



# Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

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

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

11 August and 18 August, 2024

Pentecost 12 and Pentecost 13

## Our Great God

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.  
Psalm 23:1*

David's life was something like a roller coaster. At one point we find him on the mountaintop, rejoicing in a great victory. Turn the page and we find him in the pit, despairing of life and harassed by his enemies. Through it all there is one constant. David knew God in a personal way, and he praised God and worshipped Him for who He is.

David's words give us a marvelous portrait of God. There is none like Him; no one can be compared to the Lord. The promises of men may go unfulfilled, but the Word of the Lord is true and trustworthy. David goes on to say: God is my rock, my strength and power, my hiding place, my fortress in whom I am safe, my high tower, my stronghold. Am I in distress? God is my deliverer. Are the fiery darts of the enemy pelting me? God is my shield. Am I pursued by the enemy of my soul? The Lord is my refuge.

What does all this mean to me? If the problems of life threaten to sink me under the load, He is my support; I can cast all my cares upon Him. If I've lost my direction in the dark, His Word is my lamp, showing me the way. If I am oppressed, He saves me from him who seeks the ruin of my soul.

If the Lord is our God, we will submit our will to Him and depend on His power, wisdom, and goodness to see us safely home.

**Prayer:** Lord, I want to be like David. When my soul is downcast, put a song of praise in my mouth, and show me how to worship You for the great God that You are. Amen.

**To Ponder:** The very God that David described is *my* God. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Rev Alex Thomas

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 11 August

### Pentecost 12

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 : Psalm 130  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 : John 6:35, 41-51

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 18 August

### Pentecost 13

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:31-33 : Psalm 111  
Ephesians 5:15-20 : John 6:51-58



SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Each month until October we, as a church, will be collecting items to fill Christmas boxes for children across our world who do not know the joy of receiving a gift. This is also part of a worldwide outreach to bring them the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as their saviour. For the month of **AUGUST** your gift of **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** i.e. Soap, toothbrushes, washers, hair brushes, combs, scrunchies...is gratefully appreciated. **NO LIQUIDS PLEASE** i.e. toothpaste, shampoos...

There is also a tube to collect money for postage. Each box is \$10 to send. Your monetary donation is gratefully accepted to assist and an alternative if you are unable to shop for gift items.



**GAMES AFTERNOON**—following Knit2gether continue in fellowship and fun from 1.30pm-3.30pm in the Church Hall.



**A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION** is to be held for Marlene Woodham's mother, Betty McKay, tomorrow Monday 12 August at 2.00pm at St Aidan's Church, Hurstville Grove.

You're holding a cup of coffee and someone accidentally bumps into you, causing it to spill everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me."

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. If there had been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

So, when life shakes you up, whatever is inside you will come out.

It's easy to pretend everything's fine until you're shaken.

So, we have to ask ourselves, "What's in my cup?"

When life gets tough, what spills over? Joy? Gratitude? Peace?

Humility? Anger? Bitterness? A victim mentality? A tendency to quit?

Remember LIFE gives you the cup; YOU choose what to fill it with!

Galatians 5:22-23

But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these.



**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.



**KNIT2GETHER**— assisted The Kogarah Storehouse with non-perishable food items, clothing plus a donation of \$300 from our funds raised by our monthly gold coin donations. Lauren joined us from The Storehouse and was overwhelmed by our wonderful donations. She gave a short talk about the work they do, which was good to hear. All our usual drop off places have received numerous items this month. We were invited to the IRT Village at Peakhurst during the week for afternoon tea and to receive donations of many knitted items and clothing for the homeless. As it is National Homelessness Week it was very appropriate. IRT will now be a part of Knit2gether and we welcome them all. Annette Cheetham from the Village will take care of everything there. We next meet on Saturday 24 August at 9.30am. Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.

**WEBSITE:** The Church website has been slowly updated over recent months. It still needs some tweaking but it is letting people know that we are active. The **TABERNACLE SERMON**—If you are interested in viewing the presentation on the Tabernacle Sermon with Paul Cohen from Celebrate Messiah you can use this link — <https://youtu.be/Dv7VjxPVt4w> OR you can go to the Podcast tab on the Church website and view it there.



**A FEW GOOD MEN**—will be meeting on Tuesday 20 August from 10.00am to 11.00am in the Church Hall. All men are invited to join us for a good chat and some inspirational encouragement together. Elim may not be open so you will need to get your coffee elsewhere....I look forward to seeing you there.  
Geoff Pritchard Mob: 0428 250 546.

James 3:9-11

We use it (the tongue) to give thanks to our Lord and Father and also to curse other people, who are created in the likeness of God. Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth. My friends, this should not happen! No spring of water pours out sweet water and bitter water from the same opening.

**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 you and whose grace is enough in your life.
- ♦ ... for Fiona Dewhurst who is the SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst. Pray that Term 2 is rewarding.
- ♦ ... for a life that is full to brimming over with joy.

- ♦ ... Countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars. Pray against evil.

**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, 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.
- ♦ ... for 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...**

- ♦ ... the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in places of unrest.
- ♦ ... those whose lives have been turned upside down because of war. Lift them up so that they see Jesus is ever present in their lives and that you Lord would draw many to yourself and rebuild lives.
- ♦ ... 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.
- ♦ ... 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**

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Email heading subject: **NEWSLETTER**