

Lectionary readings

Gn 37:1-4, 12-28
 Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
 Rom 10:5-15
 Mt 14:22-33

Issue #28



Preaching

9am Pastor Ueli Otumuli

WELCOME TO AUC!

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

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Preferred contact days
 Wed-Sat

Please pray for:

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

The cessation of hostilities be-
 tween USA and Iran and Israel.

Pray also for a just peace to end
 the Ukraine-Russian conflict.

We pray for healing, under-
 standing, and a renewed com-
 mitment to being a nation
 marked by truth, respect, and
 compassion..

All affected by recent natural disas-
 ters including the devastating
 earthquakes in Venezuela and
 Japan, and fires in Spain and
 Greece; for comfort for the griev-
 ing, strength for rescuers, heal-
 ing for the injured, and hope
 amid overwhelming loss and un-
 certainty.

The youth of our city.

All Defence Force chaplains.

Reflection on Matthew 14:30

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning
 to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Today's gospel is about Jesus walking on water, and so
 did Peter. According to the story, Peter asked Jesus to
 command him to walk on water. And Jesus said "come".
 Then he got out of the boat and started walking but
 when he saw the rough winds he was afraid and began to
 sink, then he cried out "Lord, save me".

This is a prayer that I myself can relate to when I am in
 the midst of a storm in life. All I remember is, Lord, save
 me. This is also a prayer for all those who feel threatened,
 overwhelmed, or in times of uncertainty. We can
 probably all identify with these moments, especially
 when the waves rise and the wind blows stronger and we
 feel like sinking, and we have no hope.

The good news is that Jesus is ahead of us. He is ready to
 save us. He gave us power and authority to walk on
 water, to do miracles, to do ministry but whenever
 challenges in life arise and we are overwhelmed by
 problems and struggles we face in life, Peter reminds us
 that we ought to pray and ask the Lord to save us.

The Lord will always respond to our prayers out of the
 depths. Psalm 145 affirms to us that the Lord is near to all
 who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Pastor Ueli

Serving as a hospital visitor

Presbytery has asked all congregation members to prayerfully consider whether we feel called to or would consider doing hospital visitations. We have been advised that there will be adequate training available and it is likely to involve 1 or 2 visits per month. It may include end-of-life visitations. If you are interested in joining a team in Townsville, please see Shaz today.

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

DATE CLAIMER: "Breakfast with Jesus" Women's Retreat. We are sorry to mess with your diaries, but the previously advertised date has to be moved from Saturday 7 November to **Saturday 31st October**. We will share further information as it comes to hand. Shalom, Sita, Shaz, Ruth & Kate.

You are never too young to serve!



Sunday 09th August Live Streaming

We welcome and thank **Pastor Ueli Otumuli** for bringing the message to us today.

Welcome to our service here and to those at home. For those viewing remotely, 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.

Voice your support for Gambling Reform

The Federal Government's Interactive Gambling Amendment Bill 2026 is currently before a Senate inquiry, with the main debate being whether the proposed reforms go far enough to deliver the recommendations of the Murphy Report.

More than ever, community voices are crucial in pushing for stronger protections that reflect the recommendations of the Murphy Report and better protect Australians from gambling harm.

The Wesley Mission in partnership with the Alliance on Gambling Reform have made a submission to the inquiry, recommending the adoption of the Report's 31 recommendations and introducing a duty of care on gambling organisations.

Concerned church members can join the voices campaigning for gambling reform [through the Alliance's website](https://www.agr.org.au/end-gambling-ads-aug) (<https://www.agr.org.au/end-gambling-ads-aug>)

Favourite hymns by occupation

- † Dentist *Crown him with many crowns*
- † Meteorologist *There shall be showers of blessing*
- † Tailor *Holy, holy, holy*

Genuine Love - A Moderator's Reflection for Uniting News

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” *Romans 12:9*

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.” *Romans 12:10*

In a world increasingly marked by division, mistrust, and self-interest, Paul's words to the church in Rome sound both simple and revolutionary: *“Love must be sincere.”*

Paul is not speaking about sentimentality or mere kindness. The word he uses points to something authentic, genuine, without pretence. Genuine love is not a performance. It is not a strategy. It is not offered only when it is convenient or reciprocated. Genuine love flows from hearts transformed by Christ and shaped by the Holy Spirit.

The challenge for the church is that people quickly recognise the difference between love that is proclaimed and love that is practised. They know whether our welcome is genuine. They notice whether our concern for justice is real. They experience whether we honour one another, particularly those whose voices are often overlooked.

Paul's instruction comes immediately after his call for believers to be transformed by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2). Genuine love is not simply a personal virtue; it is the fruit of lives being continually reshaped by the grace of God. It is the visible evidence that Christ is alive among his people.

In Luke 12, Jesus warns against storing up treasures for ourselves while neglecting what truly matters in the kingdom of God. He reminds us that life does not consist in the abundance of possessions, status, or achievements. Rather, life is found in relationship with God and neighbour.

For us as the Uniting Church, this is an important reminder. We are called to be communities where people are honoured before they are judged, listened to before they are corrected, and loved before they are expected to belong. Genuine love creates spaces where reconciliation can take root, where diversity is welcomed as a gift, and where our covenant relationship with First Peoples is lived out with humility and respect.

This kind of love is not always easy. It requires courage to resist what is evil and cling to what is good. It requires persistence when relationships are strained and patience when change comes slowly. Yet it is precisely this kind of love that has the power to renew communities and bear witness to Christ in the world.

As we move towards the 39th Synod and continue to pray for renewal across our church, perhaps this is where renewal begins—not with grand programs or ambitious plans, but with a renewed commitment to sincere love. For when love is genuine, Christ is made visible.

May we be a people devoted to one another in love. May we honour one another above ourselves. And may our life together point beyond ourselves to the One who first loved us.

Rev Bruce Moore (Uniting News, 4/8/26)

How to Give Electronically



If you would like to support our ministry or contribute to our community support initiatives, you can transfer directly into our bank accounts:

General Account

For regular tithes, offerings, and general church donations.

Account Name: UCA-Aitkenvale Uniting Church

BSB: 654000 (Qld Country Bank)

Account Number: 64283141

Reference: Tithe, Offering, or Donation
(No name required)

If anyone needs assistance changing the bank account details for their regular tithe from the ANZ to the Qld Country Bank, both Shaz or Paul are willing to assist you.

Pocket Prayer Quilts

As 2026 throws us many challenges, give someone the hug that they might need as we many of us are struggling.

Keep in mind that the Pocket Prayer Quilts on offer for a **gold coin** donation for those that are wanting to share the love and grace of God to those that are struggling.



Rosters & Readings for 16th August 2026

9am Service *Pentecost 12*

Preacher	Pastor Ueli Otumuli
Reader	Ruth M
Greeters	Joan D
Offering	Peter P & Ian D
Livestream	Chris C & Grace F
Data	Joan G
Organ	Carmel S
Morning Tea	Peter & Lyn P

Lectionary Readings

Gn 45:1-15, Is 56:1,6-8
Ps 133, Ps 67
Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32
Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28

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.)