

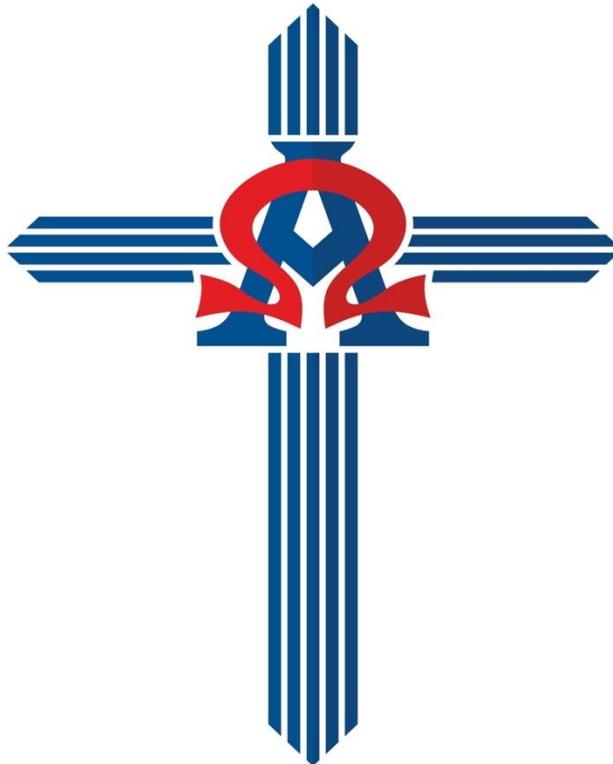
Worshipping at Home with family and friends
of the Wesley UCA, Wagga Wagga



Sunday 22 November 2020

Order of Service

Christ the King



Dog Collar Tales

On one wall of my home study is a large laminated poster of a classic Leunig cartoon, “Favourite worn and shabby domestic items.” In it he includes “the teapot of truth, the pillow of faith, the rug of constancy, the vase of tranquillity, the dog of sanity, and the armchair of philosophy.”

I wonder if, like me, you have a favourite worn and shabby chair? The one you love to sit on any time of the day, but especially on a cold winter night wrapped up in a cosy blanket, reading a book or magazine, or watching your favourite TV show or movie?

We have several armchairs in our household: two old, worn and shabby recliners we bought years ago from St Vinnies for fifty dollars each - a real bargain. Two old and worn Lindsay tartan wingbacks, and two new luxury blue leather ‘Lazyboys’ we bought last year, so that Hunter’s beloved brother had something nice and comfortable to sit on while he was visiting us from Scotland.

In my favourite armchair, I sew, stitch, knit, read, or relax my head and back with a cup of coffee and daydream. I cry and lament at the state of the world, and I share stories of key moments in my life with my dearest of friends.

Fergus MacDougall, our adopted and beloved sixteen-year-old mini schnauzer, loves to sit on an armchair, but at his age he can no longer jump up as easily as he once did. A few years ago, we bought him his own little wing back!

Janice



Acknowledgement of Country

*From before recorded time,
the First Peoples cared for this Land.*

*We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and
honour those who have offered themselves in tending it.*

*We acknowledge the elders and communities of the
Wiradjuri People who have told the sacred stories
and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.*

*We ask God's blessing
on those who continue to work for the healing
and restoration of this Land and her communities.*

Preparation for Worship

Welcome and Introduction

Prelude for Christ the King Sunday

We have been called into the pastures of God,
where there is nurture, a place to rest,
safety, and kindness among all.

Let us draw near, in the goodness of God,
to be with each other,
and to praise the shepherd
who has gathered us.

Call to Worship Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

We joyfully praise and worship our Shepherd King!

O worship the King all-glorious above

Call to Confession

We come to you, people who are hungry,
people who are thirsty,
strangers, imprisoned, exposed,
knowing that you have come to us, too,
in these same guises.

In our brokenness, welcome us.

And open up our defences as we come to you,
O Lord of many guises.

Prayer for Forgiveness

Truly, we say to you that we have seen the broken
and have not been moved to compassion.

Truly, we say to you that we have heard people
mourning and have not given them our time.

Truly, we say to you that we have witnessed oppression
and have not raised our voices.

