margaret Leivesley	Jean Chapple
Communion Assistants	Mavis & John Hall Carolyn Button	Lois Rees, Erica Harrison Morris Ross
Reader	Andrew Aiton	Ian West
Prayer Ministry	Betty Taylor	Sue Elliott
Prayers for Others	Jan Venn-Brown	Jan Venn-Brown
Sound/Computer	Eric Lye	Nick Ostle
Flowers	Sandra Cadman	

It's just a thought....

....But it could change your life

Where there is no hope in the future,
There is no power in the present

John Maxwell

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.



Ministers

Rev Vladimir Korotkov 0431 759 573
Rev Samata Elia (Pastoral Care Seniors) 0488 230 238

Office Administrator

Helen Tattersall 9868 3574

Safe Church Contact Person

Erica Harrison 9873 3989

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Friday 8.30am—12.30pm

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