

17th October 2021

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Keiraview Uniting News



contact us

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A Fairtrade Faith Community

Mark 10:43-45

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

welcome

Morning Worship **9:30am**

YouTube Service

Evening Worship **6:30pm**

Zoom Community Dinner

Thought for the Week

The Christian Church & Afghanistan

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves. In Leviticus 19:34 we are told “you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt”

Australia supported the war in Afghanistan for 20 years and has a moral duty toward the people of Afghanistan and should not abandon them. For these reasons In a significant sign of unity, major church denominations and Christian organisations have come together to support Afghan Refugees under the banner of “United for Afghanistan”

We cannot go past the words of Jesus who said in Matt.25:35:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Jesus came to give good news to the poor. His whole life on earth demonstrated this. He was born a refugee and He belonged to an oppressed minority within the Roman empire. He was always looking out for the outcasts in society. As followers of Jesus we are called to reach out to the oppressed and do whatever we can to help them. How can we ignore the plight of the oppressed in Afghanistan, especially with our close involvement over the last 20 years?

PRAYERS

Pray for our Congregational Chair and Secretary Bev Ratcliffe, Adell Smith

Pray for the people of Afghanistan, for peace and protection of the vulnerable, and meaningful action from our Government.

Pray for us as citizens that we will be good stewards of the environment.

Praise for the Covid vaccinations we have been able to receive. Pray for our leaders making difficult decisions, and pray for all at this uncertain time.

A Prayer from Mission Australia Bega Valley Homelessness Support helps those facing homelessness. The program provides tailored support, advocacy and help for women escaping domestic and family violence. Pray people will have renewed hope and direction for their future and heal from past traumas. Pray for patience, resilience and encouragement for staff.

By Geoff Lattimore

Act for Peace - Afghanistan Emergency Please help provide urgently needed food, shelter and health supplies to displaced families in Afghanistan. Almost 390,000 people have been displaced, and tens of thousands now need urgent humanitarian assistance. They are in crisis.

Donate here: <https://www.actforpeace.org.au/afghanistan>



From the Safe Church Team

The Church Council and Safe Church Team met on 12th October to discuss the return to church for onsite services.

The decision was to have our first on-site service on **Sunday 31 October**. This is to allow all people whether vaccinated or not to attend worship. Even though it appears the Stage 2 threshold may be reached a week earlier than thought, a new Health Order will need to be issued and then an updated COVID Safety Plan written and submitted. Hence we will stick with our first onsite service on 31 October.

All other groups and activities will recommence following our first onsite worship service, which would be the week commencing Monday 1 November.



If you have any questions regarding the latest COVID Safety Guidelines please speak to the Safe Church Team (Gavin Whitten, Vi Richardson, Phil Crawford or Pauline Doyle) or email:

safe-church@keiraview.org



Church Council Meeting is coming up at 19:30 on **21st October** and this meeting will have a focus on Climate Change and how Keiraview should respond to this social issue. This is an important meeting and hence will be an **onsite meeting** at Keiraview. Church Council meetings are open meetings but all attendees will need to be double vaccinated and show a vaccination record. Anyone under 16 years of age attending needs to be accompanied by a double vaccinated adult from the same household.

Safe Church Team Tips

Do you have trouble checking in with a QR code on your phone? Did you know you can get your own QR Code card? If you have an email address this is really easy to get. You can also opt to get the card posted to you. See the Service NSW website [here](#). If you would like help to do this please contact one of our Safe Church team (Vi Richardson, Gavin Whitten, Phil Crawford or Pauline Doyle)

Have you got your vaccination record certificate? If you have a smartphone and a MyGov app you can get a copy of this to keep on your phone. Otherwise you can get a printed copy from your GP. You will NOT need this to attend onsite worship services at Keiraview from 31 October. Again if you would like help to do this please contact one of our Safe Church team.

Ventilation is a major component of the latest COVID Safety Plans. **Windows and doors will need to be open at ALL Keiraview services and meetings.** So if it is cool please bring an extra cardigan, jacket or rug.

