

OUR NEWS

29th December 2019



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Our Vision: A Community Transforming Lives



Our Values

Grace,
Inclusion,
Dignity,
Faith and
Hope

Congregational life @ Westmead & Parramatta,
Hospitality, Community and Mental Health
Services across Greater Sydney, Central Coast,
Hunter and Mid-North Coast

Parramatta Mission acknowledges that all of our work and our 36 sites are on the land of traditional owners. We pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, and acknowledge Elders past and present, and emerging leaders.

Psalm 148

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him,
all you shining stars!

4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the
heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

6 He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

8 fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

10 Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is
exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

(New Revised Standard Translation)

Reflections

Psalm 148 is one of five Psalms that form the conclusion to the Book of Psalms. The theme is one of praise and adoration of God. Notice that both the opening and closing of the Psalm encourage the reader to praise God. Yet not praise of any God, praise of God who is known to many as Lord. We also praise God because God hears our praises, as well as our cries of lament.

Praise to God is praise to the God who created all things and is engaged with creation. Even the creation, by its very being, praises God. What difference does it make to how we engage with creation to consider that the whole of creation praises God? If the heavens and the earth praise God through their very being, might that be an encouragement to us about the importance of our being? It is not that being and doing are two aspects of life; we are who we are before we do. Our being is the core of who we are. Our identity and value as humans is because God made us. Whatever doing arises out of our being who we are. Whatever we do does not add to our value. The intrinsic value of the entirety of creation is because God made the whole lot. Our doing, then becomes a way of extending our praising God with the whole of our life.

As the year 2019 draws to a close, we give thanks to God for this year. Most particularly, we can give thanks and praise to God for guidance, encouragement, love, comfort and peace, and prepare for the New Year, 2020. Our pray might also include a prayer of confession to God for where we have not loved God and neighbour, and then ask God for renewed strength from the 'God with us' for 2020.

May God grant you Christmas and New Year Blessings.

Keith Hamilton



Summer Worship Services

Open Church 10.00am - 12.30am

30th - 31st January only

Sunday 10.00am

Combined Leigh Memorial Congregation
@ Leigh and Leigh Fijian
Congregation @ Leigh

9.45am

Westmead Congregation @ Westmead

1.30pm

Korean Faith Community @ Leigh

7.00pm

Praise, Prayer, Cake & Coffee @ Leigh

Contacts

Leigh Memorial Congregation: Rev Dr Manas Ghosh 0429 892 548

Leigh Fijian Congregation: Rev Dr Clive Pearson Supply Minister 0409 523 024

Leigh Korean Faith Community Minister: Rev Hyun Goo Jun 0433 320 588

Leigh Memorial Church, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta, 9891 2277

Westmead Congregation: Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly 0409 925 607

Westmead Church: 175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead: 9891 9354

Senior Minister/CEO: Rev Keith Hamilton 0417 487 446

Church Office: 9891 2277 **Email :** wecare@parramattamission.org.au

Children's Hospital Chaplain : Sarah Bishop 0429 912 943

PM WSU Chaplain : Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler 0427 955 157



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