

OUR NEWS

30 July 2023



Parramatta City Uniting Church
inc. Parramatta Mission, with its values of *Grace,*
Inclusion, Dignity, Faith & Hope.



Parramatta City Uniting Church acknowledges that we worship, work, witness and serve on the land of traditional owners, the Burramattagal clan of the Darug people. We pay respect to the original custodians of the land, and acknowledge elders past and present, and emerging leaders.

Weekly reflection

Pentecost 9A, 2023

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

William Loader

Jesus subverts the norms. In Matthew 13:31-32 Matthew returns to Mark 4, where Mark has his version of the parable of the mustard seed (4:30-32). As with the sending out of the 12 (Matt 10:1,5-15), so here, too, Matthew draws on a Q version of the tradition (see Luke 13:18-19). Matthew's version has features of both. Parables lend themselves to ever new interpretations and this is also the case with this one. There were more positive examples of plants which Jesus might have



chosen. Instead he declares the kingdom of God is like what was often a weed! Leaven (13:33) and the image of 'fishing for people' (4:19) are also fairly negative and therefore shocking images. This was typical of Jesus. Today people would call such subversion post-modernism. Jesus subverts the normal expectations.

So it may not be only the smallness of the seed (storytellers' exaggeration to call it the smallest!), but also the weediness of the mustard plant which reflects on what many thought of Jesus and his preaching. In this sense the parable has much in common with the absurdity of the sowing in the parable of the sower. It is a defiantly assertive Jesus who proclaims the coming of the kingdom, nevertheless! The cross will be absurd. This is definitely alternative in emphasis. It becomes a symbol of the way of discipleship, the lowliness blessed in the beatitudes.

Mark says it grows to be the largest of plants. Q says it becomes a tree. Matthew says both! Mark's is more realistic because it becomes a large bush (not, in fact, the largest), hardly a tree. Birds can nest under it - providing that it has grown big enough at nesting season, if we want to press the detail! Tree imagery has Old Testament precedents (Ezekiel 17:22-24; 31:6; Daniel 4:10, 20; see also Psalm 104:12). Mostly it is negative, representing foreign powers, but Ezekiel 17 appears to use it positively of Israel and the nations.

In the parable it now expresses the hope that the kingdom will also draw the birds, the Gentiles. This little embellishment about the birds may already have had that significance in Jesus' use of the parable. In any case it connects us to the great vision of the kingdom as a gathering of all people in peace and reconciliation, foreshadowed in the eucharistic feast. It is a value which collides with the xenophobia which appears to be driving current approaches to asylum seekers.

The parable of the leaven is equally provocative as that of the mustard 'tree'. Potentially poisonous stuff providing bread! 44-50 bring three further parables. The treasure and the pearl illustrate the total commitment which the kingdom elicits and its reward. The fishing net returns to the theme of judgement, echoing the parable of the weeds and its interpretation. It suits those who see the threat of judgement as a sound motivator, including Matthew, and needs to be brought into critical theological dialogue with other gospel streams which appeal to grace and hope and opportunity.

It is typically Matthean that 13:51 has the disciples understand what Jesus had been saying. 13:52 has Jesus go on to speak of the scribe trained for the kingdom of heaven. Just as Jesus taught with authority and not as their scribes, according to 7:29, so the disciples are to be better scribes, but scribes nevertheless (so also 23:34). The good scribe or interpreter is one who both draws on tradition (scripture) and draws on contemporary experience as a parable of God's reality in the world, thus on both old and new. This is one reason why these 'first thoughts' resources will never do as sermons! You need also to study the unique text presented to you in your hearers.

