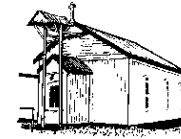


THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Lent 4

Sunday, 30 March 2014

When we see clearly, our lives are transformed. But seeing God clearly, recognizing Christ, and perceiving the anointing of God requires the work and light of the Holy Spirit. When we have the light of the Spirit, we see God and understand things more fully, we see others with the eyes of Christ. God does not value us for what we look like. God sees into our hearts and knows what we feel and believe. Anyone can be called by God to achieve greatness. And everyone is cared for by the Good Shepherd, who gives us all that we need. For we are all “children of light,” created by the One who is light, and in whom there is no darkness at all. Yet, we are also all blind and in need of healing so that we might be the sight of God, clear and undistorted by our sin, our hurts, our agendas, and our prejudices. The light of the world shines, and the darkness that is in the world has not overcome it — not in our individual lives, not in our collective lives, not in the history of the world as a whole. The light will not be extinguished. We must let it shine through us!

Abingdon Worship Annual

LECTIONARY

30 March Lent 4	1 Samuel 16: 1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14	Psalms 23 John 9:1-41
6 April Lent 5	Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Romans 8: 6-11	Psalms 130 John 11: 1-45

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Anointed one

When I would kneel to be
anointed from the horn of
hubris,

you throw mud
in my eyes,
so I can see
those trampled
by a world stampeding
toward success.

When i would splash on
pomposities perfume,
You sprinkle me
with the tears of children
who,
cradled in hungers arms,
cry themselves to sleep;

When I would soak my feet in
the salts of self-absorption,
You massage them
with the dust
from the souls
of the mothers walking
along weary's highway
to their third jobs.

Anoint me, Lord God, that I
might serve my sisters and
brothers.

(c) 2008 Thom M. Shuman

Rosters for 6th April

Portarlington

Managers: Brenda & Graham
Vohmann

Morning Tea: Ken & Elaine Farnell

Pastoral Care: Dorothy Knights

Prayer: Dorothy Knights

Reader: Elaine Farnell

PowerPoint: Joan Kelly

Drysdale

9.00 am

Kitchen: Denise's Team

Counting: Jenni Nickelson

10.45 am:

Duty Elder: Jen Davis

Prayers: Jennifer Davis

Reading: Irene Stevenson

Door: Wilma Mansell

Morning Tea: Win Baker &
Andrea Lindsay

Flowers: Jennifer Davis

St Leonards

Welcome: Marj Wilson

Reading: Marion McGillivray

Prayer: Margo Jones

Brass: Geoff & Sandra Giddings

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 30 March

Portarlington / St Leonards

9.00 am Combined Service at St. Andrews, Portarlington, Rev. Marion Latham

Drysdale

10.15 am Combined Service, Rev. Marion Latham (Graeme's Team assisting)

Monday, 31 March

7:30 pm Lenten Study

9.30 am KYB

Tuesday 1 April

7.30 pm Toolbox Parenting Program

Wednesday, 2 April

9.30 am – 12.45 pm mainly music

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

6.30 pm Alpha Introduction @ Springdale

Thursday, 3 April

9.00 am Drysdale & Portarlington
Choir practices

Friday, 4 April

9.15 am – 10.00 am Friday School

Sunday, 6 April- Daylight Savings ends!!

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev. Margaret Manning

St Leonards

5.00 pm Rev. Marion Latham

Drysdale

9:00 am Worship@9 Rev. Marion Latham (Denise's team assisting)

10:45 am Rev Marion Latham,
Loose change & Food bank at both services

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Information on church activities

If you missed getting the page of Information on Church Activities, with last week's news sheet, there are copies in the foyer. We hope this list is of benefit to all, especially for newer members who are still wondering who to contact for what!

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Studies will continue on Monday 31st March at 7.30 – 9.00 pm at the church and 7th and 14th April. The study is titled "The Way".

Amendment to Preaching Plan for Drysdale

Please note, on Sunday, 20 April, Easter Day at Drysdale there will be two services. 9.00 am Worship @ 9 with Graeme's Team and 10.45 am with Rev. Marion Latham.

PORTARLINGTON

Advance Notice For Your Diaries

St Andrew's Portarlington Justice & Mission Ministry Team is once again holding a 'Focus on Asylum Seeker' Week' in May. At the 9.00 am Sunday service on 4th May there will be prayers and reflections on this issue.

On Wednesday 7th May, A 'Community Fund Raising Dinner' will be held at 6.30 pm Speaker: Sue Longmore AOM, a founding member of Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees, has been active in personally assisting asylum

seekers and refugees for the past ten years.

Then to conclude the week on Saturday 10th May at 7.30 am the 'Fellowship Breakfast' speaker will be Sr. Brigid Arthur CBS. Sr. Brigid is a founding member of the Melbourne based 'Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project'; more details in later Newsletters.

Please mark the dates in your diary, plan to attend and be better informed on these important issues.

Portarlington Fellowship Breakfast

The next breakfast meeting will be on Saturday 12 April, commencing at 7.30 am. Guest Speakers will be David & Lorraine Hughes who will tell us of their trip to Europe late last year.

All members of the Linked Congregations are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 by Thursday evening 10 April.

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

Alpha 2014

We are invited to the 2014 Alpha Course which will be held at the Springdale Neighbourhood Centre over 10 weeks starting on 23 April, 6.30 pm to 9:00 pm. This includes an evening meal. There is an introduction session on 2 April, which is a great way to bring someone to find out what Alpha is all about. If you have never experienced Alpha, come and learn what it is all about. If you have

been to Alpha, you could introduce it to a friend, or have another look yourself.

Handel's *Messiah* in Parks Hall

More of the same and plenty of varied music on May 4th. Cost \$12 with a cuppa and home made biscuits and slices afterwards. Details from Barry Ruler on 5259 3304.

Essendon Choral Society PSA

All members of the Linked Congregation and their friends are warmly invited to attend a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon of choral music at the Portarlington Church Hall on Sunday 4th May, commencing at 2-30pm. Many will remember the magnificent choral work provided by this choir when they presented *Messiah* at Parks Hall, Portarlington, with the orchestra from Melbourne Opera, in November 2012. Tickets are a modest \$12 and this includes a "cuppa" and home made biscuits and slices at the conclusion of the performance. WE NEED YOU THERE! A wonderful afternoon of choral music is assured.

Tickets from Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 or at the door.

Every morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most."

~ Buddha