

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



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

NEWS NOVEMBER 15, 2020

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602 0449 504 228

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

Church 4805 1120

Website sheppartonuc.org.au

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

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15

Praying Together Tallangatta, Eskdale, Red Bluff ARRM

Readings Judg 4.1-7 Ps 123 1 Thess 5.1-11 Matt 25.14-30

Worship Glenys Gill **Duty Elder** Melissa Graham

The service will be live on Zoom, or by phone, 9.30am See details opposite or use the website (above) to view the service.

READINGS - NOVEMBER

Nov 22 *Reign of Christ* Ezek 34.11-16, 20-24 Ps 100 Eph 1.15-23
Matt 25.31-46 [Mark 13.24-37]

Nov 29 *Advent Sunday* Is 64.1-9 Ps 80.1-7, 17-19 1C or 1.3-9

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

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP ONLINE

Joining in to Zoom via the phone

Step 1: To join the meeting via a Phone call please dial one of the five following phone numbers: The 03 number is for Victoria so is likely to be a cheaper call than one of the interstate numbers.

03 7018 2005

02 8015 6011

07 3185 3730

08 7150 1149

08 6119 3900

Step 2: when prompted enter the meeting code on the Zoom invitation.

The Meeting Code for November 15 is 988 1092 5462#

Step 3: you will asked if you are the meeting host or a participant

Don't worry about this question, just press #

Step 4: when prompted enter the passcode on the Zoom invitation, which will also change each week.

The Passcode for November 15 is 204 957#

PASTORAL PRAYERS

Rejoice with all those who are reunited with family members from Melbourne! Remember those who have undergone surgery and those waiting for surgery, those who are ill or convalescing, and those restored to good health.

Continue to pray for the olive harvest in Palestine - the World Council of Churches is featuring this in 2020. The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle this week invites prayers for Timor Leste (East Timor), Indonesia and the Philippines. In the Presbytery, this week we pray for Tallangatta, Eskdale, Red Bluff and the Alpine Regional Resource Ministry and the Revd Andrew Delbridge. We continue to pray for the United States and the President-Elect and the outgoing President.

OFFERING ENVELOPES December 2020- November 2021

The Treasurer now has the boxes of envelopes and is happy to deliver them to people wishing to use the envelopes for their offerings. People who would like to start using the envelopes are invited to contact Zane, who reminds us that using the envelopes helps us to set aside money each week for the work of the church, especially when we are not at church! Zane sends heartfelt thanks to all who continue their offerings by direct giving, EFT or delivery to his home.

Contact Zane to arrange for your envelopes.

THE END OF THE CHURCH YEAR!

Next Sunday, November 22, is the last Sunday in the Church's Year. First celebrated in 1925, this very recent festival was called The Feast of Christ the King, but is now more often called Reign of Christ Sunday, to better reflect contemporary thinking about kings! The festival was introduced to celebrate the dominion of Christ over all creation, including the Church. It points to the end of time when kingdom of Jesus (also known as the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven) will be established in all its fullness to the ends of the earth. So our Gospel readings have been parables pointing towards this fulfilment.

November 8: Matthew 25.1-13 - the bridesmaids; being ready and being prepared

November 15: Matthew 25. 14-20 - 'the talents' and working faithfully for the Kingdom

November 22: Matthew 25.31-46 - 'the sheep and the goats' - and a time of judgment. 'When did we...?'

And then the Church's Year starts again! On Advent Sunday, November 29, we begin the Year of Mark as we explore God's word through the Gospels. Advent looks forward to Christ's coming - at the end of time - and in human form. So there will be apocalyptic readings and the Advent stories of John the Baptist, Mary and the Annunciation.

Advent 1 is very important to this Congregation, of course. On Advent Sunday, 2009, the Shepparton congregations became one - forming Shepparton Uniting Church. Many of us will remember worshipping in a different church building on November 1, 8, 15 and 22 when we closed those buildings before the great celebration on November 29. So prayerfully enjoy our end-of-year - and our new beginning!

REMINDERS

1. The Upper Room Today is the closing date you Jeni to receive your subscriptions for 2021. jjplf@iinet.net.au 0419 240 955 \$46.50 p.a.

2. Christmas Cheer Appeal

Two more weeks to go for your gifts for this appeal, either money or goods. They will be gladly received by Val, or Lois,

3. Bookings for Meetings A reminder from Jeni that even in while we are not meeting at the church for worship, bookings for the use of rooms must be made in advance. Jeni jjplf@iinet.net.au 0419 240 955

ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE

Here is the Assembly *Prayer for NAIDOC Week 2020*:

Loving Creator God,
We rejoice in the beauty of this ancient land and her waters.
We marvel at the awesome way they have been formed.
We give thanks for her First Nations Peoples,
their stories of creation sung by countless Ancestors.
It is right, Loving Mystery that we name the dispossession, violence and bloodshed,
which First Peoples endured at the hands of Second Peoples.
We ask your forgiveness, and their forgiveness, on behalf of our forebears.
We pray for your healing of this land and her Peoples.
We pray that love will make a new way, a harmony way, the way of Jesus.
Holy God,
Today we are grateful, and we celebrate this nation's true history,
beginning long before time.
The First People of this ancient land who gave them birth,
who gives them life – Mother Earth.
We honour them and share their joy.
You, Wisdom, call us body, call us one,
To walk together, people from many lands,
under this same golden sun, together
First Nations Peoples and all of us who have since come.
Together there is a new song to be sung,
as old as time.
Hear the *yidaki*, hear the *bilma*,
the Ancestors call.
Wisdom, help us to listen, to follow, to learn, to grow.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

[Yidaki is the Yolngu word for didgeridoo as bilma is for clap stick]

*Stu McMillan, National Consultant Covenanting
Assembly Resourcing Unit
Uniting Church in Australia*