Foster your faith this week

Gn 29:15-28

Ps 105:1-11, 45b

or Ps 128

Rom 8:26-39

Mt 13:31-33, 44-52

UNITING
CHURCH
NATIONAL
HISTORY
SOCIETY

4th
Biennial
History
Conference

*Truth-Telling:
from Colonising
to Covenanting*

Thursday 24th August to
Sunday 27th August 2023

*Bookings Close Friday 4th August
DON'T MISS OUT!!*



Artist: Frances Rrikili Garrawurra

HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 24 Aug

Evening Meal, Welcome to Country,
Smoking Ceremony and Keynote Speaker
Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA

Friday 25 Aug

9 Speakers
Visit to Chung Wah Society
Temple and Museum
Morning/Afternoon Teas and Lunch

Saturday 26 Aug

Tour Nungalingya College & 7 Speakers
Lunch/Dinner/Tea Breaks
Yolnu Storytelling, Singing and Dancing

Sunday 27 Aug

9.30am Service celebrating 150 years
UCA President Rev Sharon Hollis
Light Lunch

Venues

Darwin Memorial Uniting Church
Nungalingya College

In Person \$260

Online \$80

For more information
go to

<https://ucnhs2023.my.canva.site/>

To Register
go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/CGJUQ>

Contact Us
ucnhs2023conference
@gmail.com

Sydney Organs Group Presents



WINTER *Classics*

Organ & Strings Benefit Concert

Sun 20th Aug 2023 - 2:30pm

Leigh Memorial Church, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

Tickets \$20 each or \$50 Family (2 adults and 2 children)

Sydney Organs Group is arranging and producing a benefit concert featuring Organ and Strings at Leigh Memorial Uniting Church, Parramatta, to raise funds for its associated Parramatta Mission. Parramatta Mission provides assistance to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities to assist them in transforming their lives.



The concert program is in two parts: In Part One an octet featuring string **students from primary and high schools** will be accompanied by organ in a selection of sacred music by Bach, Franck, Mozart and Schubert. A soprano will join the octet in the Schubert and Franck pieces. In Part Two, solo organists will perform one or two short pieces each by a variety of composers, including Clarke, Lemmens, Bach, Bruhns, Charpentier, Boellman, Attride and Collins.

A complimentary afternoon tea will be served in the Parramatta Mission coffee shop following the performance.

Seating is limited

Tickets on sale July 17th



To purchase tickets,
scan the QR code or visit
[https://events.humanitix.com/
winter-classics-concert](https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO



Leigh Memorial

THIS SUNDAY – PCUC COMBINED SERVICE!

The next of our Parramatta City Uniting Church combined services will take place at **10.00am this Sunday 30th July at Northmead Uniting Church** (Hammers Road, Northmead), followed by morning tea. There will be NO service at Leigh Memorial on the 30th. ** NB: If anyone is able to bring a plate of food to share for morning tea at Northmead, that will be greatly appreciated.

PASTORAL NEWS

Our warmest prayers remain with all those in our worship community who are unwell, in hospital or rehab, receiving treatment, grieving or facing other significant challenges at this time – and everyone accessing Meals Plus and other support services this winter. Donations of blankets and warm clothing continue to be appreciated. Please note that Mae is recovering well at home after surgery, Ruth is making good progress in rehab and Jolame is now residing at Uniting Westmead. We're also continuing to pray for Nell, Lalaja and George, and in other news, Linda is moving to the Central Coast but hopes to visit us again one day, and Elspeth & Ray are now attending a church closer to home. We send our best to everyone, including those who stay connected and support us from afar.

SYDNEY METRO “OPEN DAY” – opp. Leigh Memorial

Metro is offering heritage/archaeological tours of the site opposite Leigh Memorial Uniting Church this **Saturday, 29 July** at 45 min. intervals between 9.00am to 4.00pm. It's a free event but bookings are essential. Solid footwear and a hat are recommended. The site is very closely linked to our own history, so it's well worth a look: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parramatta-metro-station-heritage-open-day-tickets-628207133447>

'WINTER CLASSICS' FUNDRAISING CONCERT

This special event – with some very talented primary & high school performers plus a soprano and some gifted organists – will take place at Leigh Memorial on Sunday 20th August at 2.30pm. Tickets are on sale now, with 100% of proceeds going to Parramatta Mission's Winter Appeal.

Please support this wonderful event & pass the word! ... Link to buy tickets: https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert?_ga=2.241644170.927831356.1689549140-3705648.1688607006

*** SAVE THE DATE: CONGREGATION MEETING**

On **Sunday 24th September**, a Combined PCUC service, PCUC Congregation Meeting & Lunch will take place at Leigh Memorial from 10.00am.

