

OUR NEWS

20 August 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

Weekly Reflection Pentecost 12A, 2023

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Is It Good News Yet?

Debie Thomas

... as Christians, we are called to be bearers of Good News. In every situation, no matter how terrible or seemingly hopeless, we are called to hold out the life-giving, death-defying, world-changing promise of the Gospel. The promise that a



good and loving God is even now leaning towards us with love and mercy and justice and healing. The promise that God's saving, reconciling, liberating power is available for all people, in all places, at all times.

This is the message we're called to proclaim and enact as Christians. But let's face it — the calling is not an easy one. The universality of God's love and compassion is easy to profess in the abstract. But in real life? In our actual everyday circumstances? When God's generosity chafes against our own fears and prejudices and suspicions and doubts? As soon as the rubber hits the road, the calling becomes much, much harder. So much harder that we find ourselves hoarding the Good News, instead of giving it away.

Perhaps this week's Gospel story — disturbing as it is — will offer us some comfort. As it turns out, even Jesus, the Son of God, struggled with this radical calling. Even Jesus had to grow his way into a comprehensive, all-inclusive understanding of God's generosity.

If this shocks you, then maybe you grew up, as I did, with Perfect Jesus. "Perfect Jesus" was technically human, but his incarnation fell several steps short of actual human-ness. He never messed up, never doubted, never backtracked, and never had to say he was sorry. He always had perfect reasons for saying the things he said and doing the things he did. So, if he happened, for example, to speak with harshness rather than compassion? If he behaved in ways that were ethnocentric and rude? If he called a hurting, pleading woman a dog? Well, he had "perfect" reasons for doing so.

The problem with "Perfect Jesus," of course, is that he doesn't exist. The Jesus who appears in the Gospels is not half-incarnate. He is as fully human as he is fully God. Which is to say, he struggles, he snaps, he discovers, he grows, he

falters, he learns, he fears, and he overcomes. He's real, he's approachable, and he's authentically one of us. The "Good News" is not that we serve a shiny, inaccessible deity who floats twenty feet above the ground. It is that Jesus shows us — in real time, in the flesh — what it means to grow as a child of God. He embodies what it looks like to stretch into a deeper, truer, and fuller comprehension of God's Good News. In the story of Jesus and the Canaanite woman, the Son of God himself must face his own blind spots, his own rudeness, his own prejudice, and allow himself to be opened to the full, glorious, and uncomfortable implications of the Gospel.

As Matthew describes the scene, Jesus and his disciples are far from home, in the region of Tyre and Sidon. In other words, they are in Gentile country. Foreign country. "Other" country.

As Jesus and his friends go about their business, a Canaanite woman approaches them and starts shouting: "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

Anyone needing to uphold a "Perfect Jesus" has to perform some serious theological gymnastics to justify what happens next, because it's both baffling and heartbreaking. Jesus definitely hears the woman's cry, but doesn't answer her at all. He ignores her.

The woman, however, is tenacious. She loves her daughter, she needs help, and she's not afraid to make a scene. She keeps shouting until the disciples ask Jesus to please "send her away" for being such a nuisance. Finally Jesus looks at her and explains: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Still, the woman is undeterred. She falls to her knees and says, "Lord, help me." Jesus doesn't help. Instead, he answers her with words that cut no matter how hard we try to soften them: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Are there ways around the awfulness of this moment? Maybe. Maybe Jesus is tired, and wants a break from the relentless demands of ministry. Maybe he's fed up with people begging him for gifts and favors. Maybe he's simply describing the reality of his mission: the healing he offers is for the children of Israel first. Maybe his ethnic slur is just a test, a deliberate provocation to prove the woman's devotion.

These are all possibilities, but I don't think they do justice to the power of this story. What makes sense to me is that the Jesus we encounter in this moment is fully human — a product of his time and place, shaped as we all are by the

conscious and unconscious biases, prejudices, and entitlements of his culture. Moreover, he is God incarnate, a holy Son still working out the scope and meaning of the divine vocation his Father has given him. He knows he's meant to share the Good News. But he has not yet learned to ask if the Good News is really and truly Good News for everyone. He hasn't yet considered who it leaves out. Even Jesus has to learn how radically good the Good News is.

