



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

23 October 2022

Pentecost 20

Bible Reading

8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Joel 2: 23-32

Luke 18: 9-14

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.

Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.

OPEN FROM 9.30AM

Livestreaming

at all . 8am
three . 9.30am
worship . 6.45pm
services

8am—Worship

Led by Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sharon Underwood
and Clive Pearson

Includes Baptism

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jane Cole
and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY 24 OCTOBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for

Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

in the church

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

7.30pm—Clive's Study "Making Sense of
the Bible" week 2 at the Church

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

7.30pm—Clive's Study "Making Sense of
the Bible" week 2 on ZOOM

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/3602745736](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736)

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER

5pm-7pm—Youth Group Fusion

"Board Games"

upstairs hall

SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Events

SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship



SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024

Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*

Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*

Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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In the eyes of God

23 October Pentecost 20

Joel 2:23-32 and Luke 18:9-14

We are a week ahead of ourselves! The last Sunday in October (next Sunday) is Reformation Sunday. In some countries the next day is a public holiday.

*

Reformation Day commemorates the day in 1517 when a German monk named Martin Luther (1483-1546) strode up to the church in Wittenberg and nailed his 95 'theses' (or propositions) to the church door. Luther chose to do this on October 31st as he knew the church would be full on the next day for All Saints' Day.

Luther's intention when posting his theses was to highlight the practice of indulgences in the Roman Catholic Church. Indulgences were pardons from sin that could be bought, meaning that those who were rich enough could buy forgiveness for all manner of sins. Luther had hoped that pinning his protestations would spark wider debate and harden public opinion against the practice.

However, so many people agreed with his ideas that they quickly spread across western Europe, helped by the recent invention of the printing press, leading to the religious revolt known as the Reformation.

*

Luther had previously tried to perfect himself in all sorts of way: he wanted to be right with God and so followed all sorts of practices that were designed to tame his body, thoughts and desires. He failed. He came to see himself, in Paul-like terms, as a great sinner. That is not the kind of description that any people would apply to themselves these days. We like to be a bit more positive and self-affirming. In effect, in his quest for perfection and being right with God, Luther was seeking to overcome who he was and be someone else.

But Luther was aware of his human frailty and came to realize how he depended upon the grace of God in order to be 'justified by faith alone'. We often tend to justify ourselves. He coined an idea that sought to express who he was – not in terms of rights, but in terms of who he is 'in the sight of God'. The Latin is *coram Deo* which really means 'in the face (or eye) of God'.

In this parable the Pharisees are setting themselves apart from others: they are doing so on the basis of who they believe themselves to be: they do so on the grounds of how they reckon themselves to be different from the seemingly more obvious sinful people. They glorify in their difference and thank God for their being 'better'. The comparison is made with the hated tax-collector who has a much deeper insight into who he is 'in the sight of God'. Not only does he know that he is a 'sinner'; he asks for mercy. What we then have is one of Luke's typical reversals: those who are exalted are humbled; the humble are exalted. Luther accepted who he was 'in the eye of God' and went on to initiate the Protestant Reformation in which we stand.

This transition to a different age is captured in the prophecy of Joel. The spirit of God is to be poured out on sons, daughters, old men and slaves. There is to be a time of future blessings in the aftermath of a plague of locusts that took on an apocalyptic mood where locusts represented an invading army. This descent of the spirit ignores all the divisions that we humans set up in order to distinguish ourselves one from another – and sometimes to justify how we think ourselves to be 'better' than others.

On-line:

Martin Luther's speech at the Diet of Worms,
'Here I stand. I can do no other'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwEVXU8rr0w>

Martin Luther, animated movie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l3dlhwBA34>

Martin Luther and the Reformation (in 11 minutes).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWCbdSzFiQQ>

Luther's hymns: A mighty fortress is our God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XUYZoguhEQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDdHtOSHIXE&t=9s>

(in German, in Wittenberg Luther's church)

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Melanie MacWilliam

Terry Oliver

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community
who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 23—29 October

*The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda,
Bahamas, Cuba, Dominica,
Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti,
Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia,
St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname,
Trinidad & Tobago*

TURN OUT YOUR CUPBOARDS

Do you have too much clutter in your home? The Church Op Shop is in need of good quality nick-nacks, toys, ornaments, Christmas goods, shoes and men's clothing.

We appreciate all donations of clean, quality clothing, without your donations we would not be able to operate.

Many thanks.

The Op Shop Team.

Please Note: Building works to fix ceilings in upstairs toilet, hallway and part kitchen will take place from Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October. As well as repairs and painting to back of church and panels in the upstairs hall.

The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website
www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
Click on the metal bird image / publications.