*** SYNOD: 'TRANSFORMING SPIRIT'**

Please continue to pray for the preparatory phase of NSW/ACT Synod 2023, which will be held in Katoomba (**15 – 17 September, 2023**). The Synod website has further details.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Training in Safe Church Awareness is available at various workshops during the year and covers duty of care, child protection, protecting vulnerable people, understanding and responding to abuse including reporting, safe leadership, recruitment and supervision practices and relevant policies and procedures. The website contains extra information about the Safe Church program – plus a registrations link for anyone interested in attending a course:

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/shared-services/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/>

INCOMING MODERATOR – UNITING CHURCH SYNOD NSW/ACT



Rev Mata Havea Hiliau will be installed as Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT on 14 September from 7.00pm. All are invited to celebrate with Rev Hiliau at St Stephen's Uniting Church at 197 Macquarie Street, Sydney. "I want to invite you to my installation as your Moderator," says Rev. Hiliau. "Put it in your diaries, it will be in the heart of the city at St Stephens Uniting Church. I look forward to seeing you at my installation and also hope to see you at Synod 2023." The installation event will be livestreamed for those who can't make it in person.

About Rev Faaimata (Mata) Havea Hiliau: Mata has been elected as the next Moderator of the NSW and ACT Synod. The ongoing 2021 Synod meeting heard from the new Moderator Elect for the first time. Rev Havea Hiliau told the meeting she was, "deeply humbled and ever so grateful that I have been called by God...to be your Moderator Elect." "I thank you for your bold, courageous, risky, and prayerful decision" and paid tribute to her late parents, who she said worked to give her a better life in Australia. Mata is currently minister at Northern Beaches Uniting Church and will be the first person of Tongan descent to hold the Moderator role. She told the Synod meeting that she was a preacher and a 'storyteller' who "will continue to tell the story of Jesus Christ as Lord." She will serve as Moderator from 2023 and has previously pointed to reconciliation with Australia's first peoples and better resourcing churches as two of her priorities. This, she has said, is a matter of ensuring that we love our neighbours and ensure that they have what they need. "I will listen to the church and explore where the Wild God leads us." As well as moderating the Synod meeting every 18 months, the Moderator speaks on behalf of the Uniting Church and exercises pastoral leadership. The Church warmly thanks outgoing Moderator Rev Simon Hansford for his outstanding contributions and leadership, including during the highly challenging 'covid' period.

Westmead



Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

30th July 2023

10 am- Combined Worship Service

at Northmead Uniting Church, 3-7 Hammer's Road

(NO SERVICE TODAY AT WESTMEAD).

Today all are warmly invited to gather with the other members of the Parramatta City Uniting Church (PCUC) for a Combined Worship service at Northmead Uniting. We very much look forward to Reverend Geoff hosting the service for today.

Morning tea will be served following the service – please bring a plate if you are able.

Thank you to Northmead for hosting this prayerful day.

Last week Pastor Fil reflected on Jacob's dream of God, as he was fleeing after deceiving his blind father. There was uncertainty in his mind about his future, but God reassured him that He would always be with him. Fil reminded us that no matter where we are or where we go, God is with us. In our doubts and uncertainties because of our past actions, God does not abandon us, but walks with us. Thank you, Fil.

PRAYER CHAIN: For those who need prayer support.

Contact: Jan - 0418 438 901.



'WINTER CLASSICS' FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Organ & Strings Winter Classics Concert

Leigh Memorial, Parramatta, on Sunday 20th August at 2.30pm.

This special event will include some very talented primary & high school performers, plus a soprano and gifted organists.

All proceeds to go to Parramatta Mission's Winter Appeal.

Single tickets \$20; Family \$50 (2 adults and 2 children)

For booking details see the Newsletter or contact

Lorna, 0408 365 478.

Needing transport? - Fil will be driving the bus for those needing transport to attend the concert.

The bus will leave Westmead church at 2.00 pm sharp.



Wednesday, 30th August -

The next bus trip and Mystery Tour is currently being planned.

Sunday 24th September – 10.00 am at Leigh Memorial

There will be a Combined PCUC Service, followed by a Combined PCUC Meeting and Luncheon.

