



Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

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

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

20 October and 27 October, 2024

Pentecost 22 and Pentecost 23

Jehoshaphat's Example

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. – **Colossians 2:6***

I remember an American Christian Friend of our family every time something unusual or exciting happened, would shout "Jumpin' Jehoshaphat!" But a reading of 2 Chronicles 17-20 lets us know that Jehoshaphat was not known for his ability in jumping, but for his walk with God.

He wisely took precautions to fortify the land against invasion. But more than that, he walked in the ways of David, his father. And even here Jehoshaphat was selective, following the positive example of David while avoiding his weakness and sin. When King Jehoshaphat gave himself to the laws of God, the Bible says he put his heart in it. The New Testament describes this as fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Jehoshaphat tore down the place of false worship and then sent men throughout the cities of Judah to teach the people from the Book of the Law. In gratitude, the people sent him presents and he had riches and honour in abundance. But his heart was not lifted up in pride. He continued to walk humbly with God.

How often we read in Scripture that riches and honour prove to be a stumbling block, leading a person to pride, false security, and even immorality. But not this man. These things simply oiled the wheels of Jehoshaphat's obedience.

It is so easy to approach the Christian life in a series of fits and starts and try to make progress in leaps and bounds. *What is really needed is for us to walk calmly and steadily each day in the ways of the Lord.*

Prayer: Lord, thank You for recording the example of King Jehoshaphat in his love for Your ways and his steady walk with You. Amen.

Rev Alex Thomas

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 20 October Pentecost 22

Job 38:1-7, (34-41) : Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1-10 : Mark 10:35-45

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 27 October Pentecost 23

Job 42:1-6,10-17 : Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)

Hebrews 7:23-28 : Mark 10:46-52



**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICES**

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

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. Thank you to those who have already contributed \$10 towards postage. I will be putting the boxes together on **Sunday 27 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

OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET MORNING—CHURCH CAFÉ

We plan to open up our kitchen and serve Devonshire Tea/Coffee and Scones again. Your help is needed to help in the kitchen on 23 November. A scone recipe is in the foyer if required—yes we need you make scones.



*'Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven'
Matthew 6:10b*

The Father's Will -

- Is perfect – He created a perfect world. He is a creator God. In Genesis 1:28 he blessed us and instructed us to be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. We were given rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature.
- Is to bless and be blessed. God blessed Abraham by promising that he would be a great nation and a blessing. We would be blessed because of Abraham and all people will use Abraham's name in blessings. When Israel (Jacob) blessed Ephraim and Manasseh he used the names of Abraham and Isaac in the blessings. It flows on...
- Is that we grow in freedom. God gave us his commandments and the law to help us live a life honouring God.
- Is to live the Kingdom life - a radical life. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 sets out those who will be blessed—the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who search for righteousness, the merciful, the honest, the peacemakers. They will receive the blessings of acceptance into Heaven, comfort, contentment, understanding, mercy...
- Is to know Him. Jeremiah 31:33-34 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel...I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people....they will all know me..."



The Kogarah Storehouse operates out of Kogarah Uniting Church and they provide food hampers and fresh vegetables each week to people who are struggling to meet the financial costs of life. 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.

THANK YOU from **The Kogarah Storehouse** to Oatley Uniting Church congregation for the food items they received this week. To say they were very happy would be an understatement. Last week they handed out 240 food parcels to disadvantaged people in our local area, with this number increasing each week. They would like you to know the items you sent were just perfect for their needs. They look forward to this being an ongoing liaison to assist those in need in our local community. A recent decision by Church Council has made this possible. Thank you Linda and Geoff.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- **KNIT2GETHER:** 9.30am—12pm in Church Hall 26 October.
- **GAMES**—1.30-3.30pm in the Church Hall 26 October.
- **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** packing boxes @ 2pm on Sunday 27 October in Church Hall.
- **OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET MORNING:** 23 November. The Church Café will be operating on the day. Get out your scone recipe!
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** 24 November following the Morning Service. This is a combined meeting of morning and evening congregations to elect Offices of the Congregation and Church Council.
- **LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2024** is 15 December to resume 26 January 2025
- **CAROLS IN THE CARPARK:** 22 December @ 6pm for 6.30pm start. This is our outdoor service hoping that the community see and hear and come to join in.
- **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**—25 December @ 8.30am

LIONS CLUB TRASH & TREASURE—Please ensure everything is suitable for sale and in excellent condition (see attached guidelines to Newsletter). Donations can be delivered to Oatley Uniting Church Hall on Wednesday 20 November 3pm - 6pm or Friday 22 November 3pm - 6pm. If anyone needs assistance getting items to us or must deliver items earlier, please call me and we will work something out. Liane Simpson, 0411 809 442

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.



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, 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 Kogarah 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**
