



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

He is
RISEN

Mixing Up The Old With The New

Those of you who are familiar with art may recall a strange tradition which many Medieval painters adopted for hundreds of years in Europe, and particularly in Germany. Artists such as Lukas Cranach and others painted many depictions of biblical scenes but they did so with the curious twist of dressing the biblical characters in the contemporary garb of the Middle Ages. So in one Cranach painting you see Mary and Joseph tending to their newborn son in a Bethlehem stable, attended by shepherds and others in the picture. However every last one of them looks like a then-contemporary European. The men are wearing tights, silk shirts with puffy sleeves, and the big hats which were common to that era. All in all it was an interesting way to contemporize ancient stories.



Surely that mixing up of the old with the new and the past with the (then) present must have caused some eyebrows to be raised. Can you imagine what most conservative Christians would say today if an artist painted a portrait depicting Joseph in a pair of Gap jeans, Mary wearing a Ralph Lauren blouse, and the magi in snappy suits from Armani?! There would almost certainly be an outcry. They would argue that you should not import the holy, sacred images of Scripture into a contemporary setting like that. It creates confusion and doesn't seem terribly respectful. Perhaps we risk "losing" something of the original events by mixing it up with the trappings of our modern world.

But in a real way, can we avoid looking at the old through the lens of what is current? In this Eastertide Lectionary we arrive at the most famous metaphor for Jesus in the Bible: the good shepherd. We have all likely seen one form or another of this particular image depicted countless times in most of the churches we have ever visited, on greeting cards, in artwork, and in many more places besides. What really matters is not the details of the image, but the events behind the story depicted in the paintings.

Scott Hoezee, Comments and Observations (Edited)

Easter 4 21 April 2024



Easter 5 28 April 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Debby Hardy
Coffee/Tea: Sherryl Smith,
Cynthia Falconer &
Jan Robinson
Reader: Jaren Picking
Kids Church: Julie Lehmann
Church Rep: Kerry Lawson
Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann
Speaker: Piet Speyers

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch
Flowers: Peter Punch
Coffee/Tea: Judy Law & Raelyn Punch
Reader: Sherryl Smith
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
Worship Leader: Cynthia Clive
Speaker: Yoy Alberastine



Readings from the Lectionary

Acts 4:5-12
Ps 23
1 Jn 3:16-24
Jn 10:11-18

Acts 8:26-40
Ps 22:25-31
1 Jn 4:7-21
Jn 15:9-17



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E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Or any member of the Leadership Team

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Leadership Team Chair: TBA

Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.auPrayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.comMembers 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.



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

Red Shield Volunteers

The Salvation Army are seeking volunteers for two hour shifts collecting money for their Red Shield Appeal from 9am-5pm at the Erskine shopping centre Wednesday 15 May to Saturday 18 May. This would involve sitting at a collection point with Red Shield materials and accepting donations.

For more information or if you can help please contact Frances Davy M: 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com and she will pass on your name to the Salvation Army Mandurah.



A Prayer for Easter 4

Holy and Gracious God,
you call us by name,
beloved one,
and beckon us to follow You.
May we do so through Your grace.

Like a shepherd tending the flock
You tend to our needs.
Be present with those who struggle, suffer,
are in pain or sorrow.
Guide those who are lost, or filled with worry and fear.
Protect those who are in harm's way,
heal those who are ill,
and mend those who are broken,
as only Your love can.

God of peace, watch over those who lead us
in our various governments and churches.
Fill our leaders with wisdom, patience, insight, and mercy.
Help them to lead with kindness and strength.

God of love,
fill our hearts with the knowledge of You
that we can turn from the distractions of life
and be more like You.
May we be agents of Your compassion,
offering kindness to those we meet this day.

God of all blessings,
we thank You for all the gifts of life.
For your Son, our Saviour, our great Good Shepherd,
the one who stands at the gate
of all life's challenges and joys,
calling out to us in love.
Naming us, beloved.
For all this, and more we pray. **Amen.**



Rev. Terri C. Pilarski (Edited)

In Memoriam—Henry Bubb (1936-2024)

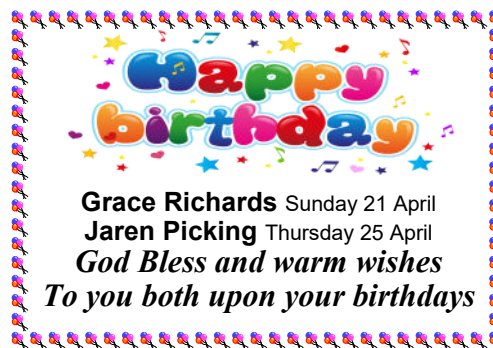
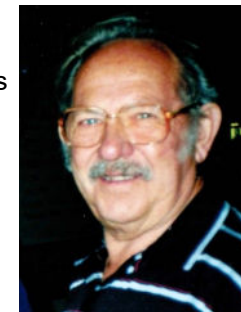
Henry was a very kind, generous, humble man and a devout Christian who was a loyal friend to all who knew him. Devoted to his wife May and family, Henry cared for May for many years after she was injured in a car accident.

John and Sue Lawrence met Henry when they first came to South Mandurah Uniting Church in the 1990's. John kindly wrote some notes for Messenger, in which he said that Henry "has always been a good and faithful servant of the Lord, and this church, having served on the Church Council (as the Leadership Team was then known), and was a willing worker taking on the upkeep of the grounds and other tasks around the church then and immediately following our move to this site in Rees Place in 2000. Henry was a poor sleeper at nights, a fact that bothered him, but he wasted not a moment of these wakeful hours, using them to study his bible and daily devotions."

For many years Henry was a keen member of the Christian Men of Peel, seldom missing the quarterly breakfast meetings in the old hall at Barragup, and joining in fellowship with men from most of the churches in the region. He "was a unassuming gentleman; always reluctant to ask for help, but always so appreciative when it was offered."

Henry's friendship and companionship will be missed by all who knew him, and our prayers and condolences go to May, their family and friends. Rest in peace Henry.

We have been advised that Henry will be cremated privately and a funeral service won't be held.



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.

