

OUR NEWS

8th October 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 19A, 2023

Matthew 21:33-46

*Learning and celebrating the
life of God in the vineyard
for everyone!*

William Loader

This is part two of Jesus' response in parables to being asked about his authority (21:23-27).



Last week we considered the first parable which confronted the Pharisees with their rejection of John the Baptist (21:28-32). This week we look at Matthew's use of the parable which he originally found in Mark 12:1-12 as the sole parable which formed part of the response. There are a few slight revisions which in part adjust the parable to align it more closely with the story of Jesus and his rejection. Instead of a series of individual messengers, as in Mark, Matthew reduces the parable to just three movements: two sets of servants (in the plural), followed by the son. This better fits the notion that Jesus stands in succession to the prophets (maybe to the Law and the Prophets). The image of Jesus as prophet is introduced explicitly in 21:45. This also helps the alignment with John who is also a prophet. The crowds have been thinking of Jesus as a prophet (21:11, 45). The hearers of Matthew's gospel know that he is much more than that; he is, as the parable implies, God's son. Matthew also tinkers with the detail about the killing of the son. Mark says he was killed and then thrown out of the vineyard. Matthew reverses this order to make it match Jesus' execution outside the city. Matthew's version expands Mark's statement that the vineyard is to be given to others (Mark 12:9). Matthew adds: 'who will produce the fruit in its seasons', in case anyone missed the point about producing fruit, a favourite image for Matthew and central to both John's and Jesus' message (see 7:15-20; 3:10). He also repeats these implications in 21:43, stating that the kingdom of God will be taken away from the chief priests and elders (in 21:45, 'the Pharisees') and 'given to a people producing fruit from it'. The word, here, for people could suggest a Gentile people, although this is unlikely. It certainly means an alternative people. This 'people' will replace the chief priests and elders.

Mark's version of the story stands more directly in connection with the challenge to Jesus' authority, which, in turn, relates more directly to Jesus' action in the temple and the cursing of the fig tree which represents its destruction. For Mark a community which prays will replace the temple (11:23-26; see also 14:58). Here it will be built upon the foundation stone of Christ (12:10-12).

Matthew's focus is not a new temple, but certainly a new people or new leadership. To some extent the issue of leadership is central in both Mark's and Matthew's version of the parable.

The parable's image of the vineyard is drawn from the famous song of the vineyard in Isaiah 5. There are subtle distinctions however. There the vineyard is Israel and the vineyard is blamed and destroyed for being unfruitful. In Jesus' parable the problem is not the vineyard, but those responsible for tending it, those in charge. That was also the problem with the temple. After all, the institution itself was based on scripture, indeed divine command, which is why Matthew especially wants to avoid any suggestion it is something of lesser value (just 'made with human hands', as Mark will say in 14:58). So the conflict is over who should run it, or, more broadly, who has responsibility for the kingdom. In an extraordinary statement Matthew has Jesus declare that the kingdom will be taken away from the Pharisees. That implies that in Matthew's view it was indeed in their hands. 23:13 implies much the same thing! They had failed and so now it passes into the hands of 'others'.

This is a claim to leadership of Israel and its religious tradition. Who is making the claim? One might expect Matthew and the Christian scribal leaders associated with him, but that is not what the text says. It declares that now a 'people' replaces Israel's leaders and carries responsibility for enabling Israel to bear fruit. It is not a new group of leaders but a community, the church, which is making this claim. It will now hold the keys of the kingdom. It will now carry responsibility for tending the vineyard. There is a new head of the corner. The rejected stone and his people will assume leadership. This is both a claim and a threat: large stones sometimes fall on people and crush them - so 21:44, a foretaste of what follows in the third parable.

The parable is immediately relevant for Matthew and his community because they have been struggling (without success) to position themselves as leaders of Israel's faith and are being increasingly driven to the margins by resurgent Pharisaism. Our connections with the parable are more oblique because our situation is different. We might, in more reflective mood, contemplate the image of fruitfulness as an image of the community, the congregation.

We might reflect on the continuing challenge that we can be busy producing many things other than the fruit which God seeks. We might reflect on our much more subtle ways of beating up God's messengers who call us to become involved in the issues of the day. Loving is a challenge we often savage or sabotage, whether at a personal or a community level.

