



Bible Readings

1 Peter 1: 17-23
 Luke 24: 13-35



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*
Response: *Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.*



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 9AM

twitch.tv

Livestreaming at
8am, 9.30am and
9am in January each year

8am—Worship

Led by Sara Wienand
 And Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sara Wienand
 And Clive Pearson
 Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess for school holidays

2-4pm—Upstairs hall in use

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Abbey Sim

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 20 APRIL

9am—Garage Sale Sorting & pricing
7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 21 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church
7pm—SAMMT meeting
 Lower hall

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop

THURSDAY 23 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 24 APRIL

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 25 APRIL



SUNDAY 26 APRIL

8am—Worship
 followed by Morning Tea

9.30am—Worship

KUCA —Preschool,
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 followed by Morning Tea

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES
 Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
 jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND
 SUNDAY am , MONDAY, TUESDAY
 Email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL : lynns@nswact.uca.org.au
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8AM-2.30PM
 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
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CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

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 BAULKHAM HILLS

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 PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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Something to think about

19 April

Easter 3

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Ways of Salvation

How does God save us? This area of theology is called soteriology because the Greek word for save is σώζω (sōzō) and the noun for salvation is σωτηρία (sōtēria). σώζω (sōzō), which frequently appears in the New Testament means saving, healing, rescuing, or making whole. It implies complete restoration—body, soul, and spirit—rather than just spiritual salvation. Yet, it is often used interchangeably with healing sickness or delivering from danger. The important thing is that we are saved by God from sin and death. [Romans 8:1-2] Knowing how we are saved is helpful though as it helps us to understand and speak rightly of God.

There are different understandings of how God saves us. This is something that I have spoken and written about before. At Easter with many Biblical passages often mentioning how Jesus saves us through his death and resurrection it is good to just explore them a little.

The main way many of us have been taught about God's salvation as Christ is that Jesus died in our place to save us from the punish-

ment God rightly should give us. This is called Penal Substitution Atonement. There are good Scriptural grounds for Penal Substitution Atonement theory or soteriology. One example is 2 Corinthians 5: 21 which states, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

However, there is also wiggle room in how we interpret such passages in the light of God's continuing revelation. Just as we see Christ transforming people's understanding of God and God's ways and the disciples not always getting it, it is reasonable to expect that Paul who was not present for all of Jesus's teaching might take his own slant. In saying that even if penal Substitution is a theory of atonement, there are others as well which sit alongside. I personally and passionately go back to Christ who is the Word of God as the baseline for my hermeneutics of salvation. I think Jesus trumps Paul or any other epistler, as important as they may be.

Having said that, we can interpret Jesus as being made sin. Jesus was made sin. The Greek word is Ποιέω (poieō) is a Koine/Ancient Greek verb meaning "to do" or "to make," frequently used in the New Testament to describe acting, creating, producing, or establishing something. It has a broad range of applications, often implying effort or producing a result, and is the root of the English words "poet" and "poem".

Ways of salvation-cont'd

To make Jesus sin is a hard and strange concept to get our thinking around. Why would God make Jesus to be sin? As Paul writes, Jesus was without sin. One interpretation of this is that Jesus is the offence and affront of God to the way the world. God sinned against the way of the world, which in reverse is that the way of the world is the sin against God. Thus, Jesus becomes the atoning sacrifice for God's failure to comply to the will of the world and us who comprise it. Jesus incurs the wrath of humanity and is made sin by those whom he was seen to be blasphemy. Jesus was offered by God as a sin offering to a world who saw the Kingdom of God as an affront and offence. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice which opens the hearts of humans to reconciliation with God.

At a personal level there are many of us who have a complaint against God. How can God judge humanity, being divine and without any experience of what it is like to struggle as a mortal. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice in this case. Jesus is the lived compassion of God who feels with us, because as Jesus God was human. Then there are those who are upset and angry at God who is supposed to be good, but who allows us or those we love to suffer and even die. In our deepest anger we can even want God to pay and suffer like we have. Here again, Jesus is the atoning sacrifice to appease our anger and wrath.

Of course, it is just ok to allow that Paul uses penal Substitution as a theological metaphor alongside others such as scapegoating etc. Penal Substitution is one piece of the puzzle of how we understand the salvation of God. It

is there as part of our theological heritage, and for many it is the main way that they understand the salvation of God. It is good in describing the love and grace of God, but fails to speak well of justice and rightness nor of the sovereignty of God. And so, like any metaphor it will fall short in area and not be a full image of the purer idea. Thus, we can accept it as a piece of the puzzle and bring in to bear other images and theologies/theories of atonement with which we build a fuller picture the grace, love, mercy, forgiveness, salvation and redemption that God offers and works for.

