

**Lectionary Bible readings for 30th August 2020**

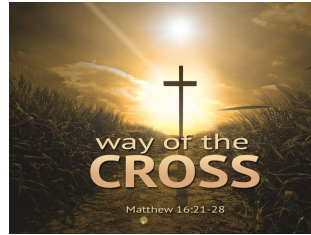
**Week: Pentecost 13 Colour: Green**

Exodus 3:1-15;

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;

Romans 12:9-21;

Matthew 16:21-28.



The Uniting Church in Australia  
Scots-Memorial Congregation

# Our Church

**Please submit items for the Sharing Time by Thursday 10am to Lisa 6231 4498 or [scot-memorial@bigpond.com](mailto:scot-memorial@bigpond.com)**

**Pastoral Care:** Steven 0428 382 793 or Paul 0407 585 044 or Jeff 0438 081 151

**Office:** Mon 7:30am-4pm, Tues-Fri 7:00am-2:30pm  
Ph: 6231 4498 Email: [scot-memorial@bigpond.com](mailto:scot-memorial@bigpond.com)  
Website: [scotschurch.com.au](http://scotschurch.com.au)



## Scots-Memorial Rosters

	Sunday 23 August	Sunday 30 August
Leader	Keith Allcock	Jeff Gray
Stewards	Jeff G (W), Bob & Wally	Paul W (W), Andrea & Denise
Bible Reading	Frances	Owen
Prayer	Adelene	Rosalind
Organist / Music	Oliver Gathercole	Christian McCallum
Audio	Owen	Owen
Money Counting	Paul W & Jeff G	Anne & Denise
Setting Up	Paul W	Steven

**Sunday 23rd August 2020**

**Pentecost 12A**



We meet on land for which the Mouheneener people are the traditional custodians. We remember the forebears with respect, and commit ourselves to working for reconciliation and justice.



# Order of Service

## Welcome – a recognition of who we are

*Silent Prayer as we prepare ourselves for Worship  
and the Candle is Lit*

## Gathering

Now, in the silence of this moment may we give thanks for another day; give thanks for the gift of life itself.

*(Silence)*

Let us open ourselves to the process of becoming more whole:  
of living more fully;  
of giving and forgiving more freely;  
of understanding more completely  
the meaning of our lives here on this earth. *(Adapt. THaley)*

*(Silence)*

## Hymn "As our congregation..."

*(Tune: 590 TiS, 'Blaenwern' 87 87D) 43 WNC*

As our congregation gathers  
lift our lives, with love amaze;  
offer some melodious treasure,  
fill our hearts with wondering praise.

Crashing brass and singing cymbals,  
soaring organ, sound and light;  
fill this space with awe and thunder,  
lift us through the veil of night.

Then a sudden, silent stillness  
holds an echo in the air:  
on a knife edge, balanced, waiting,  
in the silence, you are there.

Joy beyond imagination,  
love incarnate, hope to hold,  
faith we cannot sound or fathom,  
gripped in wonder, we behold.

*APratt*

## *Living Faith ... (Matthew 16:13-20)*

In Matthew's telling, this encounter with the disciples is both ordinary and extraordinary. Space here is limited so I touch only upon Peter's response which, in the Good News paraphrase is given as:  
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."<sup>17</sup> "Good for you, Simon son of John!" answered Jesus. "For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven."

Now that is a response of faith. Faith is often dormant in many and not oxygenated like Peter's. So, what are some characteristics of an alive faith?

Professor Marion Soards of the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in Kentucky, has identified a number of points about faith in this encounter between Jesus and Peter. One is, **faith is informed**. There is an assumption that Jesus' disciples are aware of what people are saying about him as they seek to understand the person and work of Jesus. In this time, we know also what people are saying about Jesus – if they are saying anything!

Secondly, **faith is involved**. It is not enough merely to keep repeating the opinions of others. Each person must grapple with the issues of faith and form a personal and collective conviction about the person and work of Jesus.

"Thirdly **faith is independent**. Out of our involvement we may find that we draw conclusions that differ from those currently available through traditional channels like the institutional Church. You and I are called to be open to fresh assessments of Jesus the Christ that oxygenates our faith so it is living.

