



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to our Sunday Service of worship, commencing at **9-30am** every Sunday

Pentecost 22

29 October 2023

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch
 Flowers: Peter Punch
 Coffee/Tea: Sherryl Smith & Judy Law
 Reader: Keith Picking
 Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
 Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
 Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
 Speaker: Doug Burtenshaw



Pentecost 23

5 November 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
 Flowers: Sue Lawrence
 Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury
 Reader: Cynthia Falconer
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
 Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
 Worship Leader: Piet Speyers
 Speaker: Yoy Alberastine



Readings from the Lectionary

Deut 34:1-12
 Ps 90:1-6, 13-17
 1 Thes 2:1-8
 Mt 22:34-46

Josh 3:7-17
 Ps 107:1-7, 33-37
 1 Thes 2:9-13
 Mt 23:1-12



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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Or any member of the Leadership Team

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Members of the Leadership Team: Raelyn Punch, Jenni Anderson (Secretary), Sherryl Smith & Andrew Telfer

Halls Head Bendigo Bank details for electronic transfers:

A/C Name: Uniting Church in Australia-South Mandurah Congregation
 BSB: 633-000 A/C No: 117072207

It is optional whether you include your name as a reference for the payment.



Our Vision: "United in Christ we reach out to build loving relationships that deepen faith and enrich lives."

A Different World

(Mt 22:34-46)

Isidor Isaac Rabi, a Nobel Prize winner in Physics, and one of the developers of the atomic bomb, was once asked how he became a scientist. Rabi replied that every day after school his mother would talk to him about his school day. She wasn't so much interested in what he had learned that day, but how he conducted himself in his studies. She always inquired, "Did you ask a good question today?"



"Asking good questions," Rabi said, "made me become a scientist."

In order to ask a good question you should have noble motives behind the question. You have to want to know the truth. The Pharisees, by contrast, believed they had the answers to their questions. They felt they already knew the truth. How you been guilty of asking a question of your loved ones which is designed to trap them? In a moment like this we are not trying to learn; we are trying to injure.

The Pharisees come to Jesus once again with a question designed to do damage to the reputation of Jesus, and once again Jesus proves he is equal to the task. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Even though this question was used to test Jesus, it is nonetheless an important question. Perhaps in the life of Israel at that time it was THE most important question. However Jesus had a question of his own. A question, which signified that the times were changing; a new theological season had come. He put this question to the same Pharisees who had tried to test him: "What do you think of the Messiah. Whose son is he?"

These were the two most important questions of that era and two millennia later they remain the two most important questions of our time. In Matthew 22 Jesus to unequivocally gives us the answers to those questions. He said the first and greatest commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." The second one is "Love your neighbour as yourself", and continued by saying "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Continued Overleaf

A Different World (Continued)

Let's pause and try to imagine what the world would be like if these two commandments were followed by all the peoples of the world. If you are like me, trying to conceptualise this is like trying to understand the age of our planet (4.5 billion years) or the passage of time since the dinosaurs became extinct (63 million years). Given the conflict, racial bigotry, famines, political intrigue and disasters happening right now on our planet, I cannot imagine the eutopia of earth if we all followed these commandments with our population praising God, and loving all. There would be no personal enmity and no wars. There would be no starvation because we wouldn't be wasting money and resources trying to kill enemies who no longer exist, and as we love our neighbours we would give them what they need. Why don't we follow the Lord's most important commandments? Why can't people understand that following the word of our Lord would save us all? Sadly as long as there are megalomaniac atheists in this world we are unlikely to see this eutopia in our lifetimes, but let us pray that our children or their children may one day see life as envisaged by our Lord and Saviour.



Sermons.com (Edited)

Love Is More Than We Can See

A man once observed a young boy out in a field flying a kite. He noticed that there was something odd about the way the boy was standing and holding on to the string. He walked up to the boy and then learned that the boy was blind. He said, "Do you like flying kites?"

The boy said, "I love flying my kite."

This piqued the man's curiosity and he asked, "Why is that when you cannot see it?"

The boy answered, "I may not be able to see it, but I can feel it tugging on the string!"

We may not always be able to identify the love of God in this world. Like the little boy, we may not be able to see love but it has a tug that lets us know it is there.

Brett Blair, www.Sermons.com (Edited)



WELCOME

A very warm welcome is extended to any visitors. We trust that you will be blessed during this time of worship and invite you to fellowship with us after the service.



Staying In Line

At the entrance to the harbour at the Isle of Man there are two lights. One would think that the two signals would confuse the pilot. But the fact is, he has to keep them in line; as long as he keeps them in line, his ship is safe. It is the same with these commands of Jesus: love of self, the love of God, and love others. When we keep them in line, we remain safe and well in the channel of the Christian life.



Jerry L. Schmaleberger, *When Christians Quarrel*, CSS Publishing Co., Inc.

A Prayer for World Peace

Lord Jesus,
You came that the world might know the peace that You have experienced with the Father eternally. Yet, You taught us that in this life there will be wars and rumours of wars. Nations will rise against nations as violence works itself out in the world. However, through You, the world may be saved. O Lord, send Your spirit into the hearts of all men, that the world might know true peace through Your abundant mercy.
Amen.



Author Unknown

Compassionate Friends Service

Compassionate Friends is a charity aimed at supporting bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who have suffered the death of a child. This year their annual service will be held at SMUC on 10th December, 6-30pm for a 7pm start. Everyone is welcome. More information will be provided as it becomes available.



Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett

M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

OR Any member of the leadership team (their names are overleaf)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Cath Salisbury Monday 30 October

God Bless and warm wishes

To you upon your birthdays