So the Canaanite woman schools him. Turning his slur right back at the man who insults her, she replies, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

It's a brilliant response, not least because it cuts to the very heart of Jesus's boundary-breaking, taboo-busting, division-destroying ministry of table fellowship. After all, he's the Messiah who eats with tax collectors and prostitutes. He's the rabbi who breaks bread with sinners. His disciples are the ones who earn the Pharisees' contempt for eating with unwashed hands. The table is precisely where Jesus shows the world who God is.

And so the table is precisely where the outsider, the Gentile, the outcast, the "Other," calls Jesus out. As if to say, "Lord, where's my Good News? Where's my place at the table? When will your goodness be good enough for me and for my daughter?"

Whenever I imagine this scene in my mind, I hear at least a full moment of stunned silence in the wake of the Canaanite woman's words. I imagine the implications of her words ricocheting through Jesus's mind and heart: If you are who you say you are, how can you be content while anyone goes hungry in the vicinity of your table? The good news is here somewhere, latent and waiting. I know it's here; you already have it. Now let it come to fruition. Look harder. Push further. See better. Believe that there's enough Good News to go around. Expand the circle. Dissolve the boundaries. Widen the table. Preach your Good News to me." Here's the best part of letting "Perfect Jesus" go, and letting Real Jesus win our hearts instead: Real Jesus accepts the instruction of the woman who challenges him. He allows her — the ethnic, religious, and gendered Other — to school him in his own Gospel. To deconstruct his bias and entitlement. To break the barrier of his prejudice, and widen the circle of his compassion. The Jesus who never loses a verbal contest with anyone else in Scripture sits back in amazement and concedes the argument to an audacious, female foreigner: "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter is healed instantly.

Jesus changes. He allows a perspective foreign to his own to move him from an attitude of narrow-mindedness to an attitude of inclusion. He allows himself to be humbled, rearranged, and remade. Barbara Brown Taylor describes the moment this way: "You can almost hear the huge wheel of history turning as Jesus comes to a new understanding of who he is and what he has been called to do." The Canaanite woman's faith and persistence teach him that God's purpose for him "is bigger than he had imagined, that there is enough of him to go around." What would it be like to follow in the footsteps of a Jesus who listens to the urgent challenge of the Other? Who humbles himself long enough to learn what only a vulnerable outsider can teach? What would it be like to stop limiting who we will be for other people, and who we will let them be for us? What would it be like to insist on Good News for people who don't look, speak, behave, or worship like we do?

Right now, we are living through times so fraught and so tenuous, everything depends on exactly how good the Good News really is. It's not good enough if it's good just for me, or for the people who look and think like me, or for the people I already happen to like and love. Is it Good News yet for those dying of Covid? Is it Good News yet for the starving and the incarcerated and the unemployed and the homeless? Is it Good News yet for the people across the border? Is it Good News yet for the people you've been conditioned all your life to ignore?

If the answer is no, then we have work to do. Remember, Jesus himself has gone ahead of us, widening the gates and throwing open the doors to welcome the voice of a despised foreigner. He has modeled a kind of listening and learning that should bring us to our knees. He has shown us that compassion can be cultivated; we can grow into greater and more inclusive love. He has left us with a bottom line we ignore at our peril: If it's not Good News for everyone, then it's not good enough yet. Period. Proclaim that.

Notice of congregational meeting - 24 September 2023

On 24 September 2023 there will be a PCUC combined service at Leigh Memorial commencing at 10am, to be followed by a congregational meeting and lunch. The purpose of the congregational meeting is for members and members-in-association to:

- Appoint a congregation chairperson (or two co-chairs) and secretary
- Elect up to 20 elders (who we will call “leaders”)
- Elect up to 6 church councillors
- Approve a charter for the new PCUC Council.

