



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS
Sunday 1 March 2020
LENT 1

HOOKED ON ‘IF’?

The Tempter is an angler
with a covered hook,
he'll hang around your little faith
and quote you the Good
Book.

Watch out when he's as plausible
as a most wise pontiff,
he's covering with some bate
a barbed, and cruel “*if*”.

If you really are God's child,
show me your prayer skill.

If you have the true faith,
mountains should move at
will.

If you really are a Christian,
your love will be aglow.

If you truly have the Spirit,
your godliness will show.

Yes, Satan is an angler
whose *if* is a keen hook,
he tried it on with Jesus
with a swami look:
“If you really are God's Son,
turn these stone into bread.
If you are the Chosen One,
you'll jump and not be dead.”

The Tempter is a loser
whose logic's out of place;
we do not have to prove a thing,
our status is by grace.
It's written, for our freedom,
that God owns us by name.
Accept you are a child of God
and spoil the angler's game!

Matthew 4: 1-11

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Welcome to Seacliff Uniting Church!

If you are new to the area, visiting friends or family, or on a holiday, to you we extend a warm welcome, and invite you to share fully in worship and fellowship. Our Minister is Rev. Gary Stuckey.

This Week at Seacliff

Book Club

7.30pm 4th March

Yarn Sisters

10.00 am Thursday 5th March

M&Ms

10.00 am Friday 6th March

What's News

Experiencing Lent

Today marks the beginning of Lent in the Church calendar. We are probably most familiar with Lent as that time of year when we give up something, chocolate often being near the top of the list.

Lent, then, is seen as a time of restrictions, rigidity and regulation. It is a time to forgo certain things for a while to increase our spiritual stamina and impress God with our voluntary, albeit minimal suffering. Then, after six weeks life could return to 'normal'.

But is this what was intended by the early church when Lent became part of the Church calendar? Was Lent to become a six week period of inconvenience in an otherwise plentiful year? Is it a time to be deliberately dreary in order that we may appreciate more intensely the joy of Easter?

No. Rather, Lent is a time of reflection intended to help us return to normal human life: life lived in deep communion with God. During the course of a year we can pick up habits and practices which become barriers in our relationship with God and thus diminish life. Lent invites us to get our lives back on track. To consider what is hampering our growing relationship with God.

Lent is not life denying, but life affirming. That's why we celebrate it. So that we may return to normal human life lived in communion with God the life giver.

Services during Lent

The Bible readings for the first Sunday of Lent are always the same- they reflect on what we call the Temptations of Jesus. In these, Jesus is tempted to centre his life around reasons for living which do not reflect God's way for life.

Through the 40 days he spends in the desert Jesus discerns the path he is to follow- the path of love.

From today and through Lent,, I will be exploring this theme of love.

Lent 1- “Choosing the Way of Love”. Jesus rejects lesser reasons for living and embarks on a journey of love.

Lent 2- “Encountered by Love”. Nicodemus, in searching for the deepest truths in life, finds that what he is really looking for in life is love.

Lent 3- “Love Accepts the Unacceptable”. Jesus reaches out in love to the woman he encounters at the well and turns her life around.

Lent 4- “Love Sees”. So many people in our world suffer the loneliness of just not being seen. Jesus ‘sees’ and heals a blind man, who in turn sees.

Lent 5- “Love Brings Life”. The raising of Lazarus from the dead is a missional call to us all to be life givers in a world where there is so much death, both literally but also figuratively. How can we be life givers for ourselves and others?

Lent 6- “Love Brings Peace”. Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem is a proclamation of peace and call for those who follow him to be peace makers in our world.

Rev. Gary Stuckey

First Wednesday Book Club.

During the month of February, the club members read the Orchardist’s Daughter by Karen Viggers. Our next meeting will be held on **4th March at 7.30 pm** at Josie Keavy’s Home. Maxine

Name Badges

Thank you to those who have ordered Uniting Church name badges. They have been ordered and will be ready for distribution on Sunday 8th March. The cost will be \$8.50.

Please see Rosemary or Annette to collect your badge.

Annette

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is on Friday, 6th March at St.Jude’s, Brighton at 1.30pm.

The country is Zimbabwe & all are welcome.

Ruth H.

Cogs n Coffee

The difficult to imagine happened to the riders on Wed, we were rained upon on our journey to Willunga. I must add it was not for very long. At Willunga, we helped Geoff again celebrate his birthday. Next weeks ride is to Outer Harbour meeting at Wattle Reserve at 8.30am, catching the train back home. Brian



Seacliff Environmental Action (S.E.A.) Group

The idea of a 'Carbon Fast' to reduce our environmental 'footprint' has been suggested for the 6 weeks of Lent. More information can be found at www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx

I have been given this information and will include it for the next 6 weeks for your interest and possible reference:

Week 1 – Lifestyle and diet

Increase your meat free days by 1 / week – search for good vegetarian recipes

Rice production produces methane gas, reduce the amount of rice you eat by 1 meal / week.

Find out what 'carbon-miles' refers to and then have it in the back of your mind when you shop.

Eat local and native (check labels) and reduce your 'food miles' by buying locally produce

Reduce your use of single use plastic by 100% - take reusable bags when food shopping.

David

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Worship Leader for Today: **Rev. Gary Stuckey HC**
Lectionary for Today: **1 March 2020: Gn 2: 15-17: 3: 1-7;
Ps 32; Rom 5: 12 – 19; Mt 4: 1 - 11.**

Reminder for Stewards: 8 March 2020
L Milner Colin Theakstone

Welcome to our Church.

Things you need to know, especially if you are a visitor.
Fire exits are marked. Please take note. In the case of an emergency evacuation please gather on the Western Lawns under the Pine Tree. **St John First Aid Kit** - on top of the pigeon holes up from the ramp. **Toilets** are available through the door front right of the Worship Area or out through the turn around point on the ramp. **Morning tea** is held after the service – we hope you will join with us. More information is available from the Steward's Table and displays scattered around "The Middle Hall".

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to
newsletter@seacliffuc.org
by 6.00pm on Wednesdays.
If you do not have access to email, please phone or call in at the church office and it will be forwarded for you.

Our Minister is Rev. Gary Stuckey.

Contact :

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Home phone : 8270.2862
email :
minister@seacliffuc.org

Church Office Information

Open Thursday and Friday

9.30am – 12.30pm

☎ 8296 1517

Email: office@seacliffuc.org

Website: www.seacliffuc.org