

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



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

NEWS JULY 12, 2020

MINISTERS:

Rev Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt 5821 2077 on leave

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Association

Church Office 4805 1120

Website sheppartonuc.org.au

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

SUNDAY JULY 12

Praying Together Waranga Cluster - Colbinabbin, Rushworth, Murchison, Tatura

Readings Gen 25.19-34 Ps 119.105-112 Rom 8.1-11 Matt

13.1-9,18-23

Worship Loni Vaitohi Service streamed on Facebook 9.30am
<https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

READINGS JULY

July 19 Gen 28.10-19a Ps 139.1-12 23-24 Rom 8.12-25 Mt 13.24-30. 36-43 [44-52

July 26 Gen 29.15-28 Ps 105.1-11 45b Rom 8.26-39 Mt 13.31-33

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

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

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

Glen Waverley Uniting Church 10am or recorded gwuc.org.au/

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH .

Ministers are available for pastoral conversation in the Narthex as follows: Joan Fisher Wednesdays 10.00am to noon.

Loni Vaitohi Fridays 10.00am to 2.00pm phone first

Small groups If you would like to join with others, please contact Loni.

YOUR OFFERING

If you wish to make your weekly offering and need assistance please contact us.

PRAYING WITH THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

This week's countries are Djibouti and Somalia, both in north-east Africa. They offer thanks for the beauty of their countries and the resources of land and sea. Somalia is grateful for the responses by churches and humanitarian organisations to their needs. They request prayers for stable government, reconciliation and peace-building, the protection of their natural resources and an end to hunger, violence, crime and conflict in Somalia. May it be so!

REMEMBER!

Whenever you enter the Narthex, you must use the sanitiser then write your name and phone number in the book.

A PRAYER FOR VICTORIA

Jesus said "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.....and you will find rest for your souls".

Mat. 11:28-29

God of love,

We are weary. Longing for rest for our souls;

aching for the burdens of this year to be lifted from us.

It has been hard being isolated, cut off from friends, unable to see family, prevented from feeling the warmth of human touch.

It has been fearful - worrying, wondering if we might catch Covid, or if we might unwittingly pass it on to others.

It has been exhausting – having children home, unable to see their friends, coping with many new logistics.

God, as our state borders close, we pray for those in border communities.

Enable them to manage their day to day living, medical appointments and work requirements with patience and understanding.

We pray for those affected by summer's fires. Do not allow them to be forgotten in the crisis of Covid19. May they be enabled to rebuild their lives physically and emotionally.

God as Melbourne is locked down, give us compassion for our state's capital.

Give those facing a new wave of threat, isolation and lock down, the mental stamina to withstand these changes.

We especially think of residents in high rise public housing – locked in small apartments, surrounded by armed police, perhaps short of food and necessities, perhaps not understanding all that is happening. God may suitable and plentiful food be available and medical and pharmaceutical needs be supplied.

God, we pray your blessing on front line workers -medical staff, army personnel and police officers, may they remain calm as they deal with frazzled people. Keep them safe as they go about their duties.

For the many who cannot isolate and whose work places them at risk, cleaners, shop workers, factory workers and teachers we

pray vigilance and care may prevent them being infected.

As fears increase, as tempers rise, as good will becomes jaded, we pray God for your spirit of peace to surround the city.

Though it is winter, we pray for sunshine and clear skies to warm the windows of Melbourne.

Alongside news of lockdown and threat, may media screens also bring news of hope and beauty to those in isolation.

May people be gentle and loving with themselves and with each other.

God, may no one be burdened with weights greater than they can manage.

May panic and frustration be calmed, and souls find rest.

Amen Revd Rhonda Kissick

Tallangatta

ASSEMBLY NATIONAL NEWS JULY 9

BOUND TO ONE ANOTHER IN COVENANT

On July 10, 1994, the Seventh Assembly of the Uniting Church formally entered into a binding covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. The Covenant is fundamental to who we are. Last week, 26 years after the Covenant's enactment, and 13 years after the Closing the Gap targets were established, a Uniting Church coalition of the UAICC, Uniting First People's Alliance and Uniting Care Australia wrote to the Prime Minister urging the Government to 'make Closing the Gap in incarceration, housing, health outcomes and other social disparities a priority.'

The letter cites recent events in Australia with respect to the Black Lives Matter protests as strong endorsement for the Government to ensure both the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody and the Pathways to Justice recommendations are urgently and fully implemented by the Government, together with the new ambitious targets for Closing the Gap.