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Worship Leader for Today: Brian Gepp

Lectionary for Today: **31 October 2021: Ru 1:1 - 18; Ps 146;**

Heb 9: 11 - 14; Mk 12: 28 - 34.

Reminder for Stewards: 7 November 2021

Ruth Heywood

Margaret tucker

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. According to our **Covid plan**, please note the seating arrangements within the building for your safety.

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to

newsletter@seacliffuc.org

by 5pm 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 :

Mobile : 0488 017 187,

Home phone : 8270.2862

email :

minister@seacliffuc.org

Church Office Information

Phone / Email contact only Thursday and Friday

9.30am – 12.30pm

☎ 8296 1517

Email: office@seacliffuc.org

Website: www.seacliffuc.net



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS
Sunday 31 October 2021
PENTECOST 23

The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28-34



The Greatest Commandment

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’^[a] ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^[b]

³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’^[c] There is no commandment greater than these.” ³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

This Week

Book Club 1.30pm Wednesday 3rd November

Yarn Sisters 10.30pm Thursday 4th November

What's News

SEACLIFF SPIRITUALTY PROGRAMME

Dear Friends, as the year draws to a close so does our spirituality programme for 2021. Below are the November and Advent offerings.

Meditation

The next meditation sessions will be **Nov 2 at 10:30am and Nov 4 at 2:00pm**. When we meet, we spend a few minutes catching up and reviewing what we covered the previous month, this is followed by a short talk which explores meditation further, we then meditate for 20 minutes and we conclude with a short sharing and question time. The whole session lasts about an hour. All are welcome at these sessions.

Quiet Day

The fourth and final Quiet Day for 2021 will be on **Tuesday Nov 16** running from **9:30am-3:00pm**. On this day, we will be guided by the wisdom of Anthony of Egypt also known as Anthony the great. He lived from 251-356 and has had a huge impact on Christian spirituality down to today. We will reflect on his life and what it has to offer us in our journey as well as some of the spiritual practices he and other desert monastics offer us.

We will commence the day with Gathering Worship, then will follow three sessions, each introduced by a short reflection, a time alone to reflect, pray and ponder, with a short group time to conclude. At the end of the day we will share in Holy Communion.

Most of us find it difficult to make space for ourselves in which we can relax, pray, ponder and listen for the promptings of the Spirit. These days are the chance to do that.

There is no cost for the day but any offerings will be gratefully received.

Please bring your own lunch. Other refreshments will be supplied.

Contemplative Worship

It seems that we are living in an increasingly busy, noisy and fast paced world. Where and how can we find some peace and quiet? One way is in Contemplative Worship, a service of stillness, silence and reflection.

The final Contemplative Worship at Seacliff UC for 2021 will be **November 28th**. This is the first Sunday of Advent as we begin our journey to Christmas. We know this time of year can become busy so why not begin the season in quiet reflection? The service will commence at **6:00pm** and run for about an hour, followed by light refreshments for those who wish to stay and mingle.

The service will include quiet music, often from the Taize community, readings, a short reflection followed by a period for personal reflection in silence, Holy Communion and prayer. This is an opportunity to come into the quiet and find grace and peace to restore your soul.

Advent Reflection Groups

To further guide us on our journey towards Christmas we will again be offering three Advent reflection sessions on either a **Tuesday morning at 10:30 (Nov 30, Dec 7 & 14) of Thursday afternoon at 2:00pm (Dec 2, 9 & 16)**.

If you have any queries please call or email Gary: 0488 017 187 or gstu@internode.on.net

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE

The message next week, entitled 'Living in Wisdom' will focus on the reading from the Hebrew Scriptures of Ruth (3:1-5 & 4:13-17). Every day we are faced with choices and at the heart of these choices is knowing what is the appropriate thing to do in any given situation. This is where wisdom is needed and the story from Ruth can indeed offer us some wisdom. Gary

Congregation AGM

A reminder that the AGM (election of officers for 2022) will be conducted in 2 weeks' time, **Sunday 14th November**, starting at approx 11.00 am. The two major items we know about so far are:

Elections to positions of service: the list for this year is on display in the meeting room – you are invited to indicate your nomination to serve in 2022, either continuing on from this year or as a new nomination.

Mission Projects: a discussion paper is included as an insert in today's newsletter. I wanted to keep the paper short, but may have ended up leaving more questions than answers!! Please get in touch over the next couple of weeks if you have concerns; there will be more detail and time for questions on the day. Max.

Cogs n Coffee

Sixteen of us did the ride to Willunga last Wednesday, with a little persipitation on our way back. Always lovely riding through the vinyards. Meet at shops at 8.30am for next weeks ride, which will be to Goodwood and by train to Belair for a ride through National Pk.

Brian



Emergency Contact Information

Church Council has approved a process for recording the personal contact details of an appropriate person in case a member of our church community is involved in a medical emergency. As we get older, sadly, there is increasing risk of someone requiring urgent medical assistance and Council has a duty of care to ensure that a family member or close friend is contacted in such an event.

This is not to get approval for an ambulance, if necessary, as this would be organised as a first response. It is simply to ensure someone is notified in such an event or if other medical assistance is required.

The contact information will be kept securely in the Church Office and held in strict confidence by members of Church Council and the coordinator of any church group which the church member belongs to.

Church Council encourages you to obtain a form from Andrew Telfer or any other member of Council and, after completing it, return it to any Council member. Hopefully, the information will never be required but we do need to be able to contact a responsible person if it does.

Andrew Telfer

Seacliff Uniting Church – *Mission Projects for 2022*

Some history

For several years now, our congregation has supported various mission projects, some in Australia, some overseas.

In more recent years, we have supported:

- Tarcisius Hasdak's *We Dream* project
- The Oodnadatta Faith Community's building appeal;

and this year:

- Circle of Friends – Refugee support
- United Church of Christ in the Philippines – dealing with government-led persecution.

Early this year we resolved to give our support *as a congregation* to all of these projects this year. As it has turned out, while *We Dream* is fully subscribed for 2021, the other three have received various, but limited, levels of support.

There are a couple of things to understand here:

1. While we sponsor projects at a congregation level, all contributions to them are entirely voluntary: we are all free to contribute whatever we choose.
2. As well, we all know that there are myriad ways in which we contribute to all manner of causes beyond the congregation.

So there can be no suggestion of criticism of any kind: the comment above about the levels of support is **only** to give us information that might help us make decisions for 2022.

So where to from here?

/2

We Dream

Our funding is a major component of the *We Dream* finances. In order to be fair to Tarcisus, and to enable him to plan his programme, we arguably need to give him at least 12 months' notice if – **if** – we ever decide to cease that support. That would suggest that we are committed to Tarcisus for 2022.

Oodnadatta Faith Community

As previously advised, the Oodnadatta community has been able to source sufficient funds to enable plans to be prepared for a building. Our support over 2 or 3 years has been much appreciated.

Other projects

A foundational question to decide is how many projects we decide to sponsor *as a congregation*, that is, as a separate decision from which ones. In our conversation we will probably consider both matters together, but it may be that the voting is taken separately.

To be decided at the November AGM then:

- To re-affirm our support for *We Dream*
- To decide how many projects we will sponsor as a congregation ...
- ... and which ones (if you have any suggestions, please bring them our attention before the day of the meeting)
- The best way(s) to ensure continuing support for those projects – I am concerned about how we do this.

It will help us all if you come to the meeting having given some thought already to these questions. Blessings. Max