A nomination form is included in this newsletter. If you wish to nominate yourself, or another person (with their consent), as a leader and/or a church councillor you may hand a completed nomination form to Fiona Bennetts, Robert Key or David Norris at Leigh Memorial, Sosi Toa as Leigh Fijian, Stuart Elliott or Ken Murray at Northmead or Jan Robson at Westmead. Both you, and the person nominated, need to be a member or member-in-association of PCUC.

You may alternatively send a nomination by email to the meeting’s returning officer, Robert Key, at robert.key@parramattamission.org.au.

Nominations must be submitted by 3 September 2023 and a list of nominees will be made available to the congregation by 10 September 2023.

We encourage you to discuss this opportunity with people you think would be suitable for these roles, and encourage them to nominate, or to accept your nomination of them.

Leader

The role of a leader (also known as an elder) is to assist ministers in nurturing members of the congregation, to help plan and take part in services and other

activities of the congregation, and to participate in meetings of the Congregation Leadership Team, which exercises delegated responsibilities from the PCUC Council in relation to congregational and pastoral matters. It is recognised that leaders will have a range of different skills and gifts they may bring to the role.

Church councillor

The Church Council is the primary governance body of PCUC. It has responsibility for financial and property matters, and general oversight of PCUC. Thus, church councillors might be expected to have gifts or skills in relation to financial, management, legal, property, business or related matters, or generally have good analytical skills.

More detailed role descriptions, and a copy of the draft PCUC Council charter, are attached to email versions of this notice, and will be available at all worship services until 3 September 2023.

Chairpersons and Secretary of congregation

Slightly different procedures will apply to the appointment of Chairperson/s and Secretary of the Congregation. The PCUC Council and Congregation Leadership Team have proposed Stuart Elliott and Bruce Bennetts to be co-chairs and Liz de Reland to be Secretary, for a period of 12 months. Other nominations will be invited at the meeting but there is no requirement to lodge nominations prior to the meeting.

As with the election of leader and church councillor, the appointment to these roles will require an affirmative majority vote by the congregation.

PCUC Congregational meeting - Nomination Form

I , hereby nominate myself/.....

to be (tick either or both):

☐ a leader of the congregation

☐ a member of the PCUC Council

for a period of 12 months from today.

Signed:

your contact telephone number and/or email:

Note:

1. Both the nominee and the person nominated must be a member or member-in-association of Parramatta City Uniting Church;
2. If you are nominating another person, that person must have consented to being nominated for the relevant role/s

WINTER CLASSICS CONCERT!



Join us to hear 15 wonderful performers!

All proceeds to Parramatta Mission.



Young violinists and a wonderful group of organists and other performers, Including accomplished New Zealand-born soprano Amber Johnson and renown musician Fiona Loader (both pictured), will be part of our **Winter Classics Concert** – a very special musical experience taking place at Leigh Memorial Church on **Sunday 20th August @ 2.30pm**. Advance ticket bookings are preferred but **limited tickets will be available at the door (\$20 pp)**.

Please arrive no later than 2.15pm.

Enquiries: LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

Link to buy tickets in advance:

[https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert?
_ga=2.241644170.927831356.1689549140-3705648.1688607006](https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert?_ga=2.241644170.927831356.1689549140-3705648.1688607006)

Leigh Memorial

WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!

We look forward to seeing you at Leigh Memorial this **Sunday 20th August at 9.30am**, with **Bruce Bennetts** providing the reflection. All welcome.

PASTORAL NEWS

Our warmest prayers remain with all those in our worship community who are unwell, in hospital, receiving treatment, grieving or facing other significant challenges at this time. We are glad to hear that Ruth is heading home – and pray for Mae as she faces further surgery this week. Details for the ministry team are in the newsletter. Congregation queries: LeighMemorialUniing@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

“Happy Birthday” to Anne K who is having a special birthday this week. Wishing you a wonderful day Anne and thanks for your ongoing contributions to our Leigh Memorial worship community. Birthday wishes also for Ann E’s Mum, Madge, who is turning 100 this week and has already received her birthday message from King Charles. Blessings Madge on your special milestone!

