



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Our Relationship With God (Mark 5:21-43)

One of the reasons people tend to see faith as a religion about God instead of a relationship with God is the sense that they are not worthy of the attention of an Almighty God. "My problems are too small for God to care about." Or "With all the pain and suffering in this world, why would God care about me?" are a couple of ways people give expression to this sense of insignificance. The sense is the one expressed by our theme title today, "How can one so great care for one so small."

Have you ever felt that sense of insignificance? There have been times when I've gazed into the incredible expanse of a starlit sky and felt ever so small and insignificant. Even our planet is hardly a speck of dust in the vast cosmos.

And yet, the heart of the lesson for today says that God is attentive to the heartache and suffering of all persons, no matter how insignificant they may seem to the world around them.

Religion can get in the way of a relationship with God. Faith is not about rules, regulations and religion. It is about we human beings reaching out to a God who reaches out to us through Jesus Christ who reaches into the pain and anguish of our living. The good news for the people in our scripture lesson is that the barriers all fall away. For the woman, for Jairus and for the little girl - the greatness of God and the good news of Jesus Christ eliminate all obstacles to health and life.

And aren't you glad that Christ cares more about our wholeness and our living than he does about the details of religious convention? When I am in anguish and wish for the presence of Christ, I do not need to worry that I am too great a sinner or that some folks would consider me to be unacceptable -- I know that Jesus cared for a woman who was a social reject and for a little girl that was not among the children of his followers.

John Jewell, Can One So Great Care for One So Small?



Pentecost 5 23 June 2024



Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Judy Law
Coffee/Tea: Cliff & Averil Clark
Reader: Keith Picking
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch
Worship Leader: Frances Davy
Speaker: Piet Speyers

Pentecost 7 7 July 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Kerry Lawson
Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury
Reader: John Lawrence
Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
Church Rep: Yoy Alberastine
Worship Leader: Piet Speyers
Speaker: Yoy Alberastine



Readings from the Lectionary

2 Sm 1:1, 17-27
Ps 130
2 Cor 8:7-15
Mk 5:21-43

2 Sm 5:1-5, 9-10
Ps 48
2 Cor 12:2-10
Mk 6:1-13



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Or any member of the Leadership Team

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Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com

Members of the Leadership Team: Rev. Mike Fawcett, Ps. Yoy Alberastine, 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."

Priorities

What is it about human nature that makes us put off the most important things until a crisis looms? So often we coast in our relationships until they skid into a crisis. We think nothing of spending thousands on a car and blindly drive it by the homeless shelter everyday. We think nothing of a forty-hour working week but can't find time for dinner as a family.

We live lives of loneliness and sorrow because those things that could build our friendships, family, and faith get our leftover time.

Then, one day it is too late, we have waited too long. We are like the Rabbi who did not run to Jesus until his daughter was "at the point of death [eschatos]."

Take a moment to examine your life today. What is at the "eschatos" — the point of death — in your life right now? What part of your spiritual or relational life is barely breathing? Find ways to make those areas (family, friendships and faith) a higher priority than career and income. Do something different this week. Before scheduling anything else, book time with God, schedule an appointment with those in your own family. After prioritizing God and your family, then set up the rest of the week.

Jerry Goebel, Arise! (Edited)

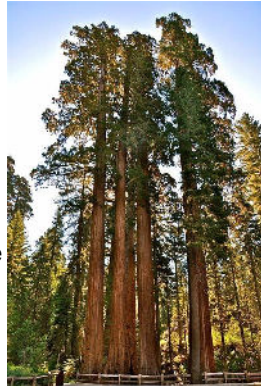


They Grow in Clusters

Though I have never seen the Sequoia trees of California, known as Redwoods, I am told they are spectacular. While they tower as much as 100 metres above the ground these huge trees have unusually shallow root systems that spider out just under the surface of the ground to catch as much of the surface moisture they can. And this is their vulnerability. Storms with heavy winds would almost always bring these giants crashing to the ground but this rarely happens because they grow in clusters and their intertwining roots provide support for one another against the storms.

When we are together, either as a family or a church, we provide this same support. Pain and suffering come to all of us. But, just like those giant Sequoia trees, we can be supported in those difficult times by the touch of one another's lives. The knowledge that we have someone; that we are not alone; that there is someone who is willing to touch us, hold us, keeps us from being destroyed.

Brett Blair, Sermons.com (Edited)



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



Sunday School Teachers

We have been blessed during the past few months to have more young people attending our church, and they've really been enjoying "Kids church". Unfortunately in the next quarter (1st July to 30th September) some of our regular Sunday school teachers are not available.

More Sunday School Teachers are urgently needed. If you can help out (even if only once a month or once every two months), or you would like more information please speak to any of the Leadership Team, Anita Alberastine, Kerry Lawson or contact Peter Punch via email E: prpunch@lasar.net.au



Prayer Walk

Prayer Walking will take place on the first two Sundays of the month after church and on the third and fourth Thursdays afternoons of the month at a time to be arranged.

Please join Frances and Sherry in this new and Exciting venture.

For more information please contact :

Frances Davy M:0488 906 280, E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com
or Sherry Smith M: 0409 305 910 E: sherryisa60@gmail.com



Prayer Walk

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Terry Wolfendon Wednesday 3 July
*God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday*



Blessings & Congratulations To:
David & Cynthia Clive
Celebrating their 62nd Anniversary
On Saturday 6th July

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)



Your Messenger

If you are not receiving this Newsletter by email and wish to do so, please contact Peter at: prpunch@lasar.net.au

Any articles, notices or prayer requests for the Messenger should be emailed to Peter no later than

5pm Wednesdays

Thank you

