

### Readings

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

Ps 127

Heb 9:24-28

Mk 12:38-44



### Preaching

9am Rev Richard Wallace

### WELCOME TO AUC!

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

### CONTACT US

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

### Love is the Leveller

“Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who contributed to the treasury”

Mark 12: 43b (see Mark 12: 38-44)

In 1980 my mother-in-law, Irene, was diagnosed with breast cancer, and underwent surgery. Our family was living in Fiji where I was minister in Dudley Memorial Methodist Indian Division Circuit. We held a house church prayer meeting in the manse to pray for Irene. During the meeting one of the church leaders informed us that members had taken up a collection among themselves that would allow Pam to make a trip back to Adelaide to see her mother. None of the members were wealthy people, and a lot of them were aged and quite poor.

It was quite a humbling experience to be offered such love and support. In the back of my mind was the thought, “Can I accept such a gift from these dear folk?” This was quickly followed by the thought, “Can I **not** accept this expression of love and support.” To decline a gift would be to decline the love that went with it, to receive the gift is to honour the giver.

This was a most profound experience. It always is when in the presence of Divine Grace. In terms of material wealth, in terms of “stuff,” there is a difference. But, within the Community of Christ, when all the stuff is stripped away, profession, money, ethnicity, custom or gender all that is left really, is love. Love in the giving and love in the receiving. Love is the thing that helps us live together, no hierarchies. Love levels us up.

My mind was taken back to those days as I reflected on the Gospel lesson. In two short sayings Mark sets up a contrast. It is a contrast between the old ways, and how it is living in God’s way established in Jesus. The attitude and behaviour of the Scribes represents the old tradition. The scribe is the professional theologian and maintains the holy writings. He is a student of the law. But he makes a big deal of it. When he greets people he does so in a way that communicates his high ranking, and he is entitled to the honourable seats at any gathering. Jesus had already settled the disciples’ requests for places of honour, by telling them not to worry about the best places but to be ready to truly serve others (Mark 10:44). But the Scribe needs people to know he is special. His garment, the *tallith*, is made of fine material nearly reaching the ground. Not only does the scribe represent ostentation and assumed entitlement, but also corruption; they “devour widows’ houses (12:40).” Widows, who by the law are to be respected and supported by the system, rather get exploited, perhaps pushed out of their housing by landlord scribes.

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The Christian community is to be different. The new way is characterised by the widow's devotion. This widow is very poor, the Greek is "ptoche"- really poor