



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

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

Pentecost 24

12 November 2023

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
 Flowers: Judy Law
 Coffee/Tea: Frances Davy & Alison Yule
 Reader: Yoy Alberastine
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
 Church Rep: Raelyn Punch
 Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
 Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (Communion)



Confronting Hypocrisy With Humility (Mt 23:1-12)

Politicians in Canberra play the gotcha game to perfection. To make matters worse the news media feeds on it. Not only do they feed on it, they feed it, hoping for a national scandal to make themselves appear relevant. These various political events are a fitting context for our scriptural text about hypocrisy.

Listen to what Jesus says about these politicians (in his day they were called Pharisees): "They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them." Now what did Jesus mean? Simply this: The Pharisees made laws. They demanded that the common person follow those laws, but they themselves found ways to get around those laws. They were not willing to carry the heavy loads they demanded everyone else carry. In a word: Hypocrisy.

In Canberra, the standards that the Labor Party attempts to apply to the Liberals, they themselves are not willing to live by and vice versa. Why? Because if you let down you're guard for one moment and admit that you are wrong, you're political opponents will seize the moment and go for the kill.

Leadership, the way Jesus described it, is hard to find. Typically, the higher the position a person holds in our society, the bigger their egos and the more likely they are to hypocritically make promises they can't or don't fulfil. This is amply demonstrated when you watch the antics on evening news of many politicians, leaders in business, media personalities and pop stars. The "shrinking violet" rarely makes the news, and even less frequently ends up as a leader in their particular field. Why is this? It seems that a person with an aggressive attitude and an ego to match is more likely to be noticed and advanced than the one who puts their head down and does their job without seeking personal aggrandisement. Society as a whole, benefits from the efforts of the humble people, but we often fail to give them the recognition they deserve. Is this conflict part of the "human condition"?

Isn't it an irony then, that the baby, born in a manger to poor parents and raised as a humble carpenter is remembered as the greatest teacher of all time? Is it because he wasn't a part of the "human condition", but the Son of God? To be humble, is to follow the teaching of Jesus, and He has promised us the humble "will be exalted".

Sermons.com (Edited)



Readings from the Lectionary

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

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25
 Ps 78:1-7
 1 Thes 4:13-18
 Mt 25:1-13



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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For pastoral needs please contact Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: yoyea1210@gmail.com

Leadership Team Chair: Raelyn Punch 0429 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au
 Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au
 Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com

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."

Toys for Children Whose Fathers are in Prison

Christmas is one of the most difficult times of the year for children whose fathers are in prison. We are supporting those children and their fathers by collecting toys so that the fathers have a gift for their children at Christmas time.

You are invited to support this worthwhile cause by putting a toy in the decorated boxes in the foyer.

The toys should be new, or near new, and suitable for children up to 14 years. They don't need to be expensive or gift wrapped, but if batteries are needed please include them with the toy. The generosity of our church family can make a big difference to the Christmas Day experienced by these children.

For more information, please speak to Raelyn M: 0429 685 908 or E: prpunch@lasar.net.au



The New Minister

A young minister who had just completed his theology studies came up to the lectern, very self-confident and immaculately dressed. He began to deliver his first sermon in his first church and the words simply would not come out. Finally he burst into tears and ended up leaving the platform obviously humbled.

There were two older ladies sitting in the front row and one remarked to the other, "If he'd come in like he went out, he would have gone out like he came in."

Jesus calls us to a real trust in God and to humble service in his church and world. The temptation is ever before us to exalt ourselves - to impress others, to make a name for ourselves. That was not how Jesus came, nor was it why he came.



Peter J. Blackburn, Humble Before God

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)



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.



Ladies' Christmas Luncheon

The Ladies coffee group will meet at the Mei Jing Chinese Restaurant, midday Wednesday 6th December for an early Christmas lunch (instead of meeting for morning tea in Falcon.) The Mei Jing Chinese restaurant is at 93 Mandurah Terrace, Mandurah, Ph: 9581 3626. Guests are very welcome, and everyone will have to settle their own account.

RSVP: To confirm the booking please RSVP by 1st December to Robyn M: 0417 962 435



Coffee, Cake & Fellowship

You are invited to join the ladies or gentlemen respectively for coffee, delicious pastries and scintillating conversation:

For Ladies: She Brews - 9-30am every Wednesday

Seven Trees Café, 11 Galbraith Loop, Falcon

For Gentlemen: Espresso - 9-30am Tuesday 7th November

and every fortnight at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head.

For more information please contact Peter M: 0427 685 908 or Raelyn Punch M: 0429 685 908, E: prpunch@lasar.net.au



A Morning prayer of Gratitude For the Blessings Received

Heavenly Father, I thank you for all the blessings that you have given me, Lord God. I thank you for having poured your unconditional love deep into my human soul. Thank you for your amazing power and for protecting my fragile earthly life. I thank you for the gifts of wisdom and courage, Lord, for these two enable me to have power against all the challenges I face today and to give glory to your mighty name and kingdom.

Lord, I ask for your forgiveness for the sins I have committed in the past and ask you to help me not to sin again. O Lord, guide me along the path that points your way and grant me a cheerful spirit when things don't go my way. All of this I ask in Jesus' name. **Amen**

www.biblekeeper.com/prayers-for-today/ (Edited)



PINK RIBBON MORNING TEA FUNDRAISER

The Craft Group ladies would like to thank all those who participated in another successful Morning Tea last week. \$2,400 was raised with your help.

For those interested in fellowship, a cuppa and varied crafts our craft group meets in the fellowship room on Tuesday mornings at 9am. For more information please contact Sue Lawrence M: 0438 029 530, E: jslaw1@bigpond.com