BIBLE STUDY: Meets each Monday, 2.00pm

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95043695512>

EVENING CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: Jon O'Brien

Contact: 0411 332 825

e-mail: jonmarkobrien@gmail.com

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

23-29

9 성령강림 주일 (9th Pentecost of Sunday) 2023년 7월 30일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 왕이신 나의 하나님 다함께

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 1장** **통 1장** 만복의 근원 하나님 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 38장 **통 00장** 예수 우리 왕이여

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 635 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **장세기 18:1-8**

말씀 (Preaching) — 전현구 담임목사 영접과 약속

봉헌 송 (Offertory Hymn) **새 538** **통 327** 죄짐을 지고서 곤하거든

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 시드니 조은교회에 오신 여러분을 주님의 이름으로 환영합니다.
3. '매일성경' 묵상과 '공동체성경읽기' 봉독으로 말씀을 적용하며 매일 주님과 동행하는 삶 살아가시길 바랍니다
4. 어려움을 겪는 이웃들을 위해 함께 중보기도 해주시길 바랍니다.
5. 하나님의 기쁨인 전도사명에 동참하시길 부탁드립니다.

폐회찬송 (Final Hymn) **새 501장** **통 255장** 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전 현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회: 오후 7시
예레미야 13:15-27

새벽기도회: 오전 6시
예레미야 12:7-15:9

PreachFest! 2023

Proclaiming the Inspirational and Transformational Word

1-3 NOVEMBER

- SYDNEY: St Stephen's Uniting Church
- MELBOURNE: Wesley Church
- ONLINE

PreachFest! is a 3-day festival focusing on the vocation of preaching. People from around Australia will gather to be inspired by experienced preachers and learn more about the craft from world-class teachers and theologians.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



AMY-JILL LEVINE

Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace University/Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Emory, Mary Jane Weisman Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, Vanderbilt University



STAN GRANT

Vice-Chancellor's Chair of Australian/Indigenous Belonging at Charles Sturt University

GUEST SPEAKERS



MEGAN POWELL DU TOIT



SALLY DOUGLAS



MICHAEL JENSEN



CHARISSA SULJ

Tickets are on sale now!
Visit Preachfest.org.au



Visit Preachfest.org.au
or scan the QR Code for
more information.



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT



Uniting Church in Australia
OFFICE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Leigh Fijian

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 30/07:** Na lotu ena macawa oqo na lotu cokovata ni PCUC kei na PNP. Na lotu cokovata ni PCUC ena qaravi tiko e Northmead Uniting Church ena 10am. Na lotu cokovata ni PNP ena qaravi tiko ena vale ni lotu e Berala Uniting Church ena 3pm.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 06/08:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na lotu ni vulavou ka na qaravi tale tiko ga kina na sakaremede ni Turaga. Na vei qaravi na soqosoqo ni tabagone. Ena vunau tiko kina ko Pastor Ofa Foiakau. Vunau vakarau Pastor Filikesa Kamotu.
- 3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 24/07 – 30/07:** Vakatekivu 29:15 - 28 Same 128, 105:1-11, 45 Roma 8:26 - 39 Maciu 13:31 - 33, 44 – 52
- 4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 31/07 – 06/08:** Vakatekivu 32:22-31 Same 17:1-7, 15 Roma 9:1-5 Maciu 14:13-21

Lolo kei Na masumasu - Veinanumi ena lolo kei na masumasu ena vei matai ni Vukelulu ena vei vula mai na 6am – 12pm se 6am – 6pm. Soli tu na galala ke o rawa ni qarava.

Veinanumi ena Masu : Kerei meda veinanumi tikoga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase kei na vuvale ra sotava tiko na dredre ko Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, Akisi Dovibua Baranski, Dia Allison. Ko ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodratou vei qaravi na Bula Feeding. Me nanumi na FNC ni tou na veiwaseitaka na vei qaravi kei na tolu na valelotu Cambridge town, St Mary kei Berala. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena vula ko Julai ni yabaki mai oqo 2024 e Stanwell Tops.

Gadrevi na noda veinanumi ena masu vei ira na lewe ni vavakoso era mai sasaga kei na nanumi talega ni nodra vuvale mai Viti.

