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 19 January 2020
Welcome 환영합니다
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Epiphany 2A, 2020, John 1:29-42

Rev Tammy Hollands

What are you looking for?
This question reminds me of a U2 song called "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For". These are some of the lyrics from the song:

I have climbed the highest mountains
I have run through the fields
Only to be with you
Only to be with you

I have run I have crawled
I have scaled these city walls
These city walls
Only to be with you

But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for

I believe in the Kingdom come
Then all the colours will bleed into one
Bleed into one
But yes, I'm still running

You broke the bonds
and you loosened chains
carried the cross of my shame, of my shame
You know I believe it

But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for

It's a song about searching for meaning or transcendence. It is allusive and at the end of the song it still has not been found. Maybe it is less about the finding and more about the searching, less about the knowing and more about the experience.

In our Gospel reading for today we hear that John the Baptiser has identified Jesus as "the Lamb of God" two days in a row. On the second day John is standing with two of his disciples, when he sees Jesus walk by and says, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" This inspires the disciples to follow Jesus. Maybe they thought they were being discrete and that Jesus would not notice but he did and he asks them ""What are you looking for?"

We don't get a straight answer to that question. Instead the disciples answer with a question of their own: "Where are you staying?"

It may be that they are trying to get enough information so they can stay nearby --- just close enough to listen in and tag along behind --- anonymously even: maybe at a safe distance. Or maybe they really didn't know what they were looking for. Whatever the case may have been, Jesus doesn't answer their question. He simply invites them to "Come and see." And they do. They 'come and see' not only where Jesus was staying but they stuck around to see all that will follow.

The question "what are you looking for?" is still a good question for us to be asking today. What are we looking for? What is it people in the wider community are looking for and are we asking this question? Maybe people are unable to articulate an answer either because they don't know or it is too complicated to put into words. Maybe the answer is not as important as the question.

Maybe we feel like we are giving the invitation to "come and see" and are disappointed that people are not taking us up on it because they are not coming to church. How else can we invite people to "come and see"? How do we build the relationships and make space for the invitation to share and experience life together? These are questions that we will be exploring together as we begin journey together.

Prayer Points

- Pray for healing and restoration in the world where there is division, violence and conflict.
- Pray for the Presbytery of Parramatta-Nepean as it provides leadership and resources.
- Pray for West Epping Uniting Church as we venture into the future with Rev Tammy Hollands as our minister.
- Pray for all students as they prepare for this coming year of learning.
- Pray for all the communities effected by the devastating bush fires that have effected many parts of our country. Pray too for those who have lost loved ones and their homes. Pray for all fire fighters and emergency services and volunteers.
- Pray for the sick, the grieving, those who are housebound or are in nursing care, the lonely, the weary, the estranged and those who are hurt or are broken hearted.

A Prayer for Today

Jesus, you are the way, the truth and the life.
Without the way there is no going,
Without the truth there is no knowing,
Without the life there is no growing.
Show us the way, that we may go.
Teach us the truth, that we may know.
Grant us the life, that we may grow.
Amen

Today, Sunday 19 January

Worship Service, 9am

Please join us after the service for a welcome BBQ for Rev Tammy Hollands and family.

Please stay and support Tammy, as she commences ministry here at West Epping, and her family Owen, Natalia, Liliana and Tristan.

Everyone is welcome.

INDUCTION SERVICE OF
REV TAMMY HOLLANDS

Friday 31 January, 7.30pm

Rev Tammy will be inducted as a Minister of the Word in West Epping Uniting Church by Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery.

Everyone welcome.

MODERATOR'S BUSHFIRE APPEAL

This appeal directs funds to communities and individuals during emergencies for urgent, short term financial assistance for those who are suddenly and unexpectedly in need.

To donate go the Synod website: **tinyurl.com/bushfireModAppeal**

Alternately by cheque: simply mark your envelope Moderator's Appeal, PO Box A2178, Sydney South NSW 1235.
Make the cheque out to 'The Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW and the ACT'.

