

# 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 March 2019

Welcome 환영합니다

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## Lenten Spirituality: *Dismantling the power of the dividing wall between us!*

### 1. The construction of a dividing wall

As we grieve the innocent deaths of our Muslim sister and brothers in Christchurch and condemn this atrocity, we also need to critically reflect on the notions of power that shaped the gunman's actions, and how we can contribute to new notions of power.

In a confronting opinion piece in the New York Times this week, Jamelle Bouie notes that the accused Christchurch gunman released a manifesto in which he "made frequent references to 'white genocide,' the idea that non-white immigration and mixed-race relationships constitute a genocidal threat to 'white' people." Bouie's article is confronting in that it reminds us that the notion of white, western superiority is a legacy of our 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century colonial past:

If ... western democracies have a recurring problem with white power and white supremacist violence, it's because they grow out of habits and assumptions that are still embedded in our societies.

Most disturbing here is that the underlying assumptions and habits around "white power" are "still embedded in our societies." Even more challenging, we are unknowingly formed and shaped by our dominant sociocultural structures, believing these assumptions about our culture's power and in-habit and express them.

And so, a dividing wall is constructed between cultures, religions and race.

### 2. Breaking down the dividing wall?

In Ephesians 2:14, we read that Christ has broken down the dividing wall between us. This verse points out that the dividing wall creates hostility. It relates to the cultural wall between Jewish and Gentile Christians. Each cultural group is embedded in its own assumptions and habits, its sense of superiority and power.

What does it mean for us that Christ has broken down the dividing wall? Ephesians 2:14 reminds us that Christians remain embedded in their cultures, erecting dividing walls!

"Breaking down": an intentional spirituality process: observation, dismantling aspects of ourselves and use of cultural power, and to re-imagine a new identity and "self".

### 3. Lenten spirituality, dismantling power

How do we express our culture in our daily lives? How we understand mission? How do we understand and use forms of power? This involves observing what type of "self" or identity we occupy and express. Our "self" is shaped by our culture and sense of worth and power. I suggested that there is much to learn about ourselves as we grapple with the way we think about and express mission: 1. Mission as outreach: we approach the other presuming we know what they need; this is power-over, one-sided; 2. Mission as relationship: we form the relationship, yet on our terms, without assessing power-relations; 3. Mission as equals: listening, learning about the other and ourselves, discerning God is both with them and with us; shared power, humility, collaboration.

*Rev Vladimir Korotkov*

## PRAYER POINTS

On this third Sunday of Lent we pray:

- ✚ For justice and integrity in our newly elected government.
- ✚ For all people and communities effected by the devastating massacre in New Zealand.
- ✚ For those who are suffering through the effects of war, famine, injustice and corruption.
- ✚ For churches around the world as they prepare for Easter.
- ✚ For seniors as they seek opportunities to make useful contributions to the community, feel valued and face various health issues.
- ✚ For those who have special needs, those who are sick, lonely, are grieving or face major changes in their lives.

## A Prayer for Today

Living, life-giving God,  
In Jesus you gift us with the greatest gift of all.  
Though we struggle in this life and find it hard to make sense of what is happening  
You gift us with life in all its fullness  
May we share this life with others  
And in doing so, may we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.  
Amen



**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.**

## Community News

### Ecumenical Lenten Services Tuesday evenings at 7.45pm during Lent

**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



**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.



### Lenten Journey

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, 6 March and we are encouraging all our members to give up something for Lent as we take the time to reflect on those in our world who are struggling.

This year we will be supporting the **OVC project in Mwandi**, and **Act for Peace project in Bangladesh** and for the first time, we will be supporting an **Indigenous project in Alice Springs known as 'The Meeting Place'**.

Please see the brochure for more details.

There will be times for reflection in the services through Lent and small groups may like to participate in a new Bible Study written by Ian Price called REFRESHED BY GRACE. This is available through Media Com for \$11.95 at [www.mediacom.org.au](http://www.mediacom.org.au)

### 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 today **Sunday 24 March at 2pm in the cottage**. If you are interested at all in this group, please speak to Phil Chapple or Lois Rees.

### COTTAGE CRAFTERS ~ Tuesday 26 March

Join us at 9.45am for a cuppa and a catch-up chat. All are welcome. This week we continue with the task of putting together the patchwork change mats to go into the baskets which Ladies Fellowship provide to the neonatal ward at RPA Hospital. Nothing to bring, all is provided, or just come for the company if you wish and enjoy a happy morning.