Truly, we say to you that we have seen the stranger
and not said a word.

God, hiding in all strangers, all around us,
we are truly sorry for what we have done,
and what we have not done.

And we ask you to deepen your welcome in us,
so that we might deepen our welcome around us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

God is love.
Through Christ our sins are forgiven.
Let us take hold of this forgiveness
and live our life in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Glory be to God. Amen.

Uniting in Worship 2, 2005

Glory be to God the Father

A 'wee' word



WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

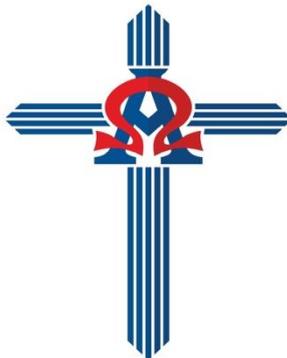
Let us listen to the Word of God,
and may it make its way into our minds, and hearts.

A reading from the book of Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ¹⁷ As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats:

[Musical Interlude - The Lord's my Shepherd](#)



A reading from Matthew Chapter 24: 31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you

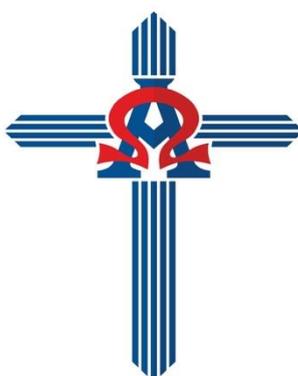
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Jesus says,
blessed are those who hear my word, and keep it!

Father, you have spoken to us.
We are your children, bind us in your love. Amen.

[**Musical Interlude - Who is on the Lord's side**](#)

[**Short Reflection - Rev'd Janice**](#)



Our Response to the Gospel

As followers of Jesus Christ living in this world –
which some seek to control,
but which others view with despair –
we declare with joy and trust:
our world belongs to God!

From the beginning,
through all the crises of our times,
until his kingdom fully comes,
God keeps his covenant forever:
our world belongs to him!
God is King! Let all the earth be glad!
Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!
The Spirit is at work, renewing creation.
Praise the Lord!

Jesus ascended in triumph
to his heavenly throne
there he hears our prayers,
pleads our cause before the Father,
and rules our world.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Our hope for a new earth is not tied
to what humans can do,
for we believe that one day
every challenge to God's rule
and every resistance to his will shall be crushed.
Then his kingdom shall come fully,
and our Lord shall rule forever.

[Beauty for Brokenness - God of the Poor](#)

Prayers of gratitude and concern

Christ has promised us that he will return to us soon.
Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Almighty God and King, we pray
for your holy church throughout the world,
that she may be watchful and ready
for your Son's return.

Watch over the nations of the earth,
and ease the burdens of those
who live in strife torn lands.

Give all leaders a spirit of justice and wisdom
and help all people to work for peace and harmony.

Feed the hungry
and take care of the orphan and widow.

Be with the poor, the homeless, the friendless,
the sick, and the prisoner.

Help us to serve and love you through our service
to our Christian brothers and sisters.

Be with all who are finishing off studies for this year,
and help all who mark exam papers
in the coming weeks.

In this time of silence we bring our concerns
for your people and your world

***A time for personal prayers
for members of our church family,
for a situation in the news, for countries in the world.***

For the times when we are sick:
may we have healing.

For the times when we are isolated:
may we have company.

For the times when we are oppressed:
may we have justice.

For the times when we are exposed:
may we have dignity.

For the times when we are mistreated:
may we have humanity.

For the times when we are ignored:
may we be heard.

We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

An Invitation to the free-will offering

Your gifts to support the ministry and mission of the
Church are received with grateful thanks.

Your offering can be made on-line or
sent directly to the church office.

BEING SENT ON GOD'S MISSION

[Crown him with many crowns](#)

Closing Doxology **Jude 1: 24-25**

Now, to him who is able to keep you from falling,
and to present you before his glorious presence
without fault and with great joy -
to the only God our Saviour, be glory, majesty, power
and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

[Postlude for Christ the King Sunday](#)

*'God's Surprising Advent'
'Hope and Prayer'
First Advent*



*Please register to attend Advent Studies
by contacting Janice on 0416 106 518*