How are we saved? We are saved through the grace and love of God. How that works and how we understand God through it is called Soteriology. It is ultimately by faith that we are saved. It is through believing in God, whom we know through Jesus and how much God loves us and what that means for our living that we enter into eternal life. Yet, it is good to think about how we understand our salvation and what more we can learn from the thinking and experience of others who might hold a different idea, doctrine or teaching. Thus, Soteriology and how we are saved is something good to think about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Doreen Philbrick

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

19 — 25 April

Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Flower arranging

If anyone would like to have a turn and learn to do the flower arranging for Sunday worship services during the year, please contact Katherine.

Katherine is also looking for someone to look after the gardens on the perimeter of the entire church property from Saturday 25th of April until the 1st June. Please contact Katherine or the church office.

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (10 April 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2026 - 10 April |](#)

**Please
return
completed
forms by
End of April**

Volunteer Form



Assisting with Morning Services

for

June, July, August 2026

Have been emailed or collect a copy from the foyer.

NEW HELPERS WELCOME

UNITING CHURCH
BALGIGHAM HILLS



Please return forms to the blue mail tray or church office.

Parramatta Mission

We are collecting knitted and crocheted beanies and scarves, as well as soap, for the people who visit Parramatta Mission for meals and support.

The collection point at St Matthew's is the marked box at the top of the stairs

Please contact Christine Haines for more information.



Could you serve morning tea?

1. Bring 1L of milk
2. Arrive 15 minutes early to set up cups
3. Serve tea and coffee after the service
4. Wash the cups (dishwasher lessons provided!)



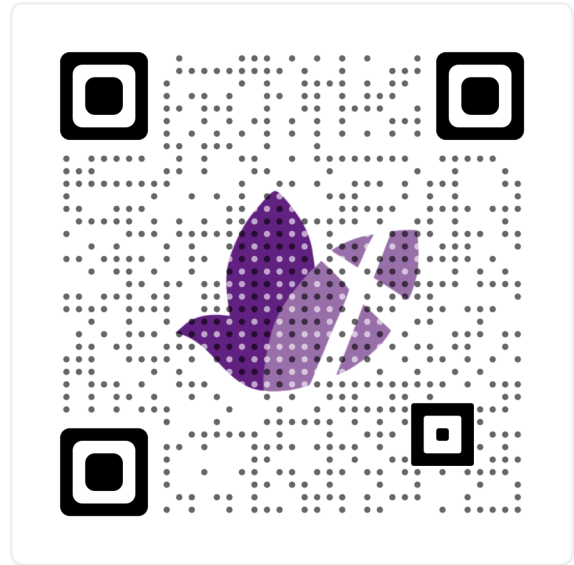
Please contact Lynn,
Amanda or Sara if
you can help!

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 dove image / publications or find in recent posts.

Please see QR Codes for YouTube, Facebook & Twitch



St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Uniting World Update

UnitingWorld is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia. They partner with the global church to address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice and violence. Below is the recent Uniting World media release: 'Australia Holds the Line On Aid'.

'Right now, humanitarians the world over are operating with far less support. A global retreat from foreign aid is happening at precisely the wrong moment. Early last year, the United States closed USAID and slashed its foreign aid budget by more than 80 percent. Modelling from Boston University suggests this has already caused 600,000 deaths, two-thirds of them children. Other major funders followed: Germany cut aid by 50%, the UK by 40% and France by 37%, all diverted to record defence spending.

We are thankful that Australia's aid budget was saved from cuts, in no small part by a movement of faithful Christians and church institutions refusing to see aid as discretionary spending, but as an extension of our shared values.

If you added your voice through the 'Safer World For All' campaign, contacted your Member of Parliament, or prayed for and supported us and our partners as they advocated in Canberra – thank you! There's still a long way to go. Australia's foreign aid remains at a historic low of just 0.5 per cent of the federal budget, well below what's needed to meet humanitarian and development needs around the world.

We will continue to urge the government to restore Australian aid to the modest level of 1% of the Federal Budget, a small step that would have a huge impact.'

To read all about Uniting World's projects the link to their website is: <https://www.unitingworld.org.au/>

A special thank you to those who participated in this year's Uniting World Lent Event.

*Blessings,
Alexander
Social Action Ministry Team (SAMT)*

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St Matthew's
email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com
Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall

Friends of the Middle East

**Re: E-books for the
Near East School of Theology
(NEST) in Beirut.**



If you would like to consider offering some financial assistance, **please email: library@nswact.uca.org.au with the subject 'NEST'.**

Every donation counts.

Donations of over \$20

will receive a tax-deductible receipt

The only way to donate specifically to the e-books is directly via the library as shown above and not via the FME website.

MARCH FOR CHANGE

Speaking out against
Domestic & Family Violence



FRIDAY 1st MAY
7.00 a.m.

Castle Towers Purple Carpark, Castle Place
March to Castle Hill RSL & Bowling Club

Hear the Experts : Have Your Say

