

Listening to the Language of the Bible

Exerpts from a book by Lois Tverberg.

Discovering the Bible's rich imagery.

Keshet *Laying down the bow.*

The story of Noah's Ark tells of the most terrible scene of judgement in all of eth Bible. Every human being except Noah's family died in one great cataclysm, because human kind had shrunk to such depravity that God was sorry that he had even made them. The message of the flood is that no amount of destruction of those who do evil will end the reality of evil in the human heart. Before the flood, God was so grieved by human sin that he wanted to wipe them from the earth. But after the flood, God was resigned to the fact that humanity would always be evil, and yet he promised never to destroy all humanity again. In light of this, the sign of the rainbow has a profound message for us. The Hebrew word for "rainbow" (*keshet*) is used for "bow" throughout the rest of scripture. It was the weapon of battle. The covenantal sign of the rainbow says that God has laid down his "bow", his weapon; and he has promised not to repeat the judgement of the flood, even if humankind does not change. Even in this first covenant at the very beginning of the Bible, we can see God's ultimate plan for mercy rather than punishment for sin. He will finally bring it to maturity in Christ.

Presbytery of Port Phillip West – Prayer Cycle

We remember today:

- Craigieburn, Rev Peter Weeks
- Penleigh & Essendon Grammar School, Rev Janet Munro, Mr David Hall

Lord guide and bless your work in our Presbytery that it may flourish for the good of the people and for your glory.

Amen

An ecumenical Bible Reflection and Meditation will be held at St Paul's Anglican Church, St Leonards on 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 9.30 am commencing on 11 June.

As the Meditation group lead by the Catholic Church members is unable to continue, the Anglican church of St Paul's would like to take the initiative in providing a similar time of reflection on a fortnightly basis.

Members of all churches and their friends are invited to participate. For information please contact Wyn Moriarty, 5257 1441.

Rosters for 7 June

Portarlington

Managers: David & Elizabeth Thompson

Morning Tea: Ken & Elaine Farnell

Pastoral Care & Prayers: Rev Ian Porter

Reader: Joy Porter

Power Point Prep: Pammi Pryor

Lawn Roster: 10-11 June David Hughes, Graeme Dryden, Peter Gibbs

Drysdale, Worship @ 9:

Kitchen: Graeme's Team

Counting: Jonnie Mander

Drysdale, 10.45

Communion: Margaret MacGillivray

Duty Elder/Prayers: John MacGillivray

Readings: Pat Handley

Welcome: Brenda Jacobs

Morning Tea: Irene & Bob Stevenson

Flowers: Mary Grieve

St Leonards

Welcome/Reading: Marj Wilson

Prayers: Margo Jones

Flowers: Shirley Hadden

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Trinity Sunday

Sunday, 31 May 2015

All of our texts this Sunday speak of God in mysterious and ultimate terms. They speak of the God of power and splendour who conducts cosmic business in the lofty courts of heaven, who reveals truth through the sign-doer and riddle-maker Jesus, and who moves through the elusive Spirit Wind. What mystery! Our words—yes, even our Trinitarian stammering—buckle beneath the weight of transcendence our words attempt to convey. What majesty! And yet, each text also points to places in life where ultimate and unlimited reality brushes up against, and impinges upon, our limited lives for powerful, life changing experiences. These experiences proclaim that we—the lowly, the enslaved, the woeful—are drawn into the cosmic story line of God's immense life and intentions. Trinity Sunday is the Sunday to celebrate God as the mystery that shimmers in our lives.

