



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

Palm Sunday

24 March 2024



Welcome: Brian & Barbara Smith
Flowers: Cynthia Falconer
Coffee/Tea: John & Sue Lawrence
Reader: Cynthia Clive
Kids Church: Jan Fawcett
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
Worship Leader: Cynthia Clive
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett

Easter Day

31 March 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Judy Law
Coffee/Tea: Brian & Barbara Smith
Reader: Keith Picking
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch
Worship Leader: Piet Speyers
Speaker: Yoy Alberastine



Readings from the Lectionary

Palm Sunday

Is 50:4-9a
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Phil 2:5-11
Mk 11:1-11 or Jn 12:12-16
or Mk 14:1-15:47
or Mk 15:1-39 (40-47)

Good Friday

Is 52:13-53:12
Ps 22
Heb 10:16-25
or Heb 4:1-16, 5:7-9
Jn 18:1-19:42

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or
Is 25:6-9
Ps 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor 15:1-11
or Acts 10:34-43
Jn 20:1-18 or Mk 16:1-8

South Mandurah Uniting Church



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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: TBA

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: Yoy Alberastine, Rev. Mike Fawcett, Kerry Lawson,
Sherryl Smith, Andrew Telfer & Raelyn Punch

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.



Passion Sunday: Surprising and Inevitable

At a pre-concert lecture, the conductor of a symphony orchestra was telling the audience about the major work that the orchestra would be performing at that evening's concert. The Conductor told the people that if they listened carefully to the music, they would discover that it was both surprising and inevitable. On the one hand, the musical score would take a fair number of rather jarring and unexpected twists. There would be points in the concert when the blare of the trumpet or the sudden rolling of the timpani would seem to come from out of nowhere in a surprising fashion. On the other hand, however, the conductor noted that in the long run, these surprises would themselves become part of a larger coherence. Once listeners heard the entire piece from start to finish, they would find in the music an air of inevitability--how could it ever have been written any differently?



Surprising and inevitable. Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week are both surprising and inevitable. The truth is that we are not completely sure what to make of Palm Sunday. After forty days of Lenten travel that have often focused on serious and sometimes dark subjects, suddenly we arrive at a day that seems at first blush to be surprisingly cheery. The Palm Sunday parade has colour and spectacle, cheering and singing, festive voices and joyful exuberance. This seems like a happy day. Yet it would be completely appropriate if you were to ask, "What in the world is this day doing here given how close we are now to the cross!?" Is Palm Sunday a bright spot in the midst of the otherwise darker hues of Lent? Are we, for just a little while this morning, supposed to forget about all things dreary so that we can cry out some full-throated "Hosannas!?" Or is there also a sadness to this day that we must bear in mind?

Scott Hoezee, [Comments and Observations](#) (Edited)



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

A Palm Sunday Prayer

Dear Lord, How amazing it must have been on Palm Sunday to see you coming down to the Holy City amid shouts of joy. Today we join with the jubilant crowd, thanking and praising you for the great miracles you have done in our lives and in our world. We want to celebrate by waving palm branches and spreading out our coats to carpet your pathway.



Our faces beam because our hearts are full of gladness. You are the one we have been awaiting, the saviour whom we so desperately need. We disregard the difficulties of our lives and welcome with gladness your peace. Our hearts are free as spontaneous praises spill freely from our lips. We worship you. We honour you. We welcome you. We proclaim you as Lord.

We speak blessings to God for sending you into our lives. We feel your glory. We experience your hope and healing power. We anticipate a world that is heaven on earth where you are our king whom we trust and love. Come Lord Jesus. Enter our world in splendour and power today. Hosanna in the highest.

Yet on Palm Sundays as we take joy in your presence and gladly welcome you as our saviour and Lord, we pause with you as you overlooked Jerusalem with sorrow for those who didn't recognize you. Just as you saw a whole city and nation that had an opportunity to welcome you but didn't, we also see so many people around us who are not heeding your invitation to join your Kingdom.

Jesus, we pray that you will open their eyes to you, your glory, your love, your invitation to a new life. We sorrow for the things that have brought upon themselves and the destructive things that they will bring upon themselves in the future as they drift farther and farther from you. We pray that they will be able to hear today the great good news, that they will respond to your calling and will embrace you as their saviour, the one sent to them to save them from the death of their spirits.

May we become strong witnesses to them of your glory and power. May they see our joy in your presence and may they be filled with desire to know you because of Palm Sunday and every day when we proclaim the joy of knowing you.

Amen.

<https://www.prayerideas.org/palm-Sunday-prayer/> (Edited)

Easter Services

Father Chris, Saint Damien's minister, has extended an invitation to the South Mandurah congregation to continue our tradition of joining them for the Stations of the Cross service and morning tea on Good Friday. Please note the dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you at the services listed below:



Good Friday: March 29 Stations of the Cross At St Damien's Catholic School Oval, 1 Nyabing Pass, Dawesville, Commencing at 10-00am, followed by morning tea

Easter Sunday: March 31 Sunday service At SMUC Commencing at 9-30am, followed by morning tea

Final Reminder: The 2nd Quarter Enablers List

The previous two Messengers have included a request for all our valued Enablers to send the dates they're available for the **1st April to 30th June 2024 quarter**.

To date your editor has received very few replies. Please reply by no later than **5pm Sunday 24th March** to Peter E: prpunch@lasar.net.au advising your availability and the Enablers' roles you are happy to accept (greeting, flowers, morning tea, reader, kids church, etc.). If you haven't been on the Enablers' List previously, or have taken a break from the List, please join in. You can get more information about the Enablers from any member of the Leadership Team.



Please note: if Peter doesn't receive a response he will assume you are happy to continue as an Enabler in the same roles as previously and allocate times in the roster as and when there are gaps.

On Line Giving

Please consider using the convenience of online banking for your giving at:



**Bank: Halls Head Bendigo Bank
A/C Name: Uniting Church in Australia - South Mandurah Congregation
BSB: 633-000 Account No: 117072207**

It is optional whether you include your name as a reference if you make an electronic payment.

Happy birthday

**Elaine Jarrett Thursday 28 March
God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday**

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)



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.