By Bank Transfer:
Account Name: Moderators Appeal
BSB: 634-634 Account: 100044774

Or leave in the offering plate in an envelope marked 'Moderator's Appeal'

Please note these donations are not tax deductable.

Community News

PRAYER GROUP ~ The prayer group will be in recess throughout January and will resume on Thursday 6 February. However, we are committed to pray individually for our church and its people throughout this Christmas holiday period.
If you have a specific prayer need please feel free to ring Annabelle Avern p: 9484 4146.

BREAKFAST LADIES FELLOWSHIP ~ As usual we start the year with our annual breakfast to which all ladies are very welcome to join us.
Saturday 1 February at 8.00am. $7 pp.
A good morning for catching up and enjoying a nice breakfast. A sign up sheet is in the foyer.
Enquiries: Lyn MacGregor 9871 5701

MYSTERY BUS TRIP ~ Saturday 28 March
Bookings now open.
Get in quick to secure your seat!
Bookings to: Joan Ross 9873 3713
or Cathy Prowse 9877 0542

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.

ECUMENICAL COVENANT DINNER AND MEETING is set for Monday 17 February at St Alban's Anglican Church.

DATES FOR 2020
Leaders of all Action Teams, groups and small groups, if you plan to meet at the church or the cottage, please forward to the office a list of your meeting dates, times and the space required for this year. This helps with planning events for the year so no two groups require the same space. These dates would be appreciated by the end of next week. Thank you.

Sunday Morning Worship
8am and **10am**

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.

Readings

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

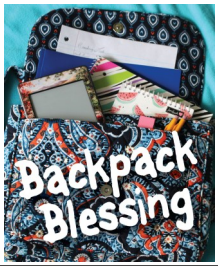
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Next Sunday 26 January ~ 10am
'Back to School Blessing'



This service will include blessing school bags and brains.
Kids and adults can bring either a bag or some item that symbolises their learning for the year ahead or something that represents their work for the year ahead.

Diary Dates

- **Sunday 19 January** ~ Worship, 9am
  Welcome BBQ for Rev Tammy Hollands & family
- **Sunday 26 January** ~ two morning services resume 8am & 10am
- **Friday 31 January** ~ Induction Service, 7.30pm for Rev Tammy Hollands
- **Saturday 1 February** ~ Ladies Fellowship Breakfast
- **Wednesday 5 February** ~ mainly music, 9.45am
- **Wednesday 5 February** ~ Missionary Fellowship, 10am with communion
- **Thursday 6 February** ~ Playgroup, 9.30am
- **Monday 10 February** ~ Conversation English Classes, 10am
- **Monday 17 February** ~ Ecumenical Covenant dinner & meeting, at St Alban's Anglican Church
- **Saturday 28 March** ~ Mystery Bus Trip

What's on next week!

Tuesday 21 January	9.30am	Men's Shed at Arrunga
Wednesday 22 Jan	9.30am	Men's Shed at Arrunga
Thursday 23 January	9.30am	Men's Shed at Arrunga
Sunday 26 January	**8.00am** **10.00am** **5.30pm**	**Worship** **Worship** **CSI Service**

Serving next Sunday 26 January

	8.00am	**10.00am**
Welcomers	Lyn MacGregor, Lila Atkins, Janki Mudliar	Jean Chapple Norma Perry
Stewards	David MacGregor Carolyn Button	Helen Davey Wes Gibbons
Ministers Assistant	Annabelle Avern	Peter Brown
Reader	Mavis Hall	Jan Williams
Prayer Ministry	Annabelle Avern	Helen Campbell
Prayers for Others		Erica Harrison
Sound/Computer	Jan V-B	Desy Chapple
Flowers	Margaret Gibbons	

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 0428 368 870, preferably on weekday evenings.

It's just a thought….

….But it could change your life

There are no shortcuts to
anyplace worth going
Beverly Sills

AGM MEETING 24 November 2019

Copies of the minutes from this meeting are now available from the table in the foyer.

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.

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