Enquiries: Margaret Wilson 9871 5649

### Stations of the Cross

**Monday 8 April to Sunday 21 April ~ 10 am to 4 pm**

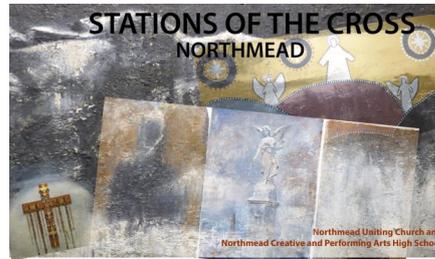
Northmead Performing Arts High School Hall  
(end of Campbell Street, Northmead)

For information and special events see our Facebook page Stations of the Cross at Northmead 2019

Group visits can be arranged during opening hours:

A limited number of guided tours for groups can be arranged in the evenings

Bookings: Northmead Uniting Church office



### EASTER WORSHIP

Join us this Easter:

**Tenebrae Service**  
**Thursday 18 April**  
7.30pm :

**Good Friday 19 April**  
9.00am :

**Easter Day 21 April**  
8am & 10am :

#LIVINGSTONE

**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.



[www.weppinguca.org.au](http://www.weppinguca.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/weppinguuniting](https://www.facebook.com/weppinguuniting)

## Psalm 63:1-8

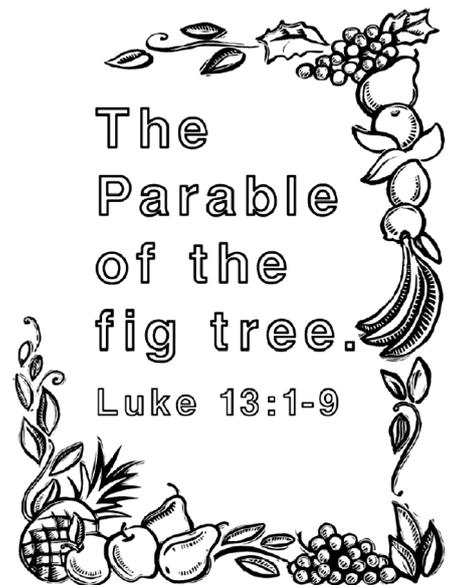
A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.  
So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.  
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips  
when I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;  
for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me

## Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'



## 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.

**There are still a few tickets available!** 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

## 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

- ◆ **Tuesday 19 March** ~ Lenten Ecumenical Service, 7.45pm, St Gerard's Catholic Church
- ◆ **Saturday 23 March** ~ West Epping Women's Breakfast, Saturday 23 March, 8.30am
- ◆ **Tuesday 2 April** ~ Ecumenical Lenten Service, 7.45pm at West Epping
- ◆ **Tuesday 16 April** ~ Mid-week communion, 10am
- ◆ **Saturday 13 April** ~ Mystery Coach Tour
- ◆ **Thursday 18 April** ~ Tenebrae service, 7.30pm
- ◆ **Friday 19 April** ~ Good Friday Worship, 9am
- ◆ **Sunday 21 April** ~ Easter Sunday Worship, 8am & 10am
- ◆ **Saturday 4 May** ~ West Epping Women's Retreat

## What's on next week!

Monday 25 March	10.00am	English Conversation Classes
Tuesday 26 March	9.30am 9.45am	Men's Shed at Arrunga Cottage Crafters
Wednesday 27 March	9.30am 9.45am	Men's Shed at Arrunga mainly music
Thursday 28 March	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Playgroup Craft Group Prayer Group
Saturday 30 March	5.30pm	CSI service
<b>Sunday 31 March</b>	<b>8.00am 10.00am 5.30pm</b>	<b>Worship Worship : JAM for children CSI Worship</b>

## Serving next Sunday 31 March

	8.00am	10.00am
Welcomers	Anne Jeffery Jan Watson	Elva Harris Jenny Whittaker
Stewards	David MacGregor Heather Baker	Morris Ross, George Esplin, Jennifer West
Ministers Assistant	Mavis Hall	Jean Chapple
Reader	Mavis Hall	Jan Williams
Prayer Ministry	Annabelle Avern	Sue Elliott
Prayers for Others	Vladimir	Lois Rees
Sound/Computer	Soraya Raju	Nick Ostle
Flowers	Joan Ross	

## 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.



### It's just a thought....

....But it could change your life

Progress always involves risks.  
You can't steal second  
And keep your foot on first.  
*Frederick Wilcox*

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.

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) 0488 230 238

### Office Administrator

Helen Tattersall 9868 3574

### Safe Church Contact Person

Erica Harrison 9873 3989

### Church Office

35 Orchard St Epping 2121 p: 9868 3574  
Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8.30am—3.00pm  
Friday 8.30am—12.30pm

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Facebook [facebook.com/weppinguniting](https://facebook.com/weppinguniting)

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