

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



**The building is closed.
The Church is alive!**

NEWS MAY 17, 2020

MINISTERS

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SUNDAY MAY 10 EASTER 6

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Praying Together St David's Albury Uniting GNE

Readings

May 17 Acts 17.22-31 Ps 66.8-20 1 Pet 3.13-22 John 14.15-21

Worship Rosalie check Facebook for streamed service

<https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

READINGS

May 21 Acts 1.1-11 Ps 47 or 93 Eph 1.15-23 Luke 24.44-53

May 24 Acts 1.6-14 Ps68.1-10,32-35 1Pet 4.12-14, 5.6-11 Jn17.1

May 31 Acts2.1-21 Ps 104.24-34,35b 1Cor 12.3b-13 Jn 20.19-23

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the region, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

WORSHIP ONLINE

Waranga Cluster 9.30 am Check warangaunitingchurches.net.au

Glen Waverley Uniting Church 10.00am <https://gwuc.org.au/live/>

Brunswick Uniting Church brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au.worship-with-us/

Mt Eliza Uniting Church mteliza.unitingchurch.org.au 10.00am or recorded

Manningham manninghamuc.org 10.00am or recorded

Sonder Collective first and third Sundays 5.30pm Go to Sonder Facebook and request link

ASCENSION DAY Thursday, May 21

The readings for this special day are listed on the previous page.

A prayer for Ascension Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have ascended
beyond horizons which our eyes can see,
and further than the limits
which our minds can reach.

No longer restricted to one place,
you are seated on the throne of heaven,
and present in all places.

We praise you,
our glorious Lord and Saviour,
and are for ever glad
that now there is in heaven
one who understands and intercedes for us.
Hallowed be your name!
hallowed on earth and now in heaven. Amen *Common Order*

CONGRATULATIONS Val and Clive Young!

Val and Clive celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on May 7. We wish them many more years of happiness together.

FOR THE WHOLE CREATION MAY 15 2020 Climate Action

This came from the President in the Assembly's Friday May 8 News.

On May 15, there will be worldwide student-led climate action. The President, Dr Deidre Palmer, supports this action. She reflects:

'The air we're breathing in our most populated cities is cleaner.

We can see mountains unobstructed by the haze of pollution.

SMALL GROUPS

If you would like to join with others (up to a maximum of 10 people) to read and reflect on the passages set for the coming Sunday, share joys and concerns and pray for one another please come along at one of the following times: Tuesday 10:00am, Wednesday 1:30am, Thursday 7:30pm. *Please let Rosalie know if you plan to attend - for numbers.*

We will have followed the Synod instructions for cleaning the building and other requirements.

CONGRATULATIONS Val and Clive Young!

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FOR THE WHOLE CREATION MAY 15 2020 Climate Action

This came from the President in the Assembly's Friday May 8 News.

On May 15, there will be worldwide student-led climate action. The President, Dr Deidre Palmer, supports this action. Her reflection begins by listing emerging stories of positive outcomes to the safety measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially in the world around us then she notes the devastating consequences to people, including loss of life, loss of income and loss of social connection, as well as uncertainty and anxiety for family and friends and those working on the front line. She applauds the level of co-operation, and the concerted effort of our government to act ...

The President continues, reflecting:

We have another crisis that we need to face together - the crisis that our whole creation is groaning under the impacts of climate change, pollution, and degradation of our ecosystems.

Emerging from the COVID crisis - what will we do?

Some have talked about the "new normal" on the other side of the pandemic.

This is a time for us as the Uniting Church to be asking: What do we want our common life to be?

As followers of Jesus, what are the values and practices we want to embrace and maintain? How will we bear witness to God's vision of

reconciliation and renewal of the whole creation?

Our young people, the students who have organised this global climate strike, are urging us to take action - to prioritise what is important for now and into our future.

What our young people are calling for is a world where our common life includes care for the earth, which we all share, a recognition that creation is not there simply for our use and abuse, but the creatures of the earth, the plants, and the land itself, need to be respected, and recognised.

We need to live in a sustainable way, using renewable sources of energy, recycling, reducing waste, and having sustainable manufacturing and agricultural practices, so that there is a future for our earth.

We need Government to set in place strategies to ensure that all communities are able to transition into the new low carbon world for the sake of the whole planet.

As the Uniting Church, as followers of Jesus, let us join together with young people calling for action to address climate change and renew and protect the life of our planet.

Let us join together with other religious communities, and all those organisations and concerned citizens of our world, to move toward sustainable and non-exploitative living, embracing a relationship of mutuality and respectful interdependence with the whole creation.'

A Prayer for the Earth

Creator God,

we give you thanks for your beautiful creation.

We give you thanks for the intricate web of life that weaves us together.

Christ, our Redeemer, forgive us when we exploit and degrade the earth.

Forgive us when we consume more than we need.

Forgive us when we greedily use the earth's resources, while others are living in poverty and lack the basic necessities of life.

Renew your vision within us of a world in which we love our neighbours, share equitably all the gifts of the earth, and live in harmony with all creation.

Holy Spirit, Life-giver,

comfort us with the hope of reconciliation and the renewal of the whole earth. Amen

Deidre Palmer, President, Uniting Church in Australia