

# OUR NEWS

12th November 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 24A, 2023**

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

#### *The parable of the ten bridesmaids* **William Loader**

Matthew 24 has Matthew's version of Jesus' prediction of the devastation of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple.



It draws upon and expands Mark 13. The transition from the charges in Matthew 23 to the prediction of judgement in Matthew 24, heightened by the omission of Mark's passage just before Mark 13 of the widow's gift, is a telling sequence. Judgement will fall on Jerusalem and its people for its rejection of Christ and the gospel. But, as we saw last week, Matthew will not countenance smugness and elitism. Matthew 24 ends with warnings to church leaders to be faithful servants (24:45-51) or to find they suffer the same fate as 'the hypocrites' (24:51).

Matthew 25 continues the challenge to Christians. The image of the wedding recalls the parable of the wedding feast. This is the imagery of celebration, an expression of the joy of the realm to come. This remains the focus. The girls have a role to play in greeting the bridegroom when he comes. They need to stock up on supplies and be ready to have their lamps burning brightly on the occasion. The familiar cultural image becomes in Matthew a kind of nightmare. The details should not be pressed - a bit mean of the girls who had supplies not sharing?

The point is readiness. This is not about 2000 years of trying to whip up expectations that Jesus just might come very soon. It is about sustaining the life of faith. It is another version of Matthew's theme of elitism. Having had lamps in hand which burned well once is no guarantee they will burn in future. Having the status of being Christian, even being a light bearer, means nothing if it is not a continuing part of our being. Many who were first will be last (20:1-16). Matthew is interested in enabling people to live in a relationship with God which has continuing significance and continuing life.

The image of the closed door is harsh. It recalls similar imagery in the sermon on the mount and doubtless its use there informs its use here (7:21-23). Those who are disowned at the door there are none other than Christians who claim so much in the Christ's name, including miracles. Matthew bursts the balloons of religious enthusiasm and waffle. Not in touch with love? Then not in touch with love! Much that masqueraded in all sincerity as Christian faith then as now is what Paul would call just a clanging noise, even it had chalked up spiritual successes (see 1 Corinthians 13). In their different ways both Matthew and Paul put the emphasis on love as the fruit which matters.

The traditional association of oil with anointing and thus with the Spirit allows us to use the language of walking in the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit, and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. It is appropriate where such Spirit language is in vogue to note that it is precisely in such areas that Matthew's issue arises. The language and wonders of the Spirit can lead people to be carried away into forms of religion which are full of effervescence but have little to do with the gospel. Paul addresses these dangers in 1 Corinthians 12-14. Matthew addresses them here and in 7:15-23. In Mark a similar slant away from such preoccupations is evident in the way he emphasises the pathway of lowliness and suffering rather than that of wonders and success. John's gospel has Jesus make the same point over against those who followed him primarily because of his wonders (2:23-25). Nicodemus is their spokesperson. They need to be born again to be able to see what Jesus is really about (3:1-3). Religion is frequently a distraction if not an escape from reality. Matthew keeps bringing us down to earth and will continue to do so in the passages which follow.

