



Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

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

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

22 September and 29 September, 2024

Pentecost 18 and Pentecost 19

Only Trust Him

I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore,
I hate every wrong path. — **Psalm 119:104**

Who do you think will be President/Prime Minister two hundred years from now? Impossible to answer, you say. The person hasn't even been born yet. It would be like the signers of the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the Commonwealth predicting the election of our President/Prime Minister two centuries in advance.

But this is exactly what we have in Ezra, chapter one. Some two hundred years before it happened, the prophet Isaiah wrote that Cyrus, king of Persia, would issue a proclamation throughout his kingdom—and put it in writing—that the captive Jews were to be released to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the house of the Lord. When Isaiah wrote that, there was no Cyrus, king of Persia. He hadn't been born yet.

What a record we have here of the love and faithfulness of God! His people were in captivity because they had rebelled against Him and abandoned His Word. But God had not abandoned them. You see, many years before, He had sent His prophets, and they were not heeded. So, God sent the king of Babylon, who took the people of Israel into captivity. One way or another, God will be listened to and make people realize that He is the Lord.

Through all the years of captivity, God was at work to bring His children's hearts back to Him and to bring them back to the Land of Promise. What an amazing record of the reliability of the Word of God. And what a challenge for us to put our complete confidence in it.

Prayer: Lord, by the Holy Spirit's help, I will obey Your Word. Amen.

To Ponder: The messengers of the justice of God will be sent to those who despise the messengers of the mercy of God.

Rev Alex Thomas

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICES**

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 22 September

Pentecost 18

Proverbs 31:10-31 : Psalm 1

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a : Mark 9:30-37

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 29 September

Pentecost 19

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10 - 9:20-22 : Psalm 124

James 5:13-20 : Mark 9:38-50



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: after the service today. This meeting is to bring the 2024/2025 Budget to the Congregation.



There will be a light lunch following the meeting. Please come and join us!

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 **OCTOBER** your gift of **SOMETHING TO**

LOVE OR AN ACTIVITY ITEM is gratefully appreciated. The activity could be a skipping rope, tennis ball, jacks, matchbox cars... and a soft toy to hold.

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.

Pip Watts



GAMES AFTERNOON—28 September from 1.30-3.30pm in the Church Hall. Come and share a time of fun and laughter and skill as you play games together.



*"Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be your Name"
Matthew 6:9*

Begin by bringing yourselves to God – lift Him up with your praise and thanks. Give Him the honour. Acknowledge that He is YOUR Father as well as Jesus' Father.

Our God is in Heaven - a spiritual plane where God's presence is. He is also with us. Near us. God is not distant. Prayer is like having a chat with Him.

Heaven is the place of our eternal creator who is ideal, perfect, glorious and who wants to be in relationship with us.

To be hallowed is to be holy. It is to be sanctified. Our God is holy and we are to be holy (Leviticus 11:44) . This is what makes God different. He gives us a sense of direction, of gratitude, a redemptive presence.

Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

His Name is Yahweh, I Am, El-shadai, Adonai, Lord, Holy One.
The centre of Jesus' being is the Father. Prayer is a priority!!

CHURCH COUNCIL discussed and agreed that the food items collected for The Bill Crews Foundation be donated to The Kogarah Storehouse. There is a need closer to home to support families in our area that is increasing. The Storehouse operates out of Kogarah Uniting Church and they provide food hampers vegetables each Wednesday. Hoping this meets with agreement and that you can 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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- **OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET MORNING:** 23 November. The Church Café will be operating on the day.
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** 24 November following the Morning Service. This meeting is to elect Offices of the Congregation and Church Council.
- **CHRISTMAS SERVICE IN THE CARPARK:** 22 December

KNIT2GETHER will meet on Saturday 28 September from 9.30am.

We are again joining forces with "Share The Dignity, It's In The Bag" and filling handbags and shoulder bags for ladies who unfortunately find themselves in a women's refuge on Christmas Day. So just looking for unused/unwanted toiletries that you may have in your cupboards at home. Thank you—Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.



Overcoming Complacency

How the Joy of the Father Can Reignite your Devotion

This is what OneLove 2024 was about. The speaker was Blair Linne. She is a Bible teacher, actress, spoken word artist and the creator of the podcast GLO (short for global) with The Gospel Coalition. She is from Portland, Oregon in the US.

Blair began by saying that God celebrates his children – He made you. God values a relationship with you. The Father in the parable of the The Lost Son in Luke 15 values the fact that his son returned home and celebrated a relationship restored. We often hear this story called The Prodigal Son. 'Prodigal' means 'extravagant' and we see a son who lived extravagantly and a father who lavished his love extravagantly. Our Heavenly Father loves us extravagantly!

The first two verses of Luke 15 describes two groups of people – the tax collectors and sinners who gathered to hear Jesus and the Pharisees and teachers of the law who didn't like that Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them. The heathen and hated in society and the complainers who were supposedly shepherds of Israel.

The two sons are likened to these groups. The younger was shaken out of his complacency and realised his sinfulness and was received joyfully back into his family. The older was angry and harboured sin in his heart missing the joy of a family reunited and the delight of his father.

Taken from notes—Pip Watts

For all pastoral matters contact Rev Alex Thomas

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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.



P—pause : R—rejoice : A—ask : Y—yield

- ♦ ... to a faithful and holy God who loves you extravagantly.
- ♦ ... for Fiona Dewhurst who is the SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst. As term 3 ends pray for Term 4.
- ♦ ... for a life that is full of joy.
- ♦ ... for countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars. Pray against the work of the devil. Ask for God's intervention.

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 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; that we seek the will of God and grow in ministry 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. Change the hearts of our Arab and Jewish brothers to the Gospel.
- ♦ ... our farming communities. Help them to remain resilient. Encourage the young to continue on the land.
- ♦ ... 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**