Interestingly the responsibility is no longer, for Matthew, placed on a select group of leaders but on a community. While that may have reflected a power struggle in Judaism of the 80s, there is a sense in which something of great insight remains. The church is a community and as a community carries the mandate of nurturing and caring for the vineyard. It is another way of defining the church's identity in terms of love. It is also a pattern of thought open to the kind of abusive developments which Matthew attacked in the temple leadership and history finds repeated all too often in the church. Despite what would happen in history Matthew is not abandoning Israel because of such abuses. All this should make it impossible for the church to be smug and superior. The divine part about the church is that we are in the place where we can learn and celebrate the life of God in the vineyard.

Foster your faith this week

**Ex 20:1-4,7-9,
12-20**

Ps 19

Phil 3:4b-14

Mt 21:33-46

MISSION FROM THE INSIDE

Our lives and communities mutually transformed

ALL PCUC MEMBERS ARE INVITED

**To engage in a key mission process
To learn about each community
in which our churches are situated**

The Process: We will learn through an action-reflection process

- Meeting people from the community and listening to their stories
- Walking in the community and observing what is happening
- Visiting institutions and hearing stories
- Reflecting on where God is in this, & what transforming mission means

Where and When

1. Westmead community: Sunday Oct 22, 11am-1pm @ Westmead Uniting
2. Parramatta city: Wednesday Nov 1, 7-9pm @ Leigh Memorial
3. Northmead community: Wednesday Nov 8, 7-9pm @ Northmead Uniting
4. North Parramatta community: Saturday 18 Nov, 10-12 @ Centenary Uniting

All events will include a shared meal

Please indicate attendance with Vladimir: vladimirk1@hotmail.com

Enquiries-Geoff Smith, 0407 416 377; Vladimir, 0431 759 573

**A VSAG MISSION INITIATIVE
A PCUC & PN Presbytery Partnership**

Leigh Memorial

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We look forward to seeing everyone at Leigh Memorial this **Sunday, 8 October @ 9.30am** with **Rev Vladimir Korotkov** (Onsite + Zoom). All welcome.

PASTORAL NEWS

Our warmest prayers remain with all those in our worship community who are unwell, grieving or facing other challenges at this time. Anand has contacted us to say hello – and to send his appreciation to everyone who greeted him so warmly on his return to Leigh Memorial a couple of weeks ago. Anand has recently graduated with his Bachelor of Theology from Pilgrim College in Melbourne and will soon commence his Period of Discernment. Please pray for Anand as he continues on his journey of faith. NB: Those seeking support will find details for the PCUC ministry team in our weekly newsletters.

PCUC: 'SAVE THE DATES....'

Saturday 7 October – Combined Leaders Team (CLT) meeting @ Centenary, 10.00am.

Saturday 28 October – Working Bee no. 2 @ Centenary UC from 9.00am.

Sunday 29 October – Combined PCUC service: 10.00am @ Parramatta Park + Lunch.

Saturday 4 November – Combined Leaders Team (CLT) meeting @ Centenary, 10.00am.

Saturday 11 November – 'Vision' gathering @ Centenary UC from 9.00am.

Friday 1 December – Carols & Sausage Sizzle, Hills Special School Christmas event (pm).

UCA YOUTH CAMP

The PCUC is sponsoring a group of youths from the Leigh Fijian Worship Community to attend the Uniting Church High School Camp (UYC23) at the Collaroy Centre this week. All the best to this wonderful group of young people!

FREE BOOKS

Some leftover books & other items from our recent fundraising stall are now available for free in the Leigh Memorial vestibule, along with some excess heritage books.

SECURITY & SAFETY ISSUES

Members of all worshipping communities using the church are reminded to lock up and switch off the PA equipment, lights, and appliances - plus tidy-up/dispose of rubbish etc before leaving the building. Members are also reminded to be mindful of their personal safety when onsite and the safety of children and vulnerable people in our very busy church car park. Please drive and park safely.



