

Readings

Ruth 1:1-18.

Psalm 146

Heb 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34



Preaching

9am Rev Kate Dix

WELCOME TO AUC!

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

CONTACT US

Church Office

47790060
PO Box 195
Aitkenvale QLD 4814

aitkenvaleuc@bigpond.com
aitkenvale.unitingchurch.org.au

Facebook:
Aitkenvale Uniting Church

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 the Middle East; and an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict; and the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Ruth's story is a short story which takes us from adversity through the natural disaster of famine and family grief, to a happy change of fortune. It would make a good movie as a young widow finds love, marriage and a new family - the family of Israel's God. It's characters are ordinary people coping with everyday life but who are open to God's providence. While the story has no villains or murderers as in the book of Judges which precedes it, there are three deaths at the beginning, Naomi's husband Elimelech, and their two sons whose names prepare us for tragedy: Mahlon meaning sickly and Chilion meaning frail. Is it any wonder that Naomi says in v21 that the hand of the Lord has turned against her.

All turns out well in the end, and Ruth's story shows us that God is both present and able to help those in trouble to overcome their circumstances. Ruth learns as did Abraham and Isaac on Mt Moriah that Israel's God is Jehovah Jirah "the Lord who provides".

Ruth chose to stay with Naomi and to identify with Naomi's God rather than the gods of her own people [1:15-17]. The story shows a pattern of obedience in her life that fulfils her statement to Naomi in 3:5- "All that you tell me I will do". Ruth's example of obedience is a model for the community of faith that was lacking in Judges.

In Mark's gospel a scribe went to Jesus asking 'Teacher, which is the first commandment?' Note that he didn't ask 'which is the first commandment God ever gave?'. He wanted to know which commandment of the 613 commandments in the Torah was the most important one to obey. Jesus summarised all of the Mosaic law saying - 'Love the Lord Your God with all of your heart, with all of your mind and all of your strength and love your neighbour as you love yourself - this is the greatest commandment.'

The scribe agrees - to love God and to practice justice by loving neighbour is more important than law keeping or performing religious rituals or cultic sacrifices.

Continued over page

It's not that they shouldn't practice these things – after all God put those commandments to his people but there is sometimes a hierarchy of values – some things take precedence over others. This is ethics – what is the good that I should do?

At the end of the day, *'the God to be obeyed is the God of love and compassion and, by implication, that understanding will determine what loving God and keeping God's commandments means. There is no room for a tension or opposition between the two, no divided loyalties. Where love and law conflict, law gives way, or, better, love always goes beyond and, in that sense, fulfils the law. It controls law and not vice versa.'* (Bill Loader)

Ruth showed love to Naomi and in doing so, she was loving God even though she didn't know it. Love is our everyday workwear – we are to 'put it on' as the coverall that holds all things together in perfect harmony (Colossians 3:2-17). Do you have your 'love embroidered' working clothes on today?

Kate

Sunday Service 3 November 2024 Live Streaming:

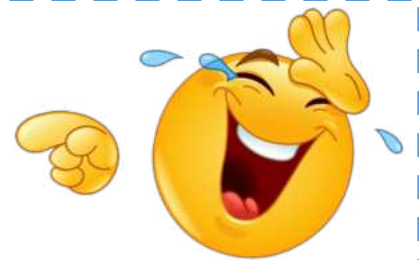
We welcome and thank **Rev Kate Dix** for bringing the message to us today. Welcome to our service here and to those at home. To participate in worship, please click on the link below and sit back and wait for the service to start.

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.

Church news bulletin bloopers

- † Today's sermon "How much can man drink?" with hymns by a full choir.
- † For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nurse in the hall.



Open doors and open hearts on Iona

By Rev David MacGregor

For nine immense weeks from mid-August this year, I served as a full-time volunteer on Iona, Scotland with the ecumenical Christian community there – the blessing of a lifetime!

Anyone can come to Iona. And they do – from around the world (including several Aussie friends), as tourist for a couple of hours; for several days, or for six nights at a time as a guest of The Iona Community, joining the week's specially themed program. Yes, living tangibly in Christian community. In my case even longer, with a great team of staff and volunteers.

To make it to Iona, you can't escape significant travel. From Glasgow; train, ferry, bus across Mull; then a final ferry to that holy island of Iona. A significant pilgrimage in some way to get there.

As an Iona Community "vollie", I've been enriched and challenged like few other times in my life. Just a few weeks into my stay, amid a Sunday night Service of Quiet, I found myself asking; God, how would you want me to grow, be blessed by this unique opportunity in this unique, holy place?

The answer? To grow deeper in my love for, relationship with and discipleship of God through Jesus; God wanted some deep work from me, work needing outward expression.