THIS SUNDAY...‘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 this Sunday 20th August at 2.30pm. 100% of the proceeds are going to Parramatta Mission. Please join us in supporting this event & pass the word! Extra tickets will be available at the door. Enquiries: Liz or Robert.

“THANK YOU” CONCERT TEAM

This weekend’s concert would not have been possible without the dedicated team of people involved in the planning since way back in February – and the 15 talented musicians who have spent numerous hours rehearsing. We sincerely thank the **Sydney Organs Group**, led by John and Graeme, plus Sagar (Conductor), the children’s violin octet (primarily from Hunters Hill Public School) and all the other performers (organ + soprano) for their generosity and skill. We also extend our thanks to **Parramatta Mission staff** - Jenny, Davyn and Paul – and to the whole **PCUC Congregation Event Team**: Alan, Sally, Jane, Liz, Mario, Callum, Stuart H, Lal & wife Liz, Ken Murray, Fiona, Bruce, Jan D, Robert, Helen, plus Leigh Fijian members and all our other volunteers. Special thanks to Alan for his assistance to the organ team, Stuart H for his tech support and Ken Morgan for his generous creative contributions. Everyone’s combined efforts have made a difference & we appreciate it!

LEIGH MEMORIAL CHURCH – ARRANGEMENTS, 19 & 20 August

Please note that due to the fundraising concert taking place this weekend and related bookings, the church will only be used for worship services on Sunday (ie. Leigh Memorial @ 9.30am & Leigh Fijian @ 11.15am, with the Korean

congregation planning to worship off-site on the 20th). Otherwise, the church is booked for use by Parramatta Mission, the Sydney Organs Group concert performers and our Event Team across the whole two days. The car park will also need to be cleared of all non-essential/ authorised vehicles by 1.00pm on Sunday. Enquiries: Liz or Robert.

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. At the meeting, voting will take place for members of the Leaders' team & PCUC Council. Please check the newsletter for further information.



Jazz on Hammers will not be on as advertised this Sunday August 20, 6pm at Northmead

It will instead be on the following Sunday August 27 at the same time of 6pm.

Foster your faith this week

Gn 45:1-15

Ps 133

Rom 11:1-2a,
29-32

Mt 15: (10-20),
21-28

Westmead



Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 20th August 2023, 09.30am

This Sunday, we welcome Pastor Fil again for his second session with us – thank you Fil and we look forward to hearing from you.

Last Sunday, Pastor Fil reflected on the Bible story of storms hitting the disciple's boat in mid sea, seeing Jesus walking on water, being scared and asking for confirmation – Peter gets out and begins to walk on water and then sees the enormity of the storm around him and as he does that, he begins to sink. Jesus reaches out and saves him. Jesus is "like a lighthouse". "Many stormy encounters and challenges of faith happen in life - Mark 9: 24 I do believe but help me overcome my unbelief". We are encouraged to face the challenging journey be it of family, PCUC working together, Life or whatever". "Keep your eyes focussed on Jesus when you start to "see" the storms in your life – You will receive Jesus' saving hand when you walk through storms - Matthew 28:20 And surely I am with you to the very end of age". Thank you, Fil for your encouragement.

Prayer chain keeps those in special need of prayer upheld – we also pray that for all in the congregation who have silent requests that God hears them granting peace, healing, and love. Please feel free to contact Jan for any prayer requests.

Please read the Newsletter for full coverage of upcoming events –

12-14th September: Pilgrims of The Planet with speakers on coming to terms with climate change, to be held at the Centre For Ministry North Parramatta.

Saturday 16th September: Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

Are you interested in meeting God in unexpected places?

Information Afternoon at Blacktown Uniting Church,
2.30-4.30pm with afternoon tea.

THIS SUNDAY – Sunday 20th August, at 2.30pm
(We are asked to arrive no later than 2.15pm)

**THE WINTER CLASSICS FUNDRAISING CONCERT WILL BE HELD
AT LEIGH MEMORIAL PARRAMATTA.**



This is a special event with some very talented primary and high school performers, plus a soprano and gifted organists. Tickets are still available, transport available if required. Single tickets \$20; Family \$50 (2 adults and 2 children).

