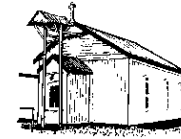


THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Listening to the Language of the Bible

Excerpts from a book by
Lois Tverberg.
5. Hebraic insights that deepen our
thinking

ShofetShofet – A judge as a Saviour.



We think of a judge as a fearsome figure to whom we answer for our sins. But the meaning of *shofet* is much broader than that, encompassing heroes and defenders as well. The words 'judgement' and 'salvation' can be used synonymously. The Hebrew word for 'judgement' (*mishpat*) is also the word for 'justice'. This can change our picture of God. We might think of God as unloving when he judges sin and loving when he is merciful. But it is out of love for the guilty that God is merciful and desires to forgive. God shows his great love and goodness as much through his justice as he does through his mercy,

ROSTERS FOR 23 November

Portarlington

9.00 am

Managers: Graham & Brenda
Vohmann

Morning Tea: Keith & Dorothy
Knights

Pastoral Care: Barry Ruler

Prayers: Port Lay Team

Readings: Port Lay Team

Power Point: Margaret Campbell

Drysdale

9.00 am

Kitchen: Jenni's team

Counting: Denise McLaverty

10.45 am

Duty Elder: Vince King

Prayer/Readings: Port Lay Team

Door: Mary Grieve

Morning Tea: Win Baker & Andrea
Lindsay

Flowers: Lynda Smith

St Leonards

7.00 pm

Welcoming: Shirley Hadden

Reading/Prayer: Port Lay Team

Brass & Flowers: Judy Godfrey

Pentecost 23

Sunday, 16 November 2014

Themes of judgment and redemption unify today's readings. Judges recounts a familiar pattern: Israel sins, Israel is delivered by God into the hand of a neighbouring kingdom's punishment, Israel repents and returns to God's precepts, God raises up a judge to rescue Israel. The psalmist cries out for mercy to a God who hears our pleas. The Epistle warns that the day of the Lord is coming like a thief in the night, but that the righteous have nothing to fear if they remain vigilant and faithful to God. Finally, the Gospel recounts Jesus' parable of the talents and the judgment God metes out based on how we use our gifts. Here, redemption is tied to stewardship—it comes to those who make the most of God's gifts, those who work for the kingdom.

Abinadon Worship Annual

LECTIONARY

16 November	Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 123
Pentecost 23	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11	Matthew 25: 14-30
23 November	Ezekiel 34: 11-16 , 20-24	Psalm 100
Pentecost 24	Ephesians 1: 15-23	Matthew 25: 31-46

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THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 16 November

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev. Marion Latham

Drysdale

9.00 am Graeme's team

10.45 am Rev. Marion Latham

St Leonards

9.00 am Marion Latham, HC
Loose change & food bank

Monday, 17 November

9.30 am Drysdale KYB

Tuesday, 18 November

10:30 am Drysdale Grove Service

7.30 pm Joint Coordinating Council

Wednesday, 19 November

9.00am – 12.45 pm Drysdale mainly
music

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee & Chat

Thursday, 20 November

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice

9.30 am Drysdale Choir practice

11.00 am Ann Nichol Service

7.30 pm Drysdale Church Council

Friday, 21 November

9:15-10.00 am Drysdale Friday School

10.30 am-12.30 pm Drysdale Garage
Sale preparation

Saturday, 22 November

8.00 am-1.00 pm Drysdale Garage Sale

Sunday, 23 November

Portarlington

9.00 am Port Lay Team:
Mr Keith Pigdon & team

Drysdale

9.00 am Denise's team

10.45 am Port Lay Team:
Mr Keith Pigdon & team

St Leonards

7.00 pm Port Lay Team:
Mr Keith Pigdon & team

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Combined Service

10.15 am Sunday 30th November

There will be a combined Linked
Congregations service at Drysdale.
All are invited to attend and bring a plate
of finger food for a shared lunch after the
service.

DRYSDALE

Garage Sale – NEXT WEEK

Saturday, 22nd November, from 8.00 am
to 1.00 pm. Thanks to those who have
already donated. Please start baking for
the cake stall, potting up for the plant
stall. Assistance also needed for the
barbeque on the day.

All hands on deck for set up, 10.30 am to
12.30 pm on Friday, 21 November.
Inquiries to Lynda Smith 52531007.

PORTARLINGTON

Fellowship Breakfast DVD

The DVD *Mary and Mohammed* shown
at the Fellowship Breakfast at
Portarlington in September is available
for loan to any members of our Linked
Congregations. There are 2 DVDs -a
shorter 26 minute one and the extended
81 minute version.

One member who has borrowed the
DVD said "it gave her an insight into the
asylum seeker issue and would highly
recommend it to everyone. The
extended 81 min version was definitely
worth watching".

Contact Joy Porter 5259 2538 if you
would like to borrow and become more
informed.

The Advent Reflection/Study

"The Making of the Messiah" will begin
on Monday 24th November at
7.30 pm. There will be three other
sessions at the same time on December
1st, 8th and 15th.

The venue for these will be at Lorraine
and David Hughes home on the corner
of Allens' Road & Pigdon Street
(entrance is off Allens' Rd).

We will be listening to Handel's music,
reflecting on the scripture texts
associated with this and praying for
areas of concern suggested by the
passages.

Please contact Lorraine 5259 2364 to
receive a study booklet before the
sessions commence.
Everyone welcome.

WORKING BEE at St Andrews

November 22 from 9:00 am

We need to clean up gardens and inside
the Church and Hall.

Bring equipment you need to use.

ST LEONARDS

St. Leonards U.C.A.F.

The next meeting will be the final one for
2014. This will be on Monday 24th
November starting at 12.30 pm.
Please bring a non perishable Christmas
food item for the food bank.

I Have Talents

I'm not really sure I want to admit it, God,
but I am a person with gifts. Oh, I'm not
one of those super-talented, can-do-it-
all, people, but there are things I'm good
at, things that might even be useful to
You and others. But, here's the problem
– if I admit it, then I have to do
something, then there are no more
excuses; no more comfortable
inadequacies to hide behind.
If I acknowledge the abilities and
strengths You have placed in me I'm
going to have actually use them; I'm
going to have to serve and be
accountable, and maybe even make
commitments...and stick to them.
But, if I pretend that I'm not gifted at all, I
lose something of myself, I allow myself
to be less than I really am, to experience
less, to learn less, to be less alive.
So, thank you, God, for making me a
gifted person, and thank you that my
gifts can make a difference, can, in some
small way, help to make Your dream for
my world a reality.

John Van De Laaar