

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS MARCH 6, 2022

Lent 1

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

Email: sheppartonuca@inet.net.au

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 Rev Loni Vaitohi. HC

Readings Deut 26.1-11 Ps 91 1-2, 9-16 Rom 10.8b-13 Lk 4.1-13

Praying Together Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah, Myrtleford-Whorouly

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 Rev Loni Vaitohi

READINGS

March 13 Gen 15.1-12, 17,18 Ps 27 Phil 3.17-4.1 Lk 13.33-35

March 20. Is 55.1-9 Ps 63.1-8 1 Cor 10.1-13 Lk 13. 1-9

March 27. Josiah 5.9-12 Ps 32 2 Cor 5.16-21 Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

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

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP

Worship in the church at 9.30am

or Worship online, using Youtube.

Go to www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting

When the appropriate service link comes with the video link: click the link and you will be taken to the service. This may take a short while.

COVID REQUIREMENTS FOR WORSHIP - ALL SERVICES

QR Codes – no longer required unless there is also hospitality

Masks – no longer required

DOOKIE CONGREGATION March 6 Rev Joan Fisher HC

PASTORAL PRAYERS.

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Bron, Lisa and her family, Emma Fethney; Don Gill; all our Tongan members and their families. All with COVID, or isolating.

The Presbytery prays for Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah, Myrtleford-Whorouly *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of the United Kingdom and Ireland. *The Assembly invites prayers for*

*all those impacted by the flooding emergency across Qld and NSW, for rescue workers and other emergency services and all providing care and support. *the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia and for world leaders to seek an end to war and a pathway to peace.

*Uniting Church communities as we enter the season of Lent. May it be a time of deep reflection pointing us to new life.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, March 8 Friendship Group *Bring a natural stone or gem stone* 10.00am. **Crazy Whist 1.30pm.** New players warmly welcome.

Wednesday, March 9 Church Council

Thursday, March 10 Cuppa and Chat 10.00am to noon

CHURCH ROSTERS APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Please leave a note for Shirley in the Rosters box listing any days you are not available.

PANCAKES AND PARTYING

The congregation enjoyed an extremely pleasant evening on Tuesday, sharing pancakes for dessert. A good number enjoyed the social occasion, the first for a long time! It was heightened by having four guests, Uniting Shepparton staff – Vanessa Cardamone, Barbara, Drew and Lance – who briefly described their roles at Uniting. Pancake Day being a fundraiser for Uniting, the proceeds of the evening, \$400, were a glad gift, to be used in Shepparton. Thanks to Lorraine and the Catering Committee.

ASHES AND REMEMBERING

Not surprisingly, it was a small number who joined to mark the beginning of Lent in a very different way. What are dust and ashes? Why are they so important in the Bible? Why did the Church start to use ashes in this way? Those present ‘ashed’ each other, the ashes having been made from the previous year’s palm branches. And a final reminder that, though we are dust, it is star dust! Overheard: ‘I just love this service...’

Perhaps Ash Wednesday 2023 could be a diary date?

EAST COAST FLOODING EMERGENCY APPEAL

The Rev Sharon Hollis, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, has launched an appeal to support people and communities impacted by the intense rainfall and devastating flooding across the East Coast.

WCC AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE

While world leaders are trying to persuade Putin to withdraw from Ukraine, on Wednesday, the acting General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, himself a priest of the Orthodox Church of Romania, wrote to Patriarch Kirill, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, asking him to mediate so that the war between Russia and Ukraine can be stopped: ‘Raise up your voice so that the war can be stopped.’

UNITING CHURCH PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

In response to a request for leaders of Australian churches to offer prayers for Ukraine on Ash Wednesday, this prayer by the President is one of the Uniting Church prayers offered.

God of peace, God of mercy

We pray for the people of Ukraine,

We lament the violence that has come to their country

We ask for comfort for those who mourn, hope for those who despair and compassion for all who suffer.

We plead for an end to violence and aggression in their land

We pray for the people of Russia,
We give thanks for those who protest for peace and pray for ongoing courage
We ask for a change of heart in those who commit acts of aggression and war
against their fellow citizens and neighbours
We pray for Russians who will suffer because of sanctions and war

We pray for leaders around the world
We pray that world leaders might work for an end to war and for establishing of
peace
We seek wisdom for those who are making life and death decisions about how to
respond to violence and threats of violence
We ask for courage for those who campaign for peace.

We pray for aid workers and journalists
We give thanks for the willingness of aid workers to work in situations of war and
unrest in order to meet the needs of others
We ask for safety, wisdom and compassion for all working to alleviate suffering
and heal the wounded
We pray for journalist and media organisations reporting the situation in Ukraine
and Russia, may they report truthfully and compassionately.

We pray for peace
We lament violence around the world
We plead for the ceasing of violence and the establishment of peace
We pray that you might give us a desire for peace and a willingness to work and
hope and pray for peace each day. Amen

UNITING CHURCH GOING DEEPER STUDIES

The first week's study of the series for Lent is now available online. This study comes from the Walking Together as First Peoples Circle. Alison Overeem reflects on the strength of First Peoples amid the colonial wilderness of invasion, removal and injustice. Reflect, discuss, and then pray with Rev Jennie Gordon's 'be-wildered Jesus – a covenant prayer.' Joan has details