



Preaching
9am Rev Kate Dix

Lectionary readings

Deut 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Rom 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

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 Ukraine and the Middle East; and an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict; and pray that the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas holds; and that a just peace ends the Ukraine-Russian conflict.

REFRESHING OUR MINDS ABOUT LENT

In preparation for Lent a group of friends meeting at my home have been considering the meaning of 'pilgrimage' in our Christian lives. Along the way, we learned from Christians whose lives were changed as they journeyed with Jesus. Last Tuesday, [Shrove Tuesday] known to us as Pancake Day, we stepped onto the road to Calvary by starting our Lenten study.

Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, has a history. Historically, where Lent was strictly observed, it was the last chance to let off steam with a festival before turning towards prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The pancake tradition began by using up all the fat and meat scraps before the Lenten fast began. The festival was called 'Mardi Gras' which literally means 'fat' Tuesday. Alongside the carnival atmosphere is the idea of 'shriving', from the verb 'to shrive' – i.e. to confess. Hence Shrove Tuesday was observed as a day to repent and ask for God's forgiveness in order to begin Lent with a clean heart and a pure spirit.

Fasting isn't just a brief time of giving up something we like such as chocolate or time on our digital gadgets. Isaiah 58 gives us the essence of true fasting and genuine worship. The prophet calls us to go beyond the external act of giving something up, to focus instead on seeking justice and caring for others. The prophet highlights the importance of fasting as a means to honour God and bring about personal and social change. True fasting is not about self-deprivation, nor merely observing a religious rite – it has to do with loving God and neighbour from the heart.

The 40 days of Lent is set aside for Christians to draw closer to God in solitude and prayer; to do an internal inventory of oneself - to seek a transformation of the heart.

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To deepen your relationship with God how will you observe Lent? Will it be in giving up a particular food or pleasure knowing that you will take it up again after the fast is over? Or will it be in prayer, seeking God and a new perspective on life? Will it be becoming more aware of and resistant to temptations; or being more generous to the poor and needy?

Whatever path God leads you on, may your pilgrimage to the cross revive your spirit, refresh your heart and strengthen your trust in God. As a Community of Christ we do not journey alone - we are all pilgrims on the journey with our Lord and He is with us right to the promised end. Kate

Outreach at Aitkenvale State School brekkie

A huge thank you from Aitkenvale State School Brekkie to all who have donated to Aitkenvale Uniting Church Outreach at the school.

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Aitkenvale SS Brekkie is in need of -

JAM - The students do love strawberry.

CREAM CHEESE SPREAD.

FULL CREAM LONG LIFE MILK

So on your next weekly shop pop a couple of items into your trolley to donate to our church's Outreach at Aitkenvale State School Brekkie.

Sunday Service 9th March 2025 Live Streaming:

We welcome and thank **Rev Kate Dix** 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.

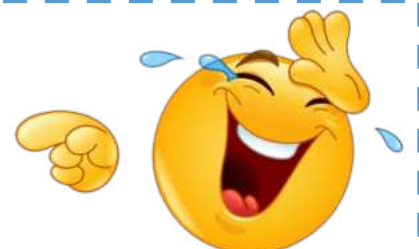
Orana meeting

Our March meeting will be held on

Thursday 20 March, 10.00 am, in the Breezeway of our church. It will be hosted by Val and Glenda. Please bring along a favourite fridge magnet, and let us know the story behind it! Please RSVP to Glenda by email on glendagraham53@gmail.com.

Church bulletin bloopers

- † Mr Bradford was elected and has accepted the office of head deacon. We could not get a better man.
- † Thank you Steve who once again has worked hard to clean the pastor off the basement floor



The temptations of Jesus

It is no accident that the gospel writers all link this story (Luke 4: 1-13) to the baptism of Jesus. At his baptism, a voice from God identifies Jesus as the beloved Son of God, and then we immediately follow with this story where Jesus is confronted by the tempter saying “If you are the Son of God, then do . . .” The question at stake is what sort of son of God is he. What sort of action will his identity require?

This is the beginning of his public ministry. He’s had thirty years of relative anonymity as the local carpenter in Nazareth. Now everything is beginning to change. Life is taking dramatic new turns, and with them come new temptations.

One minute he’s the local chippie, the next he’s being seen as the Messiah, the Son of God. And in come the temptations. “If you are the Son of God, you could do this.” “If you are the Son of God, you could accomplish all the good things you have longed to see. Are people hungry? You’d be pretty popular if you turned these stones into bread. You don’t like simple band-aid solutions? Well, if you are the Son of God, step onto the big stage. Power, authority, the clout to change things, to make things happen. If you are the Son of God, throw yourself off the top of the temple so the angels will catch you. The rabbis have been saying the Messiah would appear on the top of the temple. Go on give them something they can really believe. You want them to know you’re the son of God don’t you?

What kind of Messiah is Jesus going to be? A leader with publicity stunts and power grabs, or a leader who is willing to suffer and die for his people?

But what I am sure of is that the only ways that will work are ways that stretch us beyond our easy comfort zones and make us face the tough decisions about how to be radically loving in a hostile and hurting world. That’s where Jesus would lead us, and that’s where, in this season of Lent, we commit ourselves to following.

(From a sermon by Nathan Nettleton <https://southyarrabaptist.church/sermons/what-does-discipleship-cost/>)

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 4 March 2025

Week \$2,221.22

Budgeted Offerings \$53,200

Offerings year to date \$ 55,940.13

Difference plus \$2,740.13

Donations Car park \$14,760.10

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 16th March 2025

9am Service

Preacher	Rev Matthew Stuart
Reader	Val Dawson
Greeters	Merle Abercrombie
Offering	Ian D & Peter P
Livestream	Don Adamson
Data	Reg Dix
Organ	Carmel
Morning Tea	Jillian B & Val D

Lectionary Readings

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27
 Phil 3:17-4:1
 Lk 13:31-35 or Lk 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.)