## ***Foster your faith this week***

**Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25**

**Ps 78:1-7**

**1 Thes 4:13-18**

**Mt 25:1-13**

## Mission from the Inside

**Listening to stories  
from inside the communities  
surrounding our sites**

**ALL PCUC MEMBERS ARE INVITED**

**Where and When**

**4. North Parramatta community:**

**Saturday 18 Nov, 10am - 12**

**@ Centenary Uniting**

**All events will include a shared meal**

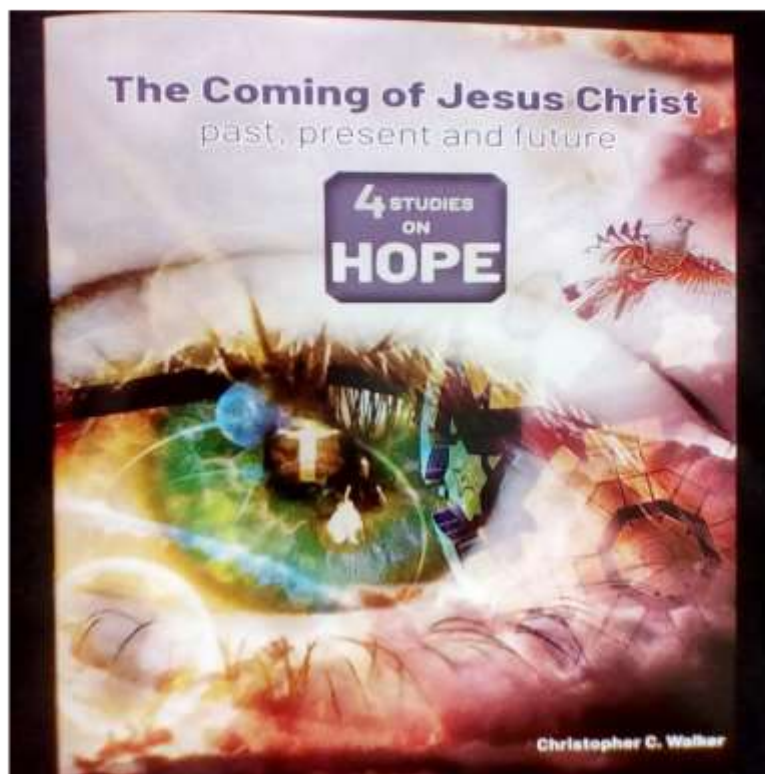
**Please indicate attendance with Vladimir: [vladimirk1@hotmail.com](mailto:vladimirk1@hotmail.com)**

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

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

## Advent Series



**Dr Chris Walker**

**The Coming of Jesus Christ:  
past, present and future 4 studies on hope**

**Each study not only covers the biblical readings but also has a quote, a story and reference to a hymn/song and prayers. There are questions for consideration or discussion.**

**The studies can be readily found on the Media-Com Education**

**website: [www.mediacomeducation.org.au](http://www.mediacomeducation.org.au)**



# Leigh Memorial

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We look forward to seeing everyone at Leigh Memorial this **Sunday, 12 November @ 9.30am** with **Rev Vladimir** (Onsite + Zoom). All welcome.

## REMINDER: PCUC 'VISIONING' MORNING @ CENTENARY

All the worship communities are invited to gather **9am – 12** this **Saturday, 11 November**, at Centenary to hear some important updates, vote on the congregation name, and spend some quality time together. The gathering will include morning tea, which is being supplied by the CLT. Enquiries: VSAG.

## OPEN CHURCH

Our new 'Open Church' program at Leigh Memorial commenced on Wednesday 8 November, 1.00 – 2.00pm, and will continue on a weekly basis. On Wed 29 November, Open Church time will include Communion. Enquiries: Vladimir or Liz.



## PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our warmest prayers remain with all those in our worship community who are unwell, grieving or facing other challenges at this time. This includes everyone who joins us on Zoom each Sunday and who are very much in our thoughts. NB: Contact details for the ministry team are in the newsletters.

## KEY PCUC DATES – NOVEMBER 2023

- **Sat 11 Nov** – PCUC 'Vision' morning @ Centenary, 9am – 12pm
- **Sat 18 Nov** - 'Mission Engagement' @ Centenary UC, 10am – 12pm

## **'MISSION FROM THE INSIDE' PROGRAM**

Many thanks to everyone who attended the third 'Mission from the Inside' gathering, which was held at Northmead on Wednesday evening. During the gathering, we visited the 'Men's Shed', had a tour of the whole Northmead property – and heard about the local area. During the evening, there was plenty of information-sharing, vision-sharing and lively discussion, plus a delicious supper. The North Parramatta 'Mission' gathering will take place at Centenary on Sat. 18 Nov, 10am – Noon.

## **FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T ATTEND OUR ONSITE SERVICES...**

The livestreamed 'Zoom' service from Leigh Memorial is available every Sunday @ 9.30am – OR Watch the congregation's weekly, pre-recorded "online" service. Details for both are in the newsletters or please contact the leaders team at your respective site for further assistance.

## **OUR CONGREGATION SITES:**

*NTH PARRAMATTA, PARRAMATTA, NORTHMEAD & WESTMEAD*







24성령강림 주일 (24th Pentecost of Sunday) 2023년 11월 12일 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 20 장 통 41 장 큰 영광 중에 계신 주

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 635 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 요한복음 4:5-42

말씀(Preaching)—— 전현구 담임목사 지금 누구를 만나고 있는가?

