

**LEIGH MEMORIAL
9.30AM, SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023
REV GEOFF SMITH**



Sunday 19 March @ Leigh

Welcome, Acknowledgement & Candle - Ian

Opening prayers - Ian

Scripture reading - Margie

Reflection - Geoff

Offering prayer & Announcements - Robert

Prayers of the People - Liz

Blessing - Geoff

Tech/ Music - Callum & Alan (Stuart will be away)

Steward - Robert

Morning Tea - Sally & Jane

WELCOME Ian

Welcome to our Fourth Sunday of Lent.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT Ian

We acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY Ian

Welcome to a season of self-examination.
This is a time to ponder the depth
of God's transforming love into the world.
Lenten spirituality invites a transformative journey,
to participate in the emergent light of new life ...

LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLE Ian

As light is borne from the white Christ candle
to the three violet Lenten candles in Lent,
so the Spirit of God lights up our lives through the desert times of testing
and times of abundant life.

The Lenten Candle is lit

OPENING SENTENCES Ian

How is this possible?

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered,

'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him,

'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam'

(which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered,

'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

HYMN

PRAYER **Ian**

Let us praise God who meets our needs
and leads us to places of tranquillity and rest.

Let us praise God who comforts us
and replaces our fears with overflowing love.

Plus any additional words Ian would like to add.

SCRIPTURE READING **1 Samuel 16:1-13 Margie**

Samuel Anoints David

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to

Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the LORD said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.’ But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The LORD has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

RESPONSE **Margie**

O God our nurturer, may your word live in us.

And colour our living. Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Jesus, Light of the world you penetrate the darkness of the world with your love and your life, graciously enlightening us in ways which enable us to see the world and our neighbours as you see them. We confess, however, that there are times when we choose to reject the gift of your insight, preferring to ‘close our eyes’ to the pain and suffering which are daily experiences for so many people.

When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When our prejudices blind us to the equal dignity and worth of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When our pride blinds us to our own faults;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When the lure of materialism blinds us to the poverty of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

Jesus, Light of the world, help us to walk in your light so that goodness, righteousness, and truth are made visible as we reflect your love and your mercy in and through all we say and do. Amen

Hear the good news! "Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light". Know that we can "live as children of the light" (Ephesians 5: 8) because in Jesus, Light of the world, we are enlightened; we are healed; we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

REFLECTION **Geoff**

SONG

OFFERING **Robert**

Receive these our gifts, O God.

We place them in your hands and ask you guidance
as we use them to bring compassion into the world.

Bless them now, we pray. **Amen!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS **Robert**

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD **Liz**

HYMN

BLESSING **Geoff**

May the goodness and mercy of God enfold you, the glory and light of Jesus Christ shine upon you, the insight and power of the Holy Spirit inform you this day and every day. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, this day and forevermore. Amen.