

26th August 2020

THE CHURCH IS NOT.

GET CONNECTED

OUR BUILDING

IS CLOSED.

Distant Socialising

A Letter from Rev Andrew

Readings for Sunday 30th August: Pentecost 13 Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; and Matthew 16:21-28

The passage from Matthew gives the second half of the narrative in Caesarea Philippi that we started last week. Jesus is unpacking what the title that Peter has just bestowed on him (Messiah, Son of God) will mean: he will undergo great suffering, die and then be raised on the third day. His kingship will be marked by a path of rejection and suffering. Peter's response is understandable, but it echoes the temptation narrative, when the devil offers Jesus great power if he will do things his way instead of God's. Peter has gone from getting something spectacularly right to getting something spectacularly wrong!

If Jesus himself will have to suffer, the implication is that his followers must be prepared for suffering, too. Jesus highlights the downside of owning his story: there is sacrifice involved. Anyone who wants to step into this story must be prepared to deny themselves and carry their cross – an image of being prepared to give up their life.

To Matthew's audience, this is a literal threat, not a figurative one as we so often treat it today.

What might be a modern equivalent?

Maybe Jesus' pronouncement at the start of his ministry will help:

He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, ¹⁹ and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

To follow Jesus means that we carry his cross and do what he did.

Do we ever hold back from loving the poor, the prisoner, the blind or the oppressed because of the cost to us—material or emotional?

Jesus is being quite honest here. There is a cost to following him.

But, in giving our life we might find it.

There is a promise of liberation: anyone who is prepared to give up their life for the kingdom of God will find the life they were always looking for.

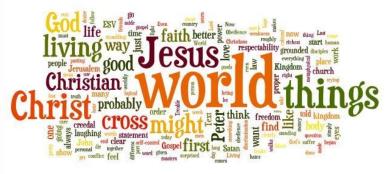
Orange Uniting Church on Sundays

Video of readings, prayers and reflections from 8.30 am each Sunday

Search for Orange Uniting Church at www.youtube.com/

Zoom Gathering at 10.30 am each Sunday for prayer, chat, videos and biblical reflection.

Email orange@nswact.uca.org.au for the Zoom invite



Contact Details

Due to the current health situation, the church office is not open to the public.

The care and administration of the church will continue, so if you want to contact us feel free to do so by phone or email.

Church Office

PO Box 70, ORANGE NSW 2800

T: (02) 6362 5788

E: orange@nswact.uca.org.au

Rev Andrew Cunningham

T: (02) 6362 1140

E: andrewc@nswact.uca.org.au

Chairperson—Bob Nash

E: robertn@nswact.uca.org.au

W: orange.uca.org.au







With love to the World App (Announcement from the Editor of With Love to the World)

During these difficult days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are seeking ways to find meaning, encouragement, and hope for life, and are keen to maintain and deepen their faith and sense of community/connectedness with their church and other Christians.

With Love to the World has been meeting these needs for the past 45 years with its daily commentaries on lectionary and associated Bible passages, prayer suggestions, and questions for individuals and groups.

Our daily Bible reading guide is now available as an app, as well as in booklet form, making it easily available wherever you may be. The annual subscription is just \$24.

To subscribe search your App Store or Play Store for With Love to the World.

Special Religious Education (SRE) Training

In Orange (like in other places!) we are always on the look-out for more volunteers to be SRE teachers—that is, people who teach scripture in public schools. The more people who can finish the training and be ready to go the better. The need is even greater at the moment as a number of older teachers are a bit wary of returning to teaching due to the risk of COVID 19.

If this interests you and you would like to have a 'no commitment' conversation, please contact Bev Rankin on (02) 5310 2474.

You may also consider the following upcoming training to equip you for the role:



Presented via Zoom in the comfort of your own home. \$70 full course or \$20 per module. Wednesdays: 23 Sept, 30th Sept, 7th Oct Thursdays: 24th Sept, 1st Oct, 8th Oct

- ⇒ Module 1: Teaching in NSW Government Schools Wednesday 23rd September 2pm 3:30pm
- ⇒ Module 2: Teaching and Learning Wednesday 30th September 2pm 3:30pm
- ⇒ Module 3: Preparing and Delivering a Lesson Wednesday 7th October 2pm 3:30pm
- ⇒ Module 4: Communication in the Classroom Thursday 8th October 2pm 3:30pm
- ⇒ Module 5: Introduction to the Bible Thursday 24th September 2pm 3:30pm
- ⇒ Module 7: Duty of Care Thursday 1st October 2pm 3:45pm

Midweek 'Chat'

A couple of people have asked about the possibility of continuing the Sunday morning discussions around our bible readings for the week, so we will start a trial Zoom Midweek Chat to do this.

This will be an opportunity to read the bible together, discuss that passage, share some stories and finish with a prayer.

Starting this week you have the option of Zooming in on:

- * Tuesday from 7.30 pm—8.30 pm
- * Wednesday from 9.30 am—10.30 am

Please email or phone me to receive the Zoom link.

If the days/times don't suit you, please suggest some other options and if we have enough people we can look into that too.

Happy Anniversary

Thelma and Roy Roweth of Spring Hill celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary earlier this month. Congratulations and we wish you every blessing for the year ahead.

Keep in touch and God bless,





Saturday 29th August

♦ Hot Meals Outreach 5.00 pm—Church Hall

Sunday 30th August

♦ Recorded Service♦ Online Gathering8.30 am—YouTube10.30 am—Zoom

Tuesday 1st September

♦ Midweek Chat 7.30 pm—Zoom

Wednesday 2nd September

♦ Midweek Chat 9.30 am—Zoom

Giving Direct

Confidential giving via electronic banking can be used for either a regular payment or one-off payment from your bank account to make your offering.

Account Name: Giving Direct – Orange UC

BSB: 634 634

Account Number: 100046973

- all deposits made to this account are taken as offering payments.

- do not use this account for any other church related deposits.