If you would like to attend the concert see or contact Lorna on 0408 365 478

**100% of your ticket proceeds will go to
Parramatta Mission's Winter Appeal.**



**The next MYSTERY BUS TOUR is being planned for
Wednesday 30th August.**



**COMBINED CONGREGATION SERVICE/MEETING
Sunday 24th September, 2023**

A combined PCUC Service, PCUC Congregation Meeting and Lunch will take place at Leigh Memorial from 10.00am. Transport will be available to/from Leigh Memorial Church if required.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Leaders are being asked to attend training or refresher course of Safe Church Awareness. Various workshops are available during the year.

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/>

BIBLE STUDY: Meets each Monday, 2.00pm

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

1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 20/08: Na lotu ena macawa oqo na veisau vunau na PNP. Ratou na gole tiko mai na valelotu mai Campbelltown. Vunau lesi St Mary Rev Samu Sadrata. Tali mata siga #1

2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 27/08: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau kei Fiji Parish. Vunau lesi Canterbury Senitiki Qata kei Isikeli Duwai. Vunau Vakarau nai vakatawa Anare Vocea kei Serupepeli Nagatalevu. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki matamasumasu #2. Tali matasiga #3

3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo: 14/08 – 20/08: Vakatekivu 45:1-15 Same 133 Roma 11:1-2, 29-32 Maciu 15:10-20, 21-28

4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 21/08 – 27/08: Lako Yani: 1:8, 2:10 Same: 124 Roma:12:1-8 Maciu: 16:13-20

Nai ka tolu ni siga ni vula ko Sepiteba (3/09). Na sigatabu ni tama kei na 31st ni vakamanumi ni lotu vakaviti e Parramatta.

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 Campbelltown, St Mary kei Berala. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena vula ko Jiulai 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.

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church		23-32
12 성령강림 주일 (12th Pentecost of Sunday) 2023년 8월 20일 오후 1시30분		
개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn)	왕이신 나의 하나님	다함께
예배의 부름 (Calling)		인도자
송영 (Gloria) 새 1 장 통 1 장	만복의 근원 하나님	다함께
사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed)		다함께
찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns)		다함께
새 44 장 통 56 장	지난 이데 동안에	
기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 635	하늘에 계신 우리 아버지	다함께
성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading)	마가복음 6:30-32	
말씀(Preaching)—— 전현구 담임목사	좁 쉬어라	
봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)	새 419 통 478	주 날개 밑 내가 편안히
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 해주시기 바랍니다. 5. 하나님의 기쁨인 전도사명에 동참하시길 부탁드립니다.		
폐회찬송(Final Hymn)	새501장 통 255장	너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)
축도	전 현구 담임목사	
QT나눔 & 성경공부 오후4:00	수요기도회: 오후 7시 예레미야 24:1-10	새벽기도회 : 오전 6시 예레미야 23:9-25:38



Homelessness Week At MEALS PLUS



Oh what a week! Last week, 7 Aug - 13 Aug was Homelessness Week and the theme for this year was "It's time to end homelessness".

Quite appropriate considering the week we had with our Community. A week filled with care, support and love from our friends, community members, and local businesses.

Day 1: We handed out 250+ hampers with the help of Bryan and the amazing members of the Hillsong Church.

Day 2: We kept 's covered and cozy with our 's and 's giveaway!

Day 3: Was iconic! We had an amazing HUB Day that was held outdoors whilst the awesome team from HSBC led by Antony Shaw and his team put on a barbie and ensured all stomachs were full. Shoutout to all the services that came by and helped offer the much-required support. Special mention to our State Member for Parramatta Donna Davis

Day 4: We handed out blankets to keep our friends warm and had another special visit all the way from the Caribbeans! Sister Stephnora helped attend and serve lunch today along with our amazing volunteers

Day 5: On the last day of service, we held our Annual Memorial Day where we took the opportunity to pause and remember all our friends who have journeyed with us. As Geoff rightly said, "No one deserves to be forgotten"

Words will never be enough to share how grateful and appreciative we are for the support from our Community. Whether you've supported financially, in-kind or just being present - it all matters, and for that we say Thank You!