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) 새 0 통 0 우물가의 여인처럼

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 시드니 조은교회에 오신 여러분을 주님의 이름으로 환영합니다.
3. '매일성경' 묵상과 '공동체성경읽기' 통독으로 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) 새 501장 통 255장 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전 현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부  
오후 4:00

수요기도회: 오후 7시  
읍기 11:1-20

새벽기도회: 오전 6시  
읍기 9:17-14:22

## Sharing The Hospitality of Jesus Christ

**Sunday 12th November 2023- 09.30am**

Our Worship service today will be led by Rev. Geoff Smith - a very warm welcome to you Geoff.

For anyone visiting, please join us for Morning Tea.

Thank you to Pastor Sarah for her Reflection last Sunday and for braving the gloomy and wet conditions to travel from the Mountains, for us. The passage chosen was Matt 23:1-12. We all are to be careful that we do not become like hypocrites – blaming and correcting others when we ourselves need to be servant-like and come in humility as Jesus did. In serving as Christ did, we receive the given love, as it boomerangs back on us. We also gather and pray for the challenging journey of mission in the two mental health hospitals that Pastor Sarah is engaged in, providing pastoral care to those who are burdened.



**Saturday 11 November 2023**

**‘Vision’ gathering at Centenary Uniting Church from 9.00am.**

On the agenda for this gathering day will be a discussion and vote on the congregation name.

All are encouraged to attend and share fellowship. If you are able, please bring a plate.

As we get closer to Christmas, we are reminded that we can contribute to a gift of joy through Meals Plus, the Women’s Refuge, and other ministries – further information will be available soon.

We continue to collect used postage stamps and least coins – thank you for your participation of these ministries.

**Bible Study:** Monday afternoons beginning at 2pm - All Welcome.

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

**Our dear friend Jeff Edwards will be celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on  
14 November 2023.**



We wish Jeff a very happy milestone birthday – enjoy a great celebration Jeff!

**Please read the complete Newsletter for all events  
during November.**

## Leigh Fijian

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 12/11:** Na lotu ena macawa oqo na veiqaravi tiko kina ko Pastor Filikesa Kamotu. Na qaravi tiko na papitaiso.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 19/11:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau ni PNP. Na vunau tiko vei kedatou na valelotu mai St Mary. Na vunau lesi, rau na gole tiko yani kina valenilotu mai St Mary ko Senitiki Qata kei Isikeli Duwai. Vunau vakarau Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki matasiga naba 1. Tali ni vunau matasiga naba 1.
- 3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 06/11 – 12/11:** Josua 24:1-3, 14-25 Same 78:1-7 1 Cesalonaika 4:13-18 Maciu 25:1-13
- 4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 13/11 – 19/11:** Na Dauveilewai 4:1-7 Same 123 1 Cesalonaika 5:1-11 Maciu 25:14-30

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 Beralala. 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.

1. Parramatta Nepean Presbytery Fijian combine church service held at Leigh memorial on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. The sermon was delivered by Rev Charissa Suli (UCA President Elect).



2. Welcoming back Parramatta Leigh Fijian women's group from the Israel Tour 2023.





# Prayer Points

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

## **Westmead**

- Those that are unwell, undergoing treatment and those dealing with challenges – We lift these up in Your name and ask Your Holy Spirit to renew bodies and minds.
- For the escalating war between Israel and Palestine, the Ukraine war and wars in other parts of the world – Lord we collectively pray for peace in these areas. May You bring sanity and love amidst horrors and may aid reach those in crisis mode.
- For the devastation of bushfires in NSW and Queensland over the recent days – we pray for rain and dying down of fires. For those whose homes are now smoke and rubble we ask that as they go through shock and grief, You give them strength. We ask for resources of food/clothing/shelter and finances become available through community support.
- For the many experiencing financial stress here – may You bring about a turn in our economy for the better.
- For teachers/ doctors and medical personnel/ for healthcare workers/ social support networks/ for those that relay Your Word – we give thanks and ask for Your help in sustaining them.

## **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](mailto: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

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## 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