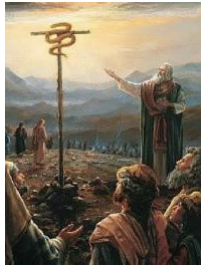




Rosefield
Uniting Church
in the heart of Highgate

2 Carlton Street Highgate SA 5063
Tel. 8271 9528



Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing
Sunday 14th March 2021

WEBSITE: www.rosefield.org.au

Readings

March 14th (Lent 4)

Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2: 1-10
John 3: 14-21

March 21st (Lent 5)

Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Psalm 51: 1-12 or 119: 9-16
Hebrews 5: 5-10
John 12: 20-33

Our focus today is Look! A snake!

In the wilderness wanderings of the Israelite people, when they forgot God there was a time when God sent snakes to bite the people. When people were dying of snakebite, they remembered God and cried out for help and so Moses was instructed to make a bronze snake on a pole for the people to turn to and be saved. If God put the snakes in the wilderness, would it not be easier to remove the snakes, instead of providing a complicated antidote? Perhaps you have wondered this too? It is a common question: if God created it, why can't God take it away? The cancer diagnosis, the tractor accident, the oil leak, the poisonous drug, why doesn't God simply remove it?

How we answer these questions depends on our understanding of God's providence and how we believe God is in our world. A God who punishes people is counter to our beliefs of a loving and benevolent God. What if the poisonous serpents in the wilderness are not a punishment? What if the serpents are a metaphor, symbolic of harmful thoughts, practices and attitudes that can kill? God providing an antidote, could be understood as a loving way of giving help and maybe buying some time until the people figure out how to eradicate the root problem, the poisonous serpents.

Healing Prayer

In our worship service this week, there will be an opportunity for healing prayer. As part of Holy Communion, everyone will be anointed with the oil of healing and invited to trace the sign of the cross on the back of the hand and pray for those things for which you seek healing. After the service people who wish for individual healing prayer are invited to remain at the eastern front side of the church where the ministry leaders will pray with laying of hands.

Uniting World Lent Event Retiring Offering

Today the congregation is supporting the work of the Assembly Uniting World Lent Event. Uniting World supports our partners in the Asia Pacific regions in particular and focuses on education for girls in Afghanistan and India, Poverty eradication and Leadership development.

A separate offering container is in the foyer or give online

BSB: 105-125

A/C number 462696640

Reference: UW



Covid Prayer

As the COVID vaccinations begin in South Australia, here is a prayer for this week

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray to you for the work of vaccinations against the Coronavirus pandemic.

We praise and thank you for the diligent work of scientists and medical professionals and volunteers who have tested trial vaccinations enabling effective vaccines to be developed.

We pray for airline workers, delivery operators and the medical staff who will begin the work of vaccination.

Thank you for the work of our government and health leaders, as they prioritise vaccination schedules.

We pray for our State political leaders, Premier Steven Marshall and Mr Peter Malinauskas, as they work together for the best outcomes for South Australians.

We pray for our chief medical officer Ms Nicola Spurrier and her team, and for the Commissioner of Police, Grant Stevens and SAPOL officers who enforce border and Covid restrictions.

We pray for patience as the vaccine is rolled out, and for those, who for many reasons, will not receive the protection offered.

May our community health be strengthened and may our bodies be protected so we may continue to offer you praise and adoration. Amen.

When we come back to church...

People come back to church for many different reasons: to reconnect to God or community that is missed: in answer to an invitation for a special event, or to fill an inner hunger. A lovely welcome I once heard and now use goes:

A special welcome to anyone attending Rosefield Church for the first time.

Welcome back if you are returning from an extended absence.

And welcome to you who come week after week to this community.

“Welcome back if you are returning after an absence”.

Have you ever been away for a reason and then come back? Perhaps you were in hospital or needed house rest for a time. Perhaps there was a crisis in your faith and you didn't want to come to church. Perhaps you lived interstate or overseas for a time. What was the welcome back like?

Did you find it overwhelming, too little or just right?

Did you have to tell your same story over and over again, ad nauseam?

While it is heart-warming to know people have missed us or have been concerned for us, returning to church can also be daunting. When we have come to draw near to God and receive spiritual refreshment, we may wish to be quiet, and not participate in the cheerful greetings of the congregation. Other times, when we long for human contact, chatting might be just what we want!

As a congregation we can be sensitive to people's needs, through our observations, by joining a group of others so the 'story' is only told once, by saying how nice it is to see them again, rather than asking a question that requires an answer. And a smile and a wave is always a joy! What would work for you, might be the best way for you to approach returning folk.

Rev Sue Ellis

This Saturday the **Presbytery of Southern SA** will meet at Newland Memorial Uniting Church. Our congregation will be represented by Congregation Chairperson Brenton Schulze and Rev Sue Ellis, who will be Acting-Chairperson on the day. Elections for office bearers will be held. We pray for our Presbytery as it meets and for those who will serve its congregations in pastoral oversight of us.

The Heart of Highgate Art project

Have you tied a fabric ribbon to the Heart of Highgate church art project yet?

If not, take one today and do so after the service.

Take another and invite your neighbours to do the same.

We aim to fill the heart by Easter!



NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

A meeting of the Congregation will be held at 11am on Sunday 21st March immediately following the Church service.

In accordance with the Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA), the Joint Nominating Committee, the Pastoral Relations Committee of The Synod (SA) UCA and a Minister have agreed to proceed to call.

This specially called meeting is to recommend to the Congregation the call of a ministerial candidate to the Rosefield Uniting Church.'

COVID19 Please remember that compliance to Covid19 regulations for our Church, relate to the specific requirements for "Places of Worship" determined by the Federal and SA Governments and also by the South Australian Uniting Church Synod. These requirements are different to those applying to commercial properties, sporting venues and restaurants and cafes in many instances. We ALL need to do the best we can to obey the rules, and ensure we have a Safe and Compliant Church.

It is with sadness that we inform you **we will not be serving Tea and Coffee after the services.** This is to help us conform with Covid regulations.

POSITIONS VACANT

This year we have five positions vacant on Church Council - three Councillors are re-nominating.

The next election will be held at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday. 11th April 2021, Church Council meets on the third Tuesday in each month at 7.30 pm.

Nomination forms are available in the Foyer and must be returned by Sunday 28th March 2021.

ALSO

Secretary of the Congregation falls vacant – Belinda Smith is willing to be re-nominated. Other members may wish to nominate for this role.

Nomination forms are available in the Foyer and must be returned by Sunday 28th March 2021.

For more information, see Heather Williams.

PASTORAL CARE

EASTER SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

I'm really looking forward to having Easter services this year!

We will be having two groups leading music at Easter - Good Friday and Easter Day.

There will be two rehearsals, Monday nights (22 & 29 March) for Good Friday and Sunday then Saturday afternoons (28 March and 3 April) for Easter Day.

If you would like to be involved, please contact **Belinda Smith by 17 March.**

ROSEFIELD PRAYER MEETING - 8:00am Wednesday mornings (online)

A half-hour time of prayer for our church and particularly for the JNC and the whole process of calling a new minister. Come online at 8:00 am on Wednesday mornings if you would like to be part of praying for our church, or if you would like prayer (for yourself or someone else) or would like to pray for something on your heart. Everyone is welcome. Scott Hutchinson and Rob Rodenburg.

Go to: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9607672787?pwd=ZVJZeWVPRUlvR2xuZENQVjJlcWk0dz09>

Palm Sunday *Peace Walk*

Churches Together for Peace and Justice, Walking in Unity, March 28th 1.00pm for 1.15pm start, Nth West Triangle – Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square) to Tarntanya Wama Rotunda (Elder Park) Community banners welcomed. Here is the link to register (and for more information!). <https://bit.ly/2Mm8cwHd>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer netball is coming to an end this week.

We have 11 teams playing in the Grand Finals this week, one third of the number of Rosefield summer teams so that is tremendous. We will announce the results on Sunday.

Winter practice resumes in a week so there's not much time for a break!

As usual, Alex Solly and Sally Bullock, as the 2 secretaries, have been very busy with both the summer season and co-ordinating the necessary tasks to begin the winter season. Rosefield will have 23 teams in the winter completion.

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 restrictions, there are still limits on the number of spectators so Rosefield members can't be present at the games. Each player is only allowed 2 spectators at the grand finals so the grandparents miss out again! Hopefully, by the time of the winter finals, rules might have changed.

SATURDAY NIGHTERS

Our first meeting for the year provided a wonderful time to catch up with less Covid restrictions and an opportunity to catch up after the long break. Future dates for the year are:

April 10: Jill & Barry Fuss, **June 5:** Pam & Scott Hasset, **August 7:** No venue as yet- any offers?

October 9: No venue as yet- any offers? **November 27** or **December 4:** Helen & David Filby

If you are able to provide a venue, please let Helen Filby know.

MARY MAGDALENE ADELAIDE DINNER - Saturday 3rd April

For 80+ people doing-life-tuff. Rosefield members are invited to help sponsor the dinner by providing;

- Soup, casseroles, \$ donations
- Soup & casserole recipes and food list sign up etc. are at the foyer info desk.

Thank you, John Carrangis: 0478 074 238

MIRROR MAN

If you go to one show in the fringe choose this one, known and recommended by Jean and Scott Hutchinson.. Mirror Man is a down and out who finds himself through the exploration of identity in various characters, roles and life experiences. Written and performed by Ngarrindjeri artist Robert Taylor this personal story will move audiences of all ages. 3 shows, Saturday 20th March 4pm and 7.30pm and Sunday 21st March 7.30pm. at Tandanya. Flyer on the noticeboard.

Making Your Wishes Known – at Walkerville Uniting Church.

Why is it that we put so much effort into preparing for the beginning of life but not the end of life?

[A space in time to explore personal life values clarifying end of life wishes and needs confident that one is well prepared and others are clear about personal choices and desires.](#)

The first session will: Open up end of life discussions

The second session will: Begin writing the Advanced Care Directive.

Monday 22nd and 29th March, 10am - 12.30pm, \$20 includes morning tea, Walkerville Uniting Church 17 Smith St, Walkerville.

Register online: www.trybooking.com/BOYYU

email: admin@walkerville.ucasa.org.au

phone: 8342 5875 or 0413 476 557