End Street Sleeping Collaboration, City of Parramatta, Uniting Uniting NDIS local area transition office, Centrelink, Revenue NSW, Street Side Medics, NSW Health Liver Bus (WSLHD), Link2Home, Vinnies Drug & Alcohol Support, NSW Government (Housing), Rapid Relief Team Ltd (RRT) Australia, Western-Sydney-Tenants-Service (WESTS), Head To Health, Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care, Christians Against Poverty, Pathways Community Church.





INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE AT KNOX

Actions for peace: Our ambition for the #GlobalGoals

This year's theme is a call to action that recognises our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Religious leaders from Aboriginal, Bahai, Brahmakumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Mandaean, Sikh, Sufi and Zoroastrian communities will be in attendance. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this local interfaith prayer service.

We will commemorate the day with an interfaith prayer service and keynote from guest speaker Rev Simon Hansford, Moderator of the Uniting Church (NSW ACT). A light vegetarian lunch will be provided after the service.

When: 21 September 2023, 11am

Where: Knox Cultural Centre (KCC) auditorium, Knox Grammar School
The KCC is in close proximity to Warrawee train station

RSVP: Rev Dr Manas Ghosh at revmanasghosh@gmail.com or phone +61 429 892 548



PILGRIMS OF THE PLANET

Coming to terms with Climate Change and the shift to the Anthropocene.

12-14 September 2023 | Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta

Dear friends,

We have excellent speakers and presentation topics for the upcoming conference: *Pilgrims with the Planet*, 12-14 September at the Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta. See the [attached poster](#) and please share it around.

The aim of this conference is to engage the discourse of the "Anthropocene" in order to explore what theology – broadly conceived – might add to what must be a multidisciplinary discussion.

Along with keynote Ernst Conradie, other speakers include:

- **Gerald West** – biblical scholarship and social engagement in South Africa (and beyond)
- **Vicky Balabanski** – Earth Bible Project and Principal at the UCA college in Adelaide
- **Clive Hamilton** – Australian public intellectual & former Climate Council member

We'd love to see you for one session or the whole event. Register [here](#)! Please contact us at StudentA@nswact.uca.org.au if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Rev Dr Peter Walker BA (Hons) BTh PhD
Principal | United Theological College
Director of Education | Uniting Church NSW & ACT

REGISTER HERE



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

Are you interested in joining God in unexpected places?



Information Afternoon
Saturday 16th September at 2.30pm–4.30pm
Blacktown Uniting Church

59 Bungaribee Road Blacktown NSW 2148

Afternoon Tea Included

Please RSVP to kidillwyniasec@kairos.org.au

or phone Yvonne on 0419 284 128

Come and hear about how God is using Kairos prison ministry to change the lives of those who are in prison and the families and friends of those who are impacted by their imprisonment. Come and find out how you can be involved!



Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

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 Rikili 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 Nungalinga 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
Nungalinga 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

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta City Uniting Church and Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for our Community.

Westmead

- Those who are struggling with health, ongoing medical treatment and those awaiting diagnosis – We uphold these and their families in prayer asking for Your favour in healing and correct treatment.
- For the victims, families and the community affected by the deadly fires in Maui – We ask for Your peace and strength to arrive in rebuilding and rehabilitation of the community.
- For the continued war in Ukraine, the livelihood of the residents and those that must go on despite losing loved ones - Lord, grant that peace may arrive and that the desire to overtake may subside. Let Your care fall on those that are devastated on both sides.
- For those who are struggling with homelessness due to finances, unemployment, mental health or family – May You through love of others cause the correct type of support to reach and address each one.
- For countries and people suffering famine and hunger, for drought ridden areas that cause loss of crops- We pray for aid to arrive and for the droughts to break.
- Our prayer for Climate Change is that You help us each day to become aware of the situation everywhere and for governments to address and manage the use of resources wisely.

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, 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



@parramission



Parramatta Mission

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