ELLANGOWAN ARTICLE

During the week, the PM/PCUC Heritage Committee released an updated article on **'Ellangowan' (153 George Street, Parramatta)** – an historic property (1886) beside the Parramatta River which was owned by Parramatta Mission for nearly 50 years until its recent sale to the Greek Orthodox Church. Earlier owners of the house were pioneer Presbyterian Andrew Murray and his descendants, and Sydney's Church of England Diocese (for use by Tara Anglican School for Girls). Ellangowan was the headquarters of Lifeline Parramatta, which commenced in 1974 – with the site also housing 'Leigh Lodge,' a co-ed youth hostel. Rev Dr Gloster 'Doc' Udy (pictured) was the venture's initiator and the first Director of Lifeline in Sydney's West. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of 'Lifeline Macarthur and Western Sydney' (which began as Lifeline Parramatta). NB: Free copies of the Ellangowan article will be available shortly in the Leigh Memorial vestibule, with pdfs also available from Liz on request.



Come together on Sunday to show your support for Yes



This weekend marks one week until the Referendum. Join us on Sunday October 8, to come together for one final push!

Join us on Sunday in Western Sydney, to show your support for recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution through a Voice to Parliament.

You'll have the chance to hear from key multi-faith leaders and Yes advocates. Spread the word and bring your family and friends along for our final push.

Date: This Sunday, October 8.

Time: 12-2pm.

Where: Parramatta Square, Parramatta.

[Register here to keep up to date with the latest event details.](#)

What to bring:

- Wear your Yes shirt
- Homemade Yes signs
- Water bottle, sunscreen, hat
- Friends, family, neighbours!

Can't wait to see you there,

Yes23

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 8th October – 09.30am

We look forward to fellowship with all who will be attending today. For any that would like to attend or any that drop by, you are very welcome.

Our Holy Communion service for the beginning of the new month, was led by Pastor Fil last Sunday - Fil reflected on Exodus 17:1-7. He especially notes that there was a question in the passage directed to God: "Is the Lord amongst us or not?" Many times in life, we have to turn away from our comfort zones and the familiarity with which we are used to, and we have to walk a new path. There are no guideposts, but we must ask and then trust the Lord in the "wilderness of Life", keep hope and walk on. Thank you, Fil for your message.

A very Happy Birthday to Margaret who is celebrating her birthday this month! For anyone else who shares an October birthday – "Many Happy Returns".

Please note that the meditation session led by Jon O'Brien on a Tuesday evening, is still ongoing. For session times please contact Lorna.

As the temperature climbs, we pray for the bushfires that are burning to die down – we also pray for all the emergency personnel who risk their lives fighting to control blazes. We pray for enough rain in the right areas to dampen the ground.

Bible Study Monday Afternoons All Welcome.

Meets 2pm via Zoom

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

19 성령강림 주일 (19th Pentecost of Sunday) 2023년 10월 8일 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 15 장 통 55 장 하나님의 큰신 사랑

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 635 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 요한복음 8:31-38

말씀(Preaching)----- 전현구 담임목사 진리와 자유

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) 새 310 통 410 아 하나님의 은혜로

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
영광기 상 15:1-8

새벽기도회: 오전 6시
왕상 14:1-16:14

Leigh Fijian

1. **Lotu ena macawa oqo 08/10:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na vunau tiko kina ko Talatala Samu Sadrata. Vunau vakarau Emosi Rogoimuri kei Siaki Foiakau. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki matamasumasu naba 3.
2. **Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 15/10:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau kei na PNP. Vunau lesi Josefa Foiakau kei tuirara Emosi Rogoimuri. Vunau vakarau Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki wasewase naba 2. Veiqaravi ena tali wasewase naba 1.
3. **Lesoni ni macawa oqo 02/10 – 08/10** Lako Yani 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Same 19 Filipai 3:4-14 Maciu 21:33-46
4. **Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 09/10 – 15/10** Lako Yani 32:1-14 Same 106:1-6, 19-23 Filipai 4:1-9 Maciu 22:1-14

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 veiqaravi na Bula Feeding. Me nanumi na FNC ni tou na veiwaseitaka na veiqaravi kei na tolu na valelotu Cambelltown, St Mary kei Beralā. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena vula ko Jiulai ni yabaki mai oqo 2024 e Stanwell Top.

