

Lectionary readings

Genesis 45:3-11,15

Psalm 37:1-11,39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38



Preaching

9am Rev Matthew Stuart

WELCOME TO AUC!

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

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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..

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

A just end to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

For people recently affected by floods in North Queensland.

Wondering

I cannot begin to imagine the crazy things each of you have seen, in your lifetime. I wonder if some of it might have been so strange and unusual that it would have seemed unreal. Many of you have lived through significant technological advancements, that you would have potentially thought were never possible. Like watching The Jetson's or Lost in Space or Star Trek and wondering if human beings would ever be able to travel through space. Then realising it was just a TV show or movie. (A couple of you when you were little kids would never have imagined having a TV in your lounge room.)

So many of you have lived the progression of technology at a rate never experienced before you. That nearly every person would have a computer in their hands that they could talk to another person with. That people would be so rich that they could afford to fly into space just because they wanted to. That we would be able to print 3 dimensional shapes out of plastic, metal and even organic material that could be used in transplants. You have also seen the cost of this amazing testament to human imagination and ingenuity.

Our planet is heating up from an overuse of fossil fuels threatening the pacific region around us. 50% of the world's population live on less than \$11 a day. With some 700 million people, that roughly 8%, living in extreme poverty on less than \$3.50 a day.

Companies so desperate to increase profit margins that they actively use technology to trap people into becoming addicts.

We have so many people today, caught up by the amazing potential of technology, that they have missed the awe and wonder around them. I wonder how we encourage the next generation of our community to enjoy the sun that cuts through the clouds. I wonder how we empower the next generation of our community to give thanks for the thunder clap and streak of lightning in the sky. I wonder how we invite the next generation of our community to simply enjoy sitting in the presence of the Creator of everything.

Matthew

WE NEED YOUR HELP

On Sunday 9th March the Discipleship Stream will present the 'Circles of Care' model of pastoral care to the congregation, immediately after worship. It will need approximately 10-15 minutes. Everyone will receive a sign-up form so that each person or family may be placed in a care circle to receive pastoral care. We do hope that as many members as possible will participate so we will be ready for our new minister Ueli with a working model of care and a renewed pastoral care team. Kate, Wendy, Fred.

The Four Faces

Historically the four creatures of Revelation 4 have been associated with different aspects of God, and Jesus, as well as associated with the four Gospels. The author of Revelation, John, echoes here from Ezekiel 1:10 - *As for the appearance of their faces: the four had the face of a human being, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle.* The name given to their representation is *tetramorph*, particularly throughout the early medieval iconography.



The Ox: representing service and sacrifice, a voice to the hard work of the Kingdom. Associated with the Gospel of Luke, with Jesus as the suffering servant.

The Lion: speaks to strength and majesty, the call to live boldly in faith throughout our lives. Associated with the Gospel of John, presenting Jesus as the Baptiser in the Holy Spirit.

The Man: seeks intelligence and reason, reminder of the role as bearers of God's image in creation. Jesus presented as the perfect human who came to save us, through the Gospel of Mark.

The Eagle: displays swiftness and vision, urging the rise above material concerns focusing on heavenly matters.

Jesus presented as the King

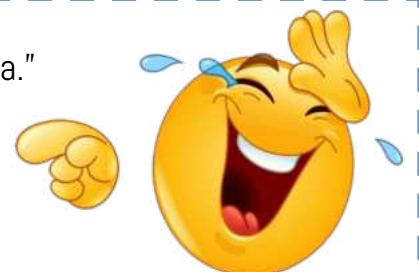
The four as illustrated in the Book of Kells, c. 800AD

This is a 13th-century ivory carving of Christ in Majesty surrounded by the creatures of the Tetramorph, in the Musee de Cluny, Paris.



Church bulletin bloopers

- † The sermon this morning: "Contemporary Issues #3: Euthanasia."
The closing hymn will be "Take my life"
- † If you would like to make a donation, fill out the form, enclose your donation, and drip it into the collection bags.



GOD IS AT THE HEART OF PASTORAL MINISTRY

Mr Z's grandmother had died. He said to the minister who would preside at gran's funeral "I've *not been a religious man, and I said 'if there is a God, why does he let my grandmother suffer so much pain?' Someone at the hospital said it was because I am not ready for gran's death, God allowed her suffering to help me prepare for her dying. I now think this is true. I can see God in this.*" Z then spoke of two happy, pain free days



when Gran 'saw' loved ones who had died and spoke with them. A nurse said "This is a common near-death experience. Gran really was seeing her loved ones". Z announced "*I now believe God was in it. I really do.*" The conversation then turned to the Christian conviction that death is not the end of our human experience; death is a door to the full life that God has promised through Christ. While we remain in this life, we are not left to ourselves, God is with us in our suffering through His son who experienced a real human life and a real human death. His resurrection gives us hope for life after this life. This seemed to ease Z's anxiety. His tears subsided and everyone - even the air in the room went still as something very deep and special filled that place.

Pastoral care is love in action, coming alongside to listen to another, enabling them to discern the presence of God who is hidden yet present through Christ the suffering servant. On this occasion, hearts were stirred and opened to God's presence and in one heart new life began to bloom – praise God. Kate, Wendy, Fred.

I pray that nothing they ever do to me will be able to reduce me to hating them.

When once we taste the love of God, broken open and poured out for us, why would we settle for the mouldy crumbs of what we have carried too long. Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you, not because they deserve it, not because you like them or like the way they have behaved, but because you will no longer allow them to drag you away from the joyous party that is the culture of God, where love conquers all and sets us free to grow into all the love we were created and destined for.

(From <https://southyarrabaptist.church/sermons/when-love-gets-off-the-leash/>)

Sunday Service 23rd February 2025 Live Streaming:

We welcome and thank **Rev Matthew Stuart** 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

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 18 Feb 2025

Week \$1,735.62

Budgeted Offerings \$50,160

Offerings YTD \$52,482.29

Difference plus \$2,322.29

Donations Car park \$14,720.10

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 2nd March 2025

9am Service

Preacher	Rev Matthew Stuart
Reader	Ruth Morris
Greeters	Lola C
Offering	Peter P & Royce D
Livestream	Grace F & Mal H
Data	Reg
Organ	Carmel S
Morning Tea	Beth & Mal H

Lectionary Readings

Ex 34:29-35, Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

AUC Prayer Network.

(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, 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.)