Vavavinavinaka ena kena toso tiko na vei qaravi ni Bula Feeding.



Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for **Our Community**

- We give thanks that some small gatherings are starting to take place. We give thanks for welcoming cafes and the disciplines we have learnt to help keep us all safe.
- We give thanks for coffee, tea, muffins and spiritually encouraging conversations.

Westmead

- For those who are unwell, those undergoing medical treatment and those awaiting diagnoses of medical conditions – Father we pray for Your presence, comfort, and healing with these.
- For those who are homeless, those burdened by financial or emotional difficulties – We pray that You may send Your guidance and support through family, friends, and passers-by. May resources be shared.
- For those that are trapped in war zones, for those that are fighting – We pray for Your peace that passes all understanding, a peace where weapons are surrendered, and human plight considered.
- For the Voice in Parliament – Father we pray as the debates for yes and no heat up that we act fairly and form a solid path for reconciliation through Your guidance.
- We pray for those that are finding the harsh reality of death of loved ones causing loneliness and a questioning of the meaning of life – Lord may You provide warmth and meaning – may You send forth those that care and support, to these.
- For those that uphold law and order, for our governments, for teachers and medical staff, for those who work in support in any way – We pray for Your guidance in their work in that justice, knowledge, care and support be upheld.

Leigh Fijian

- We pray for those who are going through transitions from school to beyond.
- We pray for the Synod Pulse Team and Ofa's role as a newly commissioned Pastor in the Team, resourcing youth ministry across NSW/ACT.
- We pray for the guests at the Bula Feeding Ministry and Meals Plus and our wonderful volunteers. We pray for those who are unable to meet because of rain or storms and for those who have been sleeping rough.

Korean Faith Community

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for the revival of the church.
- We pray especially for Nak Su Baik, Kyeong Ok Hyeon (Those who are not in good health).

Prayer Points

Leigh Memorial

- We pray for members who are unwell, and those experiencing anxiety and grief.
- We prayerfully support those in our local communities who need additional care and support at this time, including people experiencing hunger, homelessness, addiction, family crisis and loneliness, in addition to those who assist them – such as devoted care-givers, nurses, doctors, community support teams and emergency workers;
- We pray for wisdom and inspiration to infuse all current and forthcoming decision-making processes and actions by our dedicated ministry team, leaders, managers and staff – and specifically pray for Paul and the team at Meals Plus, Cameron and the team at Westmead and for the life, witness and outreach work being conducted by our fellow Parramatta Mission & Parramatta City Uniting Church communities;
- We pray for greater mutual respect, compassion and peace throughout the world, and for the realisation of an international spirit of inclusion, acceptance and love for all people.

Wider Work

For our Parramatta City Uniting Church and Parramatta Mission teams

- May God guide all our staff, leaders, members and volunteers to live out our conjoined values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.
- We pray for the work, witness and service of Rev Geoff Smith, Rev Vladimir Korotkov, Rev John Barr, Pastor Fil Kamotu, Pastor Sarah Bishop, and Rev Hyun Goo.

Service & Zoom Information

Leigh Memorial

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site & Zoom

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

PCUC online service

<https://northmead.uca.org.au/>

Westmead

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site

Leigh Fijian

Time: Sundays 11.15am on site

Pastoral Contacts

Prayer Points may be sent to
wecare@parramattamission.org.au

For a conversation or to contact a Minister, please call
Parramatta Mission Reception (9am-3pm)
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
9891 2277

Leigh Memorial Church
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
9891 2277

Westmead Church
175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead NSW 2145
9891 2277

IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED

Please contact our ministry team with any pastoral needs

◇ Rev Geoff Smith (Lead Minister)	0407 416 377
◇ Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Supply Minister)	0431 759 573
◇ Rev John Barr (Supply Minister)	0400 694 540
◇ Pastor Fil Kamotu	0404 552 915

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THESE PEOPLE FOR PASTORAL ISSUES

Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith Community)	0433 320 588
Pr Sarah Bishop (Children's Hospital)	0429 912 943
Anare Vocea (Fijian Vakatawa)	0432 772 852



Parramatta Mission



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Visit our website and blog www.parramattamission.org.au