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

Shalom. Leigh Fijian women's group Israel tour 2023.
Mount Tabor. Mount of Transfiguration



Dinner in Galilee



Prayer at the Western Wall



Nazareth Village



PASIFIKA

EMPOWERED 2023

A Community Event for Climate Justice and Cost of Living

With
CHRIS BOWEN
Minister for
Climate Change
and Energy



Saturday, **7th** October
Nexus Meeting Room
Pullman Hotel

9 OLYMPIC BOULEVARD
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

NEW LOCATION!



REGISTER NOW



1pm - 4pm | Followed by Fiji Day celebrations nearby!



UCAN
UNITING CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK



Uniting Church
BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE

Uniting

Can you come to our Pasifika rally on climate with Minister Chris Bowen- Pasifika Empowered 2023?

Uniting Church members are invited to support their Pasifika brothers and sisters in a climate rally with Federal Minister Chris Bowen on Saturday October 7th.

This is a follow-up from the first climate forum held in Penrith in April 2022 just before the Federal election.

As with last year, the Pasifika Empowered 2023 forum is being led by Uniting Church Pasifika leaders. The event will be on the afternoon of Saturday October 7th at the Pullman Hotel in Olympic Park from 1.00pm-4.00pm. The event coincides with Fiji Day celebrations on all day at Cathy Freeman Park, just a few hundred metres away. The theme of Pasifika Empowered is on climate change and its impacts on the cost of living now, and our hopes for a good future – in the Pacific but and also here. We think especially of those who are more vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, including communities in western and south-western Sydney.

The two-hour event will include welcomes from First Nations people and our new Moderator, Rev Mata Havea Hiliau, music and song and input on Pasifika theology and worldview. There will be personal stories of climate impacts, input from Chris Bowen and our questions to him.

While the event is led by the Uniting Church Pasifika community, we very much want the wider Uniting Church and community to be part of it. It is an opportunity to be in solidarity with our Pasifika neighbours, as well as voice our own concerns.

It is important to register as seats are limited (about 150).

You [can register here](#)

It would be wonderful to have some members of our Parramatta City Uniting Church community supporting this event.

Please contact Jon O'Brien (Northmead/Centenary congregation) on 0477 725 528 or joobrien@uniting.org if you have questions or need more information.



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE DAY:

- Nepean District Historical & Archaeological Group artefact stall
- Meet the bell ringers
- The reprint of "John Lees The Chapel Builder" book, with new forewords by Jillian Critchley daughter of Merle Kavanagh and Rev Noreen Towers minister at Castlereagh, will be available for purchase
- Purchase & Donate a plant towards our new labyrinth garden



Uniting Church Hawkesbury Zone:

TWILIGHT JAZZ

ON THE BANKS OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

8th OCTOBER 2023

4.00PM TO 8.00PM

A PERFORMANCE BY

**HARMONIX
BIG BAND**

AND SUPPORTED BY

WARRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL
STAGE BAND

ON THE LAWNS OF

EBENEZER CHURCH

BRING A PICNIC, CHAIRS, BLANKET & BYO

BBQ, TEA, COFFEE & CAKE AVAILABLE

TICKETS \$20 EACH

CONTACT REBECCA ON 0439 309 303

TICKETS SOLD ON NIGHT, IF NOT SOLD OUT

Find us on

Facebook



Ebenezer Uniting Church - Twilight Jazz

FUNDS RAISED GO TO THE WEST PAPUAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY - FOR CLEAN WATER WELLS.

Prayer Points

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

Westmead

- For those who are unwell or undergoing medical procedures – We lift these and their family members and loved ones to You, Lord for strength and healing with Your grace.
- For the many students that will soon start their H.S.C. exams – We pray for Your peace and guidance to be with them in moments of any anxiety. Be with them moment by moment.
- For the many facing the cost-of-living crisis, those that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, those struggling with personal conditions that make each day a little more difficult – We pray that You be with each one – may there be resources for the homeless in support and correct care.
- For medical personnel that face shortage of resources and for the waiting lists that extend as people wait for proper medical attention – We pray that that our government provide pathways to help this crisis. We especially pray for those attending to the disaster struck zones of Libya and Morocco and other zones that are currently facing famine and drought.
- For those suffering in war torn zones – May Your peace encompass those that have lost hope. May Your love spark respect and neighbourly care between the aggressors.

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
◇ Anare Vocea (Fijian Vakatawa)	0432 772 852



Parramatta Mission



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Parramatta Mission

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