



# Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

<https://oatley.uca.org.au/>

Mission Statement: Loving, Caring, Transforming  
our community through Jesus Christ.

Pentecost 2 and Pentecost 3

2 and 9 June, 2024

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

Come, now  
is the time  
to worship.  
Come, now  
is the time  
to give your  
heart.

## Standing with the Lord

1 Kings 20-22

He who unites himself with the Lord is one with  
him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17

In the record of 1 Kings 22, when King Ahab assembled his four hundred prophets and asked if he should go to war, the prophets all said 'yes' and predicted victory. But Ahab's ally, King Jehoshaphat, wanted a second opinion, and he called for Micaiah, the prophet of the Lord.

The messenger who summoned Micaiah urged him to agree with the other prophets, but Micaiah said, "As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what the Lord tells me" (1 Kings 22:14). When Micaiah prophesied defeat and ruin for Israel, he was beaten and ridiculed by the other prophets, then sent to prison with nothing but bread and water. But his prophecy came true, and King Ahab was killed in battle.

This passage presents a powerful challenge in our day of R-rated ethics. How will we respond when everyone else around us is saying something's right when we know good and well it's not. Will we take a stand for what we believe, even when it risks ridicule or personal loss?

Christian, there are times when we've got to step out from the mooring herd and take a solitary stand for the truth of God. Everybody else may be doing it; everybody else may be saying it; everybody else (even other Christians) may be calling it right, but if the Word of God says otherwise, you and I must not be swayed by the foolishness of this world.

**Prayer:** Lord, Give me the strength to say and do what I know is right, even if I have to stand alone. Amen.

**To Ponder** - God calls us to live on the basis of conviction, not convenience.

Rev Alex Thomas

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 2 June

### Pentecost 2

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) : Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

2 Corinthians 4:5-12 : Mark 2:23-3:6

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 9 June

### Pentecost 3

1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15) : Psalm 138

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 : Mark 3:20-35



## GRACE IS



These are the opening words of a devotional by Paul Tripp— "Grace' is a thunderous, expansive, powerful, and life-altering word. Other than the word 'God', there is no more important word that the human mind could consider and the mouth could speak. It is the most transformational word in the Bible that you hold dear. "

Here are 5 ways Paul has described Grace and they **are** powerful and beautiful. Paul has named 21 descriptions of Grace.

Grace is a rainbow,  
every shade of mercy  
splashed across the heavens,  
reminding us of your presence  
power and love.



Grace is an ocean,  
new waves of mercy  
following new waves of mercy,  
washing onto the shores of human need.



Grace is a fortress,  
a safe place of refuge  
for weary soldiers  
discouraged and weakened  
in the spiritual war.



Grace is a banquet,  
the spiritual nourishment  
every hungry soul needs,  
lovingly offered to all for free.



Grace is a river,  
flowing from the Savior,  
giving eternal life to all  
who humbly bow down and drink.



**The Bill Crews Foundation—Exodus** Thank you everyone for your generous donations to Exodus. Please continue to give things that are necessary pantry items—long-life milk and non-perishable food items i.e. canned items, rice, pasta, tea, coffee, cereals, biscuits and even personal items—soap, toothpaste, shampoo. These things all go to make home packages.



**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who donated to The Wayside Chapel appeal last month. 32 bath towels, 12 hoodies, 12 track pants and many other items including socks, jumpers, toiletries and face washers etc have all been delivered to them. Thank you again Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.

**KNIT2GETHER** recently held a Bring & Buy Sale Stall and were able to donate \$250 plus 200 knitted baby items to The Dandelion Support Group and also a \$250 donation to The Wayside Chapel. We have also assisted with many non-perishable food items plus beanies and scarves for Coffee, Chat & Connect a fantastic new project in Narwee being organised by The Salvation Army. A very much needed project to bring people together in the community. All local nursing homes have received many of our crocheted knee rugs just in time for winter. The Wayside Chapel received towels, hoodies and track pants etc following a recent appeal for items. Knitting and crocheting for winter is now in full swing. Thank You for your wonderful support and enthusiasm. Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.



### God in Three Persons



### Blessed Trinity

**For all pastoral matters** contact Rev Alex Thomas  
H: 8411 2383 : M: 0448 35 35 39 : E: alexth@optusnet.com.au

**Hall Bookings:** Please contact Rosemary Cooper  
– on 0402 428 560 – for all Hall Bookings.  
Please also let her know if you would like to borrow any equipment.  
Your prompt return of any borrowed items is appreciated.



- ◆ ...to a faithful and holy God who loves us immeasurably and who lifted up his Son to die for us; to save us from ourselves.
- ◆ ... That the name of Jesus will continue to challenge the unbeliever; and continue to challenge world views.
- ◆ ... and give praise for the Holy Spirit who now dwells inside you. The Spirit who is Counsellor stands for truth. He will convict the Christian of right and wrong. He will instruct and remind you of God's word.
- ◆ ... that you will stand for the faith you believe in.
- ◆ ... that God's grace will be enough in your life—beautiful, powerful, transforming.
- ◆ **Bless...**
- ◆ ... our Minister Alex and his wife Elizabeth as they lead and support our church at Oatley.
- ◆ ... Linda and Geoff in their Pastoral Care work.
- ◆ ... all our friends and loved ones in Nursing Homes—Grace & Ian McKay, Noelene Baker and Rhonda wife of Vic Stewart and Marlene Woodham's mum Betty McKay, Joyce Fieldus, Jean Watts, Shirley Courtney and Norma Manwaring. Surround them all with God's peace, love and protection. We thank you that you are also caring for Rex and Coral Roberts and Judy Walsh.
- ◆ ... the Church Council.
- ◆ ... each other. Let us be a loving and encouraging community in Christ.
- ◆ ... for our congregation—that we grow in ministry and seek the will of God in this place.
- ◆ ... the various prayer groups and Bible Study groups.
- ◆ **Uphold...**
- ◆ ... Countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars—Pray for the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in these places.
- ◆ ... our farming communities. Help them to remain resilient.
- ◆ ... those doing it tough because they have no home, no regular meals, no job.
- ◆ ... aid agencies who support people in distress like The Wayside Chapel, The Bill Crews Foundation, the Storehouse, Mission Australia....
- ◆ ... our Government—for good leadership, wisdom, discernment, co-operation and collaboration. To stand for the truth and care for the disadvantaged.
- ◆ ... Governments across our world where political leaders offer lies for truth.
- ◆ ... the Uniting Church in Australia—that God's word is not compromised.

Let us allow the Holy Spirit to show each of us how best to pray—and to pray for all these things In the mighty name of Jesus—**Amen**

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Pip Watts—0403 758 487—Please leave a message.  
OR Email: pippa0183@gmail.com  
Email heading subject: **NEWSLETTER**