

### Lectionary readings

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1Cor 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26



### Preaching

9am Rev Christy Allen

### WELCOME TO AUC!

Please join us for refreshments in the breezeway after the service.

### CONTACT US

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### Please pray for:

Leaders at Assembly, Synod and Presbytery for wisdom and discernment in making decisions affecting the wider church.

Our elders and members of the Church Council as they make decisions affecting the life of our church.

The Joint Nominating Committee and Presbytery as they seek to discern the calling of a new ministry agent for our congregation.

Many of our number who are in need of healing, comfort and strength of heart.

The youth of our city.

An end to the hostilities in Ukraine and the Middle East; and an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict; and pray that the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas holds.

### Getting the sermon off the Mount



Luke is more concerned to portray Jesus as one who gets down among the people and identifies with their situations. So Luke has Jesus come down from the mountain to the people to deliver his major sermon. Most people tend to read it and think "that's nice" and then totally ignore it. Even most bible believing Christians spend more time working out why it shouldn't be taken too literally, or why it doesn't apply to them, than they do working out how to live it and take it seriously. Which is rather disturbing since it is the most comprehensive bit of Jesus' teaching that we have. It is the guts of Jesus' teaching on the values of the kingdom and how his followers should live. We've got to get the sermon off the mount and into our lives.

Jesus is not talking about the ideal state of the world as God intends it and as it will one day be. He's is talking about the tough realities of living in this world now. Woe to you who are happily affluent, who maintain your frivolous affluence by closing your eyes and ears to the pain and suffering of the poor.

That promise which Jesus makes is very important. They will inherit, they will be filled, they will laugh. Once again I emphasise, Jesus is not saying that it is so blessed to be poor and weeping that he's going to ensure that you are poor and weeping for the rest of eternity. He's saying poverty is the reality, but inheritance is what's coming. Weeping is the reality, laughter comes next. Death is the reality, but the resurrection is coming. And it's a really delicate balance here, and I hope I can make it clear. It is unhealthy to live as though there is no suffering now, but it is also unhealthy to live as though that is all there will ever be. It's unhealthy to deny the reality of death, but it's also unhealthy to live without hope in the resurrection.

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Again, this delicate balance – weeping but hoping. Grieving for today but believing in tomorrow. Entering with God into the pain of a wounded and scarred creation, but hoping with the God who raises life from death, who makes all things new. Opening ourselves to the anguish but refusing to despair and allow it to have the final say. Because our God is a god who sends up green shoots of hope through the cold hard concrete of tragedy. Our God is a god who brings spring to every winter. Our God is the god who raised Jesus Christ from the agony of death to the joy of resurrection life. And as Paul said, in that resurrection is the guarantee of our own resurrections. Resurrection comes when we have experienced the fullness of death, and so if we are to be a community that helps those who suffer grow towards resurrection, we need to help them face the reality of their pain, not gloss over it. You can't move from Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday before you have endured to anguish of Saturday. Blessed are you who weep on that Saturday, for only you will know the full joy of resurrection on Sunday. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Amen.

(Adapted from <https://southyarrabaptist.church/sermons/getting-the-sermon-off-the-mount/>)

### And a word from David and Dale

**THANK-YOU AITKENVALE UC** Thankyou Aitkenvale for the lovely gifts, cake and words of appreciation you gave us on our last Sunday. The mango-wood bowl *and* handcrafted & framed thankyou card will be much treasured, as will be our time in ministry among you in Townsville. Go well with your new pastor!. Shalom **David & Dale**



### Church bulletin bloopers

- † A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favourite recipe, also a short antidote for it.
- † At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and hear our choir practice.



## BEING 'PRESENT'



Pastoral care is about “presence” – the presence of Christ through the loving care of another person. I recall the day Mrs Fox requested Communion for her husband, a BlueCare resident. When I arrived at Mr Fox’s bed, his entire family was there ready to receive the bread and wine with their dad. As he couldn’t swallow, a tiny piece of bread was dipped into the wine and touched to his lips. There was a faint response as he tasted it on his tongue. After prayer with the family I moved on to other residents. Later that morning, the phone call came to say that Mr Fox had passed away 30 minutes after I left. How beautiful and timely it was for the whole family to commune in the presence of Christ that morning. God’s timing is perfect.  
Your Discipleship Stream – Kate, Wendy & Fred.

## Lent studies



It has been a bit of a scramble to secure Lenten Studies this year. However, we have secured studies for the two home groups already meeting.

For those who can’t come to worship or aren’t part of a study group there are two alternatives: 30 copies of “The Journey of Lent” will be available. Let Kate know if you would like a copy of this. There is also an email resource available from the *Qld Synod Mission Accompanying Team* which you can download from [mission@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:mission@ucaqld.com.au).

I regret to say that we will not be offering an evening study group this Lent and the two home groups are full at present. Perhaps you might like to start a home group of your own? Let us know if you do. We pray that in whatever way you meditate on the word this Lent, you will be blessed by going on pilgrimage with Jesus to the cross and resurrection life.

Kate Fred and Wendy.

## Go Group

2024 Go Group is now 2025 Cuppa and Chat

Come along with a plate to share and enjoy a morning with friends.

**When? 19 February 10.00am**

**Where? In the breezeway**

## Sunday Service 16 February 2025 Live Streaming:

We welcome and thank **Rev Christy Allen** for bringing the message to us today. Welcome to our service here and to those at home. To participate in worship, please click on the link below and sit back and wait for the service to start.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM\\_yuTGxZEXsdQPd3XEQbtA/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM_yuTGxZEXsdQPd3XEQbtA/live)

If you miss it, or would like to share it with someone, the recordings are on our website.

**Bill and Vi's jam and chutney for sale**

Bill and Vi's jam and chutney are for sale again.

A jar only costs \$5. If you wish to buy a jar, they will be located in the foyer.

Large jars cost \$10

All money raised goes to the Distress Fund which helps those in need.



**Offerings to date 11 Feb 2025**

**Week \$1,608.22**

Budgeted Offerings \$48,640

Offerings year to date \$ 50,746.67

**Difference plus \$2,106.67**

**Donations Car park \$14,730.10**

**Other Donations \$2,320.00**

**AUC Bank Details:**

**Bank:** ANZ

**BSB:** 014-010

**Account Number:**

**General Acc - 287295271**

**Distress Fund Acc - 287295327**

**Account Name:** UCA Aitkenvale

**Reference:** Offering, Donation, (no need to include your name or any other details)



**Rosters & Readings for 23rd February 2025**

**9am Service**

<b>Preacher</b>	Rev M Stuart
<b>Reader</b>	Liz J
<b>Greeters</b>	Lola C
<b>Offering</b>	Ian D
<b>Livestream</b>	Carmel S
<b>Data</b>	Reg D
<b>Organ</b>	Don A
<b>Morning Tea</b>	J Bond & Val D

**Lectionary Readings**

Genesis 45:3-11,15  
 Psalm 37:1-11,39-40  
 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50  
 Luke 6:27-38

**AUC Prayer Network.**

**([aucprayer@bigpond.com](mailto:aucprayer@bigpond.com))**

If you wish to have a prayer request circulated across the AUC Prayer Network, or would like to be included in the prayer network notices, please email your request to our direct email address: [aucprayer@bigpond.com](mailto:aucprayer@bigpond.com), or phone Kate on: 0429 609 509.

(Important: requests for prayer on behalf of others requires their personal permission. This is due to confidentiality requirements and government legislation. Please ask first.)

