

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS APRIL 3, 2022

Lent 5

MINISTERS

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SUNDAY, APRIL 3 Rev Loni Vaitohi HC

Readings Is 43.16-21 Ps 126 Phil 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8

Praying Together. Mooroopna

READINGS

April 10 Is 50.4-9a Ps 31.9-16. Phil 2. 5-11 Lk 23.1-49 or Lk 19.28-40

April 14 Ex 12.1-4, 11-14 Ps 116.1-2, 112-19 1Cor 11.23-26. Jn 13.

1-17, 31b-35

[Jn 18.1- 19.42

April 15. Is 52.13- 53.12 Ps 22. Heb 10.16-25 or Heb 4.14-15, 5.7-9

April 17 Acts 10.34-43 Ps 118.1-2, 14-24 1 Cor 15.19-26 Jn 20.1-18

April 24 Acts 5.27-32. Ps 118.14-29 or 150 Rev 1.4-8 John 20.19-31

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

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 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

DOOKIE CONGREGATION April 3 Rev Glenys Gill HC

PASTORAL PRAYERS.

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Bron, Emma Fethney; Don Gill.
All with COVID, or isolating.

The Presbytery prays for Mooroopna

The WCC prays for Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia.

The Assembly invites prayers for *Communities facing new evacuation orders due to rising floodwaters and the ongoing deluge of rainwater.

*Those who are working on policies and budgets which support the flourishing of all people and all creation.

*Our communities to be places of welcome and inclusion for all people.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, April 5 Friendship Group Stamps 10.00am. Crazy Whist

1.30pm New players warmly welcome.

Going Deeper Study Groups

2.30pm and 7.30pm. Week 5: The Working for Justice Circle takes a look at the extravagant love and generosity Mary shows in anointing Jesus' feet (John 12.1-8). Five stories show how UCA communities are making a 'loving and generous response' to two of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change and refugees and asylum seekers.

Thursday, April 7 Cuppa and Chat. 10.00am - noon

FROM ASSEMBLY NEWS MARCH 30

Federal Budget 2022 The UC Assembly welcomed a number of short-term measures in the Budget which will make a difference in people's lives, but called for a longer-term vision to bring about changes that enable all people and all creation to flourish. The President welcomed positive measure for refugees and mental health, but noted the missed opportunities to address inequality and invest in a more sustainable future. Long-term solutions are needed to make 'Australia a more just, compassionate and sustainable nation.'

Further devastation for flood-affected families.

Thanks to generous contributions from across the uniting Church, more than \$100,000 has been raised through the Assembly's National Disaster Relief Fund. Your continuing prayers are requested. See below for details of how to contribute to the National Disaster Fund.

Celebrating Transgender Day of Visibility

Online worship is being organised by Equal Voices, supported by the UC Transforming Worship Circle, to help in the affirmation of gender-diverse people at this time.

#ClimateStrike#Uniting4Climate

Uniting Church members stood in solidarity with our planet and Australia's young people at the School Strike 4 Climate March 25.

A Conversation with Dr Jill Tabart - Podcast Episode 6

UCA President Sharon Hollis speaks to Jill about her journey as a Uniting Church member, what it was like to be the UCA President 1994-1997, how consensus decision-making came to be and other highlights from her historic time as President.

<https://anchor.fm/dwelling>

UnitingCare Australia renews calls for long term reform

In its response to the Federal Budget, UnitingCare Australia says we must not lose sight of tackling inequality. Its 2022 Australian Election Policy Platform includes topics such as a national inquiry on stagnant incomes, superannuation on Parental Leave Payment and increased aged care wages.

Celebrating our global neighbours

This week's prayer, celebration and solidarity with our global neighbours is for the Methodist Church in Fiji and its work supporting communities in the midst of disasters and to rebuild and recover.

UCA ASSEMBLY NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND

If you would like to contribute to the Disaster Relief Fund initiated by the President, Rev Sharon Hollis, for relief for flood-ravaged areas, here are some options:

Direct Debit Westpac BSB 032 003. Acc No 269941

Cheque To UCA Assembly - National Disaster Relief Fund

Mail to UCA Assembly - National Disaster Relief Fund
Box A2266 Sydney South NSW 1235

SACRED SEASONS 2022

April 1 has no special significance, but April 2 does, this year.

On April 2, the world's 1.8 billion Muslims begin the holy month of Ramadan. You probably know that Ramadan is a month of strict spiritual discipline in which people fast between sunrise and sunset. This allows time for extra self-discipline – and for acts of hospitality to those less fortunate, who may be invited as guests to break the fast (at the *iftar* meal), or to receive special gifts. Ramadan will conclude on the evening of Sunday, May 1 with the Breaking of the Fast (*Eid al Fitr*). Ramadan is in the ninth month of the Muslim year, beginning and ending with the appearance of the crescent moon. Because the Muslim year is shorter than ours, Ramadan begins 10 to 12 days earlier each year. The hours of fasting are much longer in summer, of course.

In a couple of weeks, both Jews and Christians will celebrate their holiest seasons, *Pesach* or Passover, and the Passion and Resurrection – Good Friday and Easter. The dates of both these seasons change yearly, because they are based on the moon's cycles.

Christians and Jews flock to Jerusalem for these sacred seasons: this year there will be multitudes of Muslim pilgrims, too, because the three Abrahamic faiths centre on Jerusalem. Watch for news...

In case you have concerns, children do not usually begin fasting before they reach puberty. There are special provisions for the elderly and unwell.

Have you thought of praying for Shepparton Muslims during Ramadan? You probably know some of them! You may even have shared an *iftar*.