"Fourthly, **faith is inspired**. What we know about the person, work, and will of Christ is often the outcome of the life-giving presence and Spirit of God, as it was for Peter.." You and I must continue to be involved and informed about the content of the faith we claim to live by but...never discount that it is the fruits the life-giving presence and Spirit of God in our life.

So the timeless question for every person is there before us – Who do you say that Jesus the Christ us in this 2020 COVID 19 time? Each of us is challenged to move beyond our response in times gone by that we may experience a living faith.

*Keith Allcock*

# Sharing Time

**What a Lovely Surprise!** - Mission Club received some Donations this week via electronic transfers into the Church Bank Account. Lisa has transferred these welcome funds into Mission Club Bank Account. If anyone would like to donate electronically now or in future, please use Mission Club Bank Account Number:

Bsb No: 067000  
Account No: 28033960.

Thanks You!  
Denise, Treasurer, Mission Club

**Safe Church** refresher training, Tuesday 25th August, 1-4pm at Glenorchy Uniting Church. This will be an interactive workshop that allows small group discussions as we engage with this important topic. More information: Presbytery Office, 6331 9784.

**Pastoral Partnering**—Strategies & resources for effective pastoral care in the congregation—a conversation with Sharonne Price on Zoom. **Friday 28th August, 10 am –11.30 am.** More information from pm-pastoral@ucapapp.org.au or 0437 2908 454.

The Next **Tuesday Worship** will be Tuesday 1st September at Scots-Memorial at 11.30 am. Please note that there will be NO morning tea or shared lunch after worship.

**Inclusive Worship—Enabling Cultural Gifts**—Wednesday 2 September, 9.30am to 2 pm & Wednesday 16th September, 10 am to 12.30 pm. Tickets \$25 includes workshop access both days via ZOOM. This workshop is organised in partnership with Port Phillip West Presbytery to explore cultural gifts in our communities of faith to make worship more inclusive. More information from Devanandan Anandarajan, 0417 721 015 or devanandan.anandarajan@victas.uca.org.au or Linley Liersch, 0408 169 882, Linley.Liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au

## Prayer of Confession (Keith)

### WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD FOR US TODAY

**Sharing together:** “How has this past week been for you?”

### Passing the Peace:

*(make eye contact only with those around you)*

### Bible Readings: (Frances)

Matthew 16: 13-20

Romans 12: 1-8

In this we listen for the word for us today

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Silent reflection for the Word we may hear)*

### HYMN: “**God, Composer and Conductor**”

*(Tune: ‘Regent Square’ OR ‘Westminster Abbey’ 34 HoS)*

God, composer and conductor  
of earth’s matchless symphony,  
makes from silence glorious music,  
from discordance, harmony;  
brings forth joy from deepest sorrow,  
ecstasy from agony.

God, the architect and artist  
of earth’s colours, textures, forms,  
gives new wonder to our vision,  
light in even darkest storms,  
teaches that with understanding,  
faith redeems and love reforms.

God of science, healer, teacher,  
pushes out the boundaries  
of capacity and knowledge,  
challenges and gently frees  
from the limits that restrain us,  
offers opportunities.

God, creative spirit in us,  
inspiration, force sublime,  
leading us to new endeavour,  
you, our living paradigm,  
may we know your constant presence  
now, and to the end of time. (*Jocelyn Marshall*)

### **Sermon**

## **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD WE HEAR**

### **Offering**

**Prayers for Others:** (*Adelene*)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn** "Of the Multitude of Words" (*Tune: 'Vienna', TIS 440*)

Of the multitude of words  
held within the Bible's wall,  
some bring life and some spread death,  
some can liberate us all.

Should our use of sacred words  
put all other views to flight?  
Does our inner certainty  
justify abuse of might?

Are our ways of using strength  
open for the world to see?  
Do they hide behind the texts  
masking our transparency?

Loving God, the source of truth,  
help us clearly to discern  
what brings death and what brings life,  
life for which our spirits yearn.

Then O God of spirit life,  
we shall live with openness,  
giving all the right to be  
their true selves with graciousness. (*William L Wallace*)

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve and as you do,  
Know that your future rests with the God of eternity,  
your hours are lived with Jesus the Christ  
and your moments are carried onwards in the life of the Spirit,  
**AMEN.**