



Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

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

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

6 October and 13 October, 2024

Pentecost 20 and Pentecost 21

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICES**

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

The Sin of Self-Sufficiency

*On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.* **Psalm 62:7**

I believe one of the chief characteristics of our sinful nature is an attitude of independence toward God. Even when we know and agree that we're dependent on him, we tend out of habit to act independently. Undoubtedly, one of the reasons God allows us to fall before temptation so often is to teach us experientially that we really are dependent on him to enable us to grow in holiness.

One of the best ways, apart from those painful experiences of failure, to learn dependence is to develop the discipline of prayer. This forces us in a tangible way to acknowledge our dependence on the Holy Spirit. Whatever else we may say about prayer, it is a recognition of our own helplessness and absolute dependence on God.

It's this admission of helplessness and dependence that is so repugnant to our sinful spirit of self-sufficiency. If we're prone by temperament to be disciplined, it's more difficult to acknowledge that we're dependent on Christ and his Spirit instead of on our self-discipline.

To become holy is to become like the Lord Jesus, and he himself said, "By myself I can do nothing" (John 5:30, NIV). He was completely dependent on the Father, and he freely and willingly acknowledged it. His dependence was not reluctant, but wholehearted—even enthusiastic—because he knew that we're created to be dependent on God.

Dependence is not simply one of a list of several disciplines. Rather, it gives life and vitality to all of them. Just as the principle of life that makes the seed grow gives fruition to all of the farmers' efforts, so the enabling of the Holy Spirit within us gives fruition to our disciplines. Dependence on the Holy Spirit should permeate them all. (Excerpt taken from *The Discipline of Grace*)

Rev Alex Thomas

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 6 October

Pentecost 20

Job 1:1; 2:1-10 : Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 : Mark 10:2-16

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 13 October

Pentecost 21

Job 23:1-9,16-17 : Psalm 22:1-15

Hebrews 4:12-16 : Mark 10:17-31



SAMARITAN'S PURSE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



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. Thank you to those who have already contributed \$10 towards postage. I will be putting the boxes together on Saturday 26 October from 2pm if you have a free hour. If you would like to contribute something and haven't done so—please just leave your item in the box in the foyer. Thank you—Pip Watts



'Your Kingdom Come' - Matthew 6:10a

The Kingdom is where God reigns. His rule, power and authority. He is sovereign over everything. Jesus is asking to hasten the coming of the Kingdom of God – it is a goal and a vision.

Mark 1: 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The time is fulfilled and is near - that is, it is here now. The Lord's Prayer affirms the kingdom – it is very real in the person of Jesus. The Gospel is the good news. God's kingdom is now—and yet to come. Jesus healing power was setting right what had gone wrong in the world. Jesus champions the powerless bringing about God's new world order. Jesus is powerful – more than you think or can imagine. Your salvation changes everything ... and the kingdom breaks into the present.

Jesus, God's righteousness revealed,
the Son of Man, the Son of God, his kingdom comes.
Jesus, redemption's sacrifice,
now glorified, now justified, his kingdom comes.

*And this kingdom will know no end,
and its glory shall know no bounds,
for the majesty and power of this kingdom's King has come,
and this kingdom's reign, and this kingdom's rule,
and this kingdom's power and authority,
Jesus, God's righteousness revealed.*

Geoff Bullock

The Kogarah Storehouse operates out of Kogarah Uniting Church and they provide food hampers and fresh vegetables each week. 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.



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.
- **LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2024** is 15 December to resume 26 January 2025
- **CHRISTMAS SERVICE IN THE CARPARK:** 22 December

KNIT2GETHER amongst other things are busy filling handbags/shoulder bags with personal items for women who unfortunately find themselves in a Women's Refuge on Christmas Day. This is a campaign called "It's In The Bag" by Share The Dignity. We will finalise all of this at our next get together on Saturday 26 October when our local member Mark Coure will attend and very kindly collect the bags from the group . . . He may need to bring a truck with him! Thank you to all who have donated to this cause. Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.



OneLove 2024 - Overcoming Complacency.

Blessed in the Beloved - Ephesians 1:3-6

Blair Linne opened this talk with – "Don't depend on yesterday's grace for today". It implies a daily renewal to walk with God.

She put forward three questions – Where does your story begin? What does it include? Where is it headed?

Firstly, your story begins with God. God is eternal. He is independent from his creation. He blesses. He wants to . . . and that becomes your story.

Secondly, God chose us 'in him' before the creation of the world. We belong to him – adopted through Jesus Christ because it pleases him to do this. We are redeemed through his Son – we are forgiven from our sins – we have an inheritance in Heaven – we are sealed with the Holy Spirit who being God intercedes for us. God is not complacent for all of this is for the redemption of everyone. He is working in your life and blessing your life with every good thing because of his love for you.

And thirdly, all of this is to the glory of God – bringing him praise.

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

Centre a time to pray and rejoice ...

◆ ... Your God is faithful and holy and loves you with all his power and might. Rejoice in his Son, God's expression of love.

◆ ... and give praise for your salvation and the relationship you now have with God as part of His kingdom.

... and ask

◆ ... for God's intervention in countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars.

◆ ... for a ceasefire in the Middle East.

◆ ... that Fiona Dewhurst, SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst, that Term 4 will bring many blessings to the students and staff.

◆ ... that our Minister Alex and his wife Elizabeth be upheld as they lead and support our church at Oatley.

◆ ... that Linda and Geoff bring blessings in their Pastoral Care work.

◆ ... that 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 know God's peace, love and protection. We thank you that you are also caring for Rex and Coral Roberts and Judy Walsh.

◆ ... that you give wisdom to the Church Council.

◆ ... that we love and serve each other as a community in Christ and seek the will of God and grow in ministry in this place.

... and continue to ask for

◆ ... the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in places of unrest .

◆ ... those whose lives have been turned upside down because of war. Change the hearts of our Arab and Jewish brothers to the Gospel. Bring about peace.

◆ ...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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OR Email: pippa0183@gmail.com

Email heading subject: **NEWSLETTER**