Ministry Matters

LECTIONARY

31 May	Isaiah 6: 1-8	Psalms 29
Trinity Sunday	Romans 8: 12-17	John 3: 1-17
7 June	1 Samuel 8: 4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11: 14-15)	
Pentecost 2	Psalms 138	2 Cor 4: 13-5:1
	Mark 3: 20-35	

LINKED MINISTER:

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UNITINGCARE OPSHOP:

Village Walk Drysdale

Phone: 5251 3640

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday 31 May

10.15 am Linked Congregations
Combined Worship @
Portarlington, Rev Marion
Latham

Monday, 1 June

9.30 am KYB Bible Study @ Lynda's

Wednesday, 3 June

9.30am mainly music

Thursday, 4 June

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice
9.30 am Drysdale Choir Practice

Friday, 5 June

9.15am Friday School Drysdale
1:30 pm Drysdale Prayer Service

Sunday, 7 June

Portarlington

9.00am Rev Ian Porter

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Rev Marion Latham,
Jenni's team assisting
10.45 am Rev Marion Latham
HC, *Loose Change & Food
Bank both services*

St Leonards

5.00 pm Rev Marion Latham

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Church Dinner

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual church dinner. To those who came along on the night, to all the helpers: selling tickets, setting up

tables, preparing food and assisting on the day. Also to Vicki, Sue and David who finished off the evening with some great songs from the 60's that we could sing along to. A profit of \$850 was realised (ticket sales and donations).

Church Roof

At church council meeting last week it was decided to accept a quote of \$4,000 to make repairs to the church roof, without the major cleaning previously thought necessary. The profit from the church dinner will be used to start off a one-off appeal to the congregation for donations to fund this repair work. Donations can be made directly to Wayne Myers or by placing in a named envelope in the offering plate.

PORTARLINGTON

U.C.A.F.

The Celtic Festival theme will continue on Tuesday 9 June when the U.C.A.F. will have a Scottish Day, featuring all things Scottish, family connections, travel experiences, music, dancing, household items and artefacts, and history. The meeting will be in the meeting room at 1-30 pm, and please wear some tartan or traditional Scottish jewellery if possible. Any questions? Phone Elizabeth 52592442.

Fellowship Breakfast

The next breakfast meeting will be on Saturday 13 June, commencing at 7.30am. Guest Speakers will be Keith & Dorothy Knights who have recently returned from a trip to Japan and they will tell us of their journey. All members

of the Linked Congregations and their friends, are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 by Thursday evening 11 June.

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

Prayer Service

Every Friday at 1.30 pm, the people of the Body of Christ in the Uniting Churches of the Linked Congregations have an opportunity to meet together in a service of worship that is worship through prayer. It is based on an order of service in our Uniting in Worship book.

The prayer service alternates between Drysdale and St. Andrews Portarlington. This service has the potential of becoming the 'powerhouse' of our congregations. It is a time when we praise God, bring to God our concerns for others and for the world, share with God our joys and our plans and ask for God's guidance in decisions and in the life of our congregations. If you do not have a regular commitment at that time, why not try to make yourselves free to be there to pray together.

Witness Living History: One Day. Three sites. Three Perspectives. One God

The CTM is excited to offer a one-day exploration of the faithful journey of three denominations towards union and the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia. This is a rare opportunity to hear Rev Prof Chris Mostert, Rev Prof Norman Young and Rev Graham

McAnalley share their stories of the formation and ongoing commitments of what it means to be part of the Uniting Church. The day also features younger leaders at the time of Union: Rev Dr Coralie Ling, Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes and Rev Ron Townsend. They will share their reflections on living through union, the hopes it fostered, and the realities across the decades since.

Set in the heart of Melbourne, **"Pathways to Union & Beyond"** will examine the three traditions, three landmark sites and three foundational perspectives that formed the Uniting Church in Australia. Anyone interested in the Uniting Church and its history is invited to explore three city churches and discover what led to Union through the voices of the people who took part in the critical early years before and after formation of the Uniting Church.

If you've never explored the history of the Uniting Church join our community of learning to discover the historical antecedents to the Uniting Church in Australia, its Basis of Union, and faithful worship, witness and service since Union.

Where: Melbourne CBD: meet at 130 Little Collins St

When: Monday 22 June 2015, 8.30am to start from 9am - 5pm

Cost: \$45 (or \$40 concession) includes lunch and refreshments

REGISTER ONLINE @:

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/ucapathways2015>

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: 15 June, 15