Church Council Meeting is on Thursday 21st October at 7:30pm at Keiraview UC (see details above).

Taizé Prayers for Creation Join the NSW Ecumenical Council service led by Tricia Watts and friends online this Friday (22nd October) at 7pm. Brothers Ghislain and Matthew from the Taizé Community in France will be with us.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84219218097>

Contact: Rev. Paul Weaver
psweaver@optusnet.com.au

National Church Life Surveys are usually completed in November however, due to the many challenges to logistics this year, Synod has recommended that NCLS Sunday will be on 13th February 2022.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe boxes are still happening this year. If you have started a box or wish to do one we will be collecting them in November when church is back.

You can also go to the Operation Christmas Child website, then to [Pack A Box Online](#). You chose if it is for a Boy or Girl and the age. You can also leave a message for the child and pay on line and we will pack the box and send it for you.

Any questions? Contact [Robyn Johnson](#).

Everything in Common Gifts

Send love and fight poverty! UnitingWorld's Christmas Cards and Gifts are ready to order from everythingincommon.com.au at <https://bit.ly/3BRr7E2>.

These gifts bring hope and joy to our friends and family, but also to provide health, education, leadership and income opportunities for people to live with dignity and peace.



Zoom Community Dinner & Communion

Tonight (17th October) the Sunday Evening Zoom Fellowship we will be sharing dinner and celebrating communion together.

We thought it would be great for each of us to bake our own bread, using the same recipe- then it's a bit like we are all eating from the same loaf.

Below are two options for you a Turkish bread and an unleavened bread. Neither of them look like they are too difficult or time consuming. <https://www.lazycatkitchen.com/no-knead-turkish-bread/> or <https://www.cookist.com/unleavened-bread-the-yeast-free-bread-recipe-typical-of-the-jewish-tradition/>

Please have the wine/juice ready along with your bread for when we come together. Gillian and David

As We Emerge from COVID Lockdown – a note from Rev Simon Hansford

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have been reflecting on who we are as a people of God as we prepare for the resumption of public worship and service activities, and the reopening of church buildings. Along with the practical guidance you will receive from the Synod Office, I hope the following reflections might also be helpful in your planning for what lies ahead.

As government restrictions gradually ease and we look forward to the prospect of being together again for conversations, meals, prayer, and worship, we are filled with hope. Yet alongside that joyful anticipation, we remember at the same time the immense sadness brought upon so many people and families by this pandemic. The loss of life around us and across the world has been heartbreaking. There is also the loss of work, livelihoods, opportunities, and dreams. The toll on the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of countless millions of people cannot be calculated. Very few have been untouched by some form of anguish.

The Hebrew word *shalom* is often translated as peace, yet the meaning of shalom embraces wholeness, health, and wellbeing. Shalom is also a covenantal word, linking us both to God and to each other. The deeper meaning here is found in relationship, and in actions we take to embody God's shalom. I ask you to pray with me each day, and especially when you gather again for public worship, that God will comfort and strengthen all who grieve. We lament the profound loss around us, among us, and within us. We long for, so let us also act for, the restoration of God's shalom within and among all people.

Above all of course, we are not alone for God is with us. May I make that statement of faith very particular here: you are not alone, and your church community is not alone, for God is with you. We are a people to whom God in Jesus Christ has promised 'I am with you always, to the end of the age' (Matthew 28:16).

Please continue to pray, most especially for those who are working across our community at particular risk and for those who feel marginalised, for whatever reason, during this pandemic.

Draw on the resources you are receiving from the wider church, and please call on the Synod Office whenever we can be of help. And remember to pray, for God will not fail or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6). May I offer you this brief prayer and invite you to share in it with me during the coming days.

Yours in Christ,

Shalom, Rev. Simon Hansford – Moderator NSW & ACT Synod

This note is abridged. The full article can be read here <https://talbragar.net/2021/09/29/as-we-emerge-from-covid-lockdown/>

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Banking Details If you prefer to do an electronic bank deposit as offertory, the details are:

Keiraview Uniting Church, BSB: 634 634, Account #: 100017747