



Lectionary readings

Ex 3:1-15
 Jer 15: 15-21
 Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Ps 26:1-8
 Rom 12:9-21
 Mt 16:21-28

Preaching

9am Rev Richard Wallace

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 af ected by recent natural disas-
 ters including the devastating
 earthquakes in Venezuela, Ja-
 pan and Indonesia; and fires in
 Spain, Portugal, England and
 Greece; for comfort for the
 grieving, strength for rescuers,
 healing for the injured, and hope
 amid overwhelming loss and un-
 certainty..

All Defence Force chaplains.

Dying to Live

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever
 will lose life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 16:25 RSV

Anxiety about Artificial Intelligence has surged in recent
 times, not the least since an AI company’s CEO an-
 nounced that 50% of entry-level white collar jobs will go
 within 5 years. In response to this sombre declaration an
 economics professor has recounted the situation in Eng-
 land at the start of the Industrial Revolution. Then there
 were 220,000 bootmakers scattered all through English
 villages. Yes, lots of jobs were lost because of the huge
 technological change, but, over time, many new jobs, that
 didn’t exist before the industrial revolution, were created.
 These could not have been foreseen at the time as the
 changes began. After the Industrial Revolution, in 1911
 there were still 213,00 workers engaged in the boot-
 making industry. The people had moved to cities and fac-
 tories where they became machine operators, assembly
 workers, supervisors, clerks, wholesalers and so on. The
 village bootmaker in 1851 couldn’t imagine these jobs. The
 economic principle at work, he said is “creative destruc-
 tion.” At the beginning of big changes people focus on
 what is destroyed, and what is lost, because they cannot
 see what is going to be created.

Time to leave economic theory, but the notion of creative
 destruction resonates with me as I reflect on the Gospel
 passage, “Whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.”
 Jesus calls for the destruction, or disassembly of the self-
 ish ego that grasps for wealth, for possessions, the ego
 that desires power, and that strives against others for sta-
 tus, whether in the corporate or political world. Jesus also
 spoke of the seed that must die and be buried before it
 can bear fruit (Jn 12:24).

Cont nued page 2

Whoever focuses on what is lost, or thinks only of the destruction of the fractious ego does not see any new possibilities. So it was with the rich man who was interested in what Jesus offered, but when Jesus told him to divest his wealth among the poor, he couldn't do it (Mk 10:22).

Focusing on destruction and loss blinds creativity. Worrying about what I am going to lose if I follow Jesus shuts out possibilities. On the other hand, self-denial is liberating. No more requirement to "keep up with the Joneses" or overtake them, no more blind following of the great influencers, or striving to be a great influencer. No more fierce competition for favors. Now there is a chance for other things.

Liberated, or saved by Jesus, for what? For love, for others! It's not an accident that our epistle today is Paul's exhortation, "Let love be genuine... love one another with brotherly affection ." This is the creative pole, this is where new life is lived. Before Paul, Jesus himself emphasizes the law of love. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:34-5 RSV).

So we have these two poles, or spheres, self-denial and love; a personal sphere and a social sphere. Dying to self and caring for others, feed off each other. As I engage in gestures of love, my hold on stuff for myself is weakened, and the more I relinquish the more I am free to care. These are two sides of the same coin, they are not two separate tracks for Christian living, they are linked and dynamic.

Moreover, there is a purpose, and its fulfilment is the Community of Christ, or, as the Gospels call it, the Kingdom of God. In this realm all are cared for by God, and all love God, and all care for each other. No one is left out. Herein we find our true selves.

Shalom, Richard

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.

Sunday 30th August Live Streaming

We welcome and thank **Rev Richard Wallace** 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.

Avoiding falls as we become older

Falls can happen to anyone, anywhere. But falls requiring hospitalisation are more common in older people and are most likely to happen at home.

The risk of falls for older people is higher. This is because older people commonly experience age-related changes including:

- Poorer eyesight and hearing
- Slowed reaction times
- Loss of muscle tone
- Stiff joints
- Cognitive changes
- Reduced sensation or numbness

Poor diet and diseases that limit activity, strength and balance.

Other conditions such as low blood pressure, diabetes, dementia, incontinence and a history of falls can also increase the risk for falls.

Tips for avoiding falls in the home

Nearly 2 out of 3 falls happen in and around the home. This could be due to hazards such as poor lighting, slippery surfaces and trip hazards. Here are some tips to reduce the risk of falls in the home:

- Check your house for trip and slip hazards, such as electrical wires or carpets that curl up at the corners
- Keep your floor and garden pathways clear
- Make sure you have sufficient lighting
- If possible, add a grab rail to your shower or a rubber non-slip mat in the bathroom
- Avoid ill-fitting clothing that can catch on furniture or doors, and footwear that does not fit well or has slippery soles
- Arrange items in the kitchen and bathroom so that they are easy to reach
- Avoid using a step stool, but if you have to use one, make sure you have something to hold on to

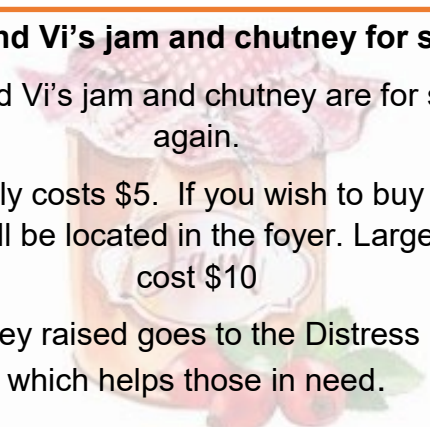
Use a night light for greater security and ensure all the lamps are easy to reach from bed.

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.



Bloopers made by children at Sunday School

The Fifth Commandment is humour thy mother and father.

A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

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 6th September 2026

9am Service	<i>Pentecost 13</i>
Preacher	Ueli O
Reader	K en N
Greeters	Lola C
Offering	Peter P and Ian D
Livestream	Mal H and Chris C
Data	Reg D
Organ	Carmel S
Morning Tea	Beth & Mal H

Lectionary Readings

Ex 12:1-14

Ps 149

Rom 13:8-14

Mt 18:15-20

OBEY

Regardless of the Consequences

MATTHEW 16:21-28

Offerings to date 25 August 2026

Week \$1,906.95

Budgeted Offerings \$14960

Offerings to date \$12,767.75

Difference minus \$2,192.25

Donations \$0

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.)