*Being prepared
for next week's
worship:*

30 October 2022

Pentecost 21
**"Standing
watch"**

Sunday
30 October:
**8am, 9:30am &
6:45pm**

Bible Readings:
Habbakuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4
Luke 19: 1-10

The story to do with Zacchaeus is another of those encounters and parables that is only found in Luke. It stands within two of the great overarching themes of this gospel. Zacchaeus was a 'a chief tax collector'. He belongs as such inside the disreputable company with whom Jesus often associated and for which he was criticized by the Pharisees and scribes. Tax collectors served the Roman Empire rather than the Jewish community. Zacchaeus was also 'rich': Jericho lay at the heart of a region noted for the production and export of balsam. One of Luke's most pronounced themes is the nature of true wealth; there are many references to rich and poor.

In a way we might say the story of Zacchaeus fulfils both these themes. He has turned up early to see Jesus: given his short stature he climbs a sycamore tree—and immediately becomes more obvious to the Jesus who is passing by. In the fine traditions of Luke he then hosts Jesus to a meal—where once again Jesus eats with those whom the Pharisees condemn. Unlike the rich man in the parable of Dives and Lazarus, this time the rich man (Zacchaeus) is changed and gives away half of his wealth. Of

all the gospels Luke has the keenest sense of time—that is, both *chronos* or calendar time and *kairos* time, the right time, God's time. The moment of salvation, the moment the kingdom of God breaks in upon the ordinary, that is a *kairos* moment which the Zacchaeus' story presents us with: 'today salvation has come to this house'. It is a climax moment.

The Zacchaeus' story is complemented by the prophecy of Habbakuk. The book appears to have been composed around the mid-7th century and is anticipating the Babylonian siege and capture of Jerusalem in 586BC. The book opens with Habbakuk questioning the wisdom of God: why does God not take action against injustice? Why does God not bring an end to violence? In a way that resonates with Zacchaeus up a sycamore tree Habbakuk stands watch; 'I will look to see what he has to say to me'. Our reading ends with one of the primary texts of the Christian faith "the righteous shall live by faith". Paul will highlight this text in Romans; it is the text that leads to Luther finding freedom in Christ and marks the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Nomination and Voting of Elders

The congregation will have an opportunity to nominate members to eldership from next Sunday, 30 October. The nominations will close on 20 November; The election of elders will take place on site on 4th December - If you are not at Church on that Sunday, you may vote in the week from 4th December through to Thursday 8th December.

We would be looking to also have another 2 or 3 new Elders be nominated from each congregation so as we will have a balance of representatives from each.

If a congregation member feels someone in the congregation may be interested or would be ideal as an Elder of St. Matthew's please nominate them.

Advised they do not wish to renominate	George Haines Christine Haines Anne Oliver Ken Caldwell Jan Caldwell Marijke Prinsloo
Advised they are happy to renominate for less than 3 years	Sandra Drayton (1 year) Melissa Gibson Darling (1 year)
Advised they are happy to renominate for a 3 year term	Jane Cole Robyn Burn Vivienne Strong Erin Mathewson Robyn Mathewson Eulalie Herat Pamela Leslie Helen Olley

If you need further information regarding the role of an Elder, please feel free to speak with Clive, Helen Olley or Melissa Darling.

Nomination Forms available next Sunday 30 October from the church foyer.



Making Sense of the Bible



- How did the Bible come into being?
- How (and when) was it translated into English?
- Why do we have so many versions?
- How do we 'use' the Bible (an ancient book) in our world today – or let it 'use' us?

• How might we seek not to 'misuse' the Bible?
The studies advertised above will be held at the following times:

Onsite at the church at 7.30pm

Tuesday – 18 and 25 October

Tuesday – 1 and 8 November Or

ZOOM online 7.30pm

Wednesday – 19 and 26 October

Wednesday – 2 and 9 November
(note date change)

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

Clive

Anyone that will be participating in Clive's study via Zoom Online and would like a copy of the study, please contact the Church office and a copy will be sent to you. Thank you

ST MATTHEW'S TRIVIA NIGHT 2022



TABLES OF 8 - \$15 PER PERSON

ST MATTHEWS
UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT | DANIEL@STMATTHEWSUNITING.NET.AU

Thank you to the guys for building the retaining wall along the back of the maybush garden on the Edgar St side of the church. The terrace holds the soil in the garden and provides for good, dry access along the Op Shop outer wall. The wooden sleepers were donated by Colin Stoner, Peter and Gary transported them and David organised the job and prepared the site with help from George, Bruce and Hugh. St. Matthew's appreciates the hard work and time you all spent completing this job that was planned before covid.