The answer? To grow deeper in my love for, relationship with and discipleship of God through Jesus; God wanted some deep work from me, work needing outward expression.

"As I move forward from the enrichment of Iona, which I sense will stay with me forever, I sense God through Jesus, through the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, calling me more emphatically and joyfully to be such a person of welcome..."

A fellow volunteer, Alison, described Iona – the island: its beauty and history *and* the Iona Community experience as one of "open doors & open hearts." That's been my "take home"! Open hearts and open doors in understanding and embracing hopes and concerns around creation, the climate crisis, other faiths, justice and peace, community, LGBTIQ+ longings, ecumenism, creativity and reflection.

I loved my musical volunteer role along Euan, the Abbey musician with the thickest Scottish accent! I delighted in leading singing including simple chants, with djembe drum each Sunday leading worshippers at service-end out of the Abbey via one of several wonderful short African songs to morning tea, with shared oatcakes around the cloisters, playing much piano, leading several services and presiding one Sunday at Communion – on the same site where Columba broke bread and shared the cup 1560 years earlier. That continues to humble me.

I was encouraged as lay people especially young people led worship, via the Abbey worship book; for guests to be involved musically or in readings or prayers. I delighted in the number of younger people attracted to the Iona Community's expressions of deeply inclusive worship, community life, justice & peacemaking light years away from often packaged and overhyped religion!

I so sensed the presence of God on Iona that inescapably, songwriter me found ample avenue for expression: instrumentals and shorter worship songs, some sung in abbey worship!

You don't delve too deeply into the history of life on this tiny Hebridean island of Iona before realising what history it is. History, Gaelic and Celtic. History with Columba travelling from Ireland to Iona in 563 A.D; establishing a worshipping, serving, faith-sharing, evangelising community there which over time would impact so much not only of present-day Scotland but England and continental Europe too. History, with the gruesome legacy of the Vikings some centuries later. History in the 13th century founding of a Benedictine Monastery and an Augustinian Nunnery.

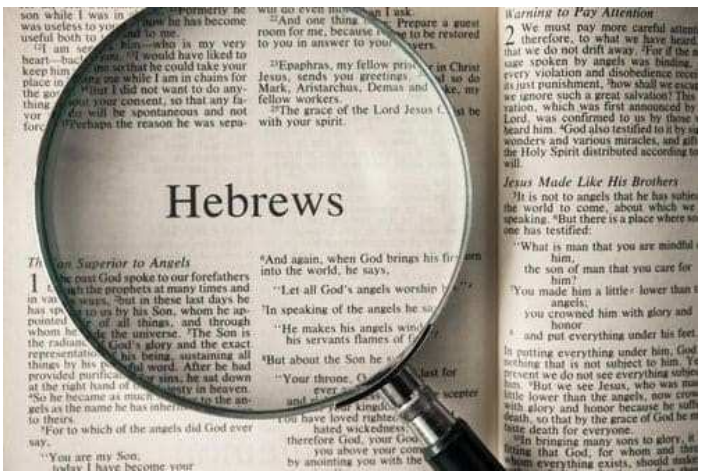
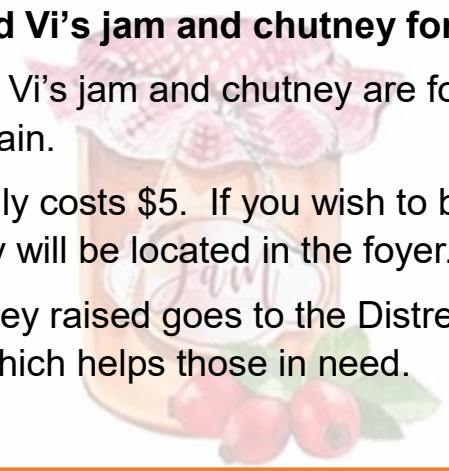
History, as Reformation times see both Monastery and the Nunnery abandoned and over the centuries fall into ruin. Yet all this time, Iona, continues to be a place of spiritual pilgrimage, a place famously described as a thin place - where the gap between the spiritual and the material is tissue paper thin. I "get that"! (To be Continued)

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 29 October 2024

Week \$1,477.22

Budgeted Offerings \$25,840

Offerings year to date \$ 27,011.99

Difference plus \$1,171.90

Donations \$10,040.00

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 10th November 2024

9am Service

Preacher	Richard Wallace
Reader	Joan G
Greeters	Lyn G
Offering	Greg S & Ian D
Livestream	Carmel
Data	Carmen C
Organ	Don A
Morning Tea	Vi and Bill R

Lectionary Readings

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17, Ps 127

Heb 9:24-28 Mk 12:38-44

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.)

