

Readings

Prv 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Ps 125

Jas 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mk 7:24-37



Preaching

9am Rev Matthew S

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.

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 for actions that will bring about a just and lasting peace. And an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Making space for others

It's an incredibly well known icon. For those who are not familiar this is the orthodox icon *Troitsa*, or The Trinity or The Hospitality of Abraham - as it is based on Genesis 18:1-8. The creation is credited to Russian iconographer Andrei Rublev of the 15th Century.



There is so much within this icon waiting to be read. As icons are theological pieces with content for the viewer to read. Like the circle surrounding the three figures. The triangle connecting the levels of the figures' eyes. The line of the figures' vision and the path of their arms leading to the chalice on the table.

Some commentators even delve deeper exploring the perspectives. Icons do not use the perspectives that we are used to in life drawings. Icons use a reverse perspective, rather than to draw you in this perspective is to encompass you.

There are three types of perspectives within this icon. The first is that the "vanishing point" is in front of the image, with *YOU* the other. The second is that there are two circles, one is "vertical" circling the figures and the other is "horizontal" wrapping around *YOU* the other. The third, a contentious theory, is that the small square on the table contains elements of residue glue where a mirror was to include *YOU* the other.

This morning's gospel from Mark contains two stories of "others" who come to Jesus. Not to be included, in fact they cannot be included as they are not a part of the people of God. Though they could be expelled by Jesus as would be fitting of the time, Jesus instead encompasses them.

This encompassing does not make them one with Jesus. This encompassing does not make them apostles with other disciples. This encompassing does not make them Israelites.

What this encompassing does do is makes space for them.

I wonder what it looks like to make space for others? To make space for others without pressuring them to conform? To make space for others without a transactional need?

I wonder what it would mean to step into the others' world and meet their need with love and healing?

Rev Matthew Stuart

Pocket Prayer Quilts

Still available for a **gold coin donation**. They are just a little something to give to someone who is struggling and remind them of God's comforting love. If you would like to help with these, fabric is always welcome.

If you can think of anywhere that could benefit from some of these, please leave a note in the basket or in the money jar.

Have you ever thought of serving as a greeter?

Greeting people as they arrive for worship is a simple but important ministry in the life of our church. Perhaps God is calling you to be a part of a "welcome team". It is not onerous and you will not be expected to be rostered every week. Let Glenda Dodge know if you feel a call to be involved.

Sunday Service 8th September 2024 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.

Members of the 3D singers in action last Sunday as they sing "Stand Guard" by a (local composer?)



STUDY GROUP – "For Times Such as These". Registrations close today so the books can be purchased and distributed before the study begins. Please add your name to the registration sheet at the door if you are going to attend, or you phone Kate on 042960905.

Church news bulletin bloopers

- † The Church Council Retreat will be held on May 10-11
- † The congregation will sing "Angels we have heard get high".



Aitkenvale Brekkie Club

Thank you for your generous donations to the Aitkenvale Brekkie program. The following items are in very short supply -

- † *Strawberry Jam*
- † *Cream Cheese Spread*

Next time you're at the supermarket, pop a couple of items in your trolley for Aitkenvale Brekkie. Donations can be left at the church.

Thanks

Grace Frankling

Prayer

Loving God,

In our busy lives, we often rush past Your glory. Help us to slow our pace and open our eyes. Teach us to pause and notice Your presence in the beauty of creation and faces of strangers. Renew our spirits as we take time to be still, to listen for Your whisper in moments of quiet. Refresh Your church, Lord, with unhurried grace, that we may see You at work in our world. Guide us to recognize Your hand in unexpected places and Your love in the ordinary moments of each day.

As we slow down, fill us with Your peace so we may be beacons of Your calm presence.

Renew our vision, individually and as Your people, to perceive the ways You're already moving among us.

May this intentional slowing transform us, to better reflect Your patient, ever-present love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

(From *Uniting news* 3 September 2024)

Church Council meeting 29 August 2024

At its meeting on 29 August the following matters were discussed

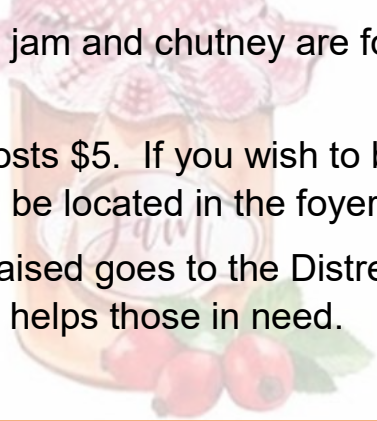
- † Council noted the Auditor's report for 1 July 23 – 30 June 24 and confirmed the details of the report.
- † Council resolved to advise the Tokelau Congregation that the church premises will not be available for hire upon the expiration of the current Licence Agreement, namely, 30 March 2025
- † Council resolved to make a donation of \$500 to Stable at Riverway
- † Council resolved to add a slide at the end of our online services inviting viewers to contribute financially to the work of the Church at AUC.
- † Fred Annesley provided an update on establishing a Men's Breakfast.
- † Julie suggested advertising in the Synod newsletter for a supply minister.
- † Church Council discussed different models of pastoral care in a paper provided by Rev David MacGregor before he left. Council resolved to discuss with the Discipleship Stream the inclusion of pastoral care within its portfolio.

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.

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



Offerings to date 3 September 2024

Week \$2,162.42

Budgeted Offerings \$13,680

Offerings year to date \$ 15,639.25

Difference plus \$1,959.25

Donations Nil

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 15th September 2024

9am Service

Preacher	Wendy McHugh
Reader	Achamma J
Greeters	Merl A
Offering	Greg S & Peter P
Livestream	Don A
Data	Reg
Organ	Carmel S
Morning Tea	Jillian B & Val D

Lectionary Readings

*Prv 1:20-33, Ps 19
Jas 3:1-12, Mk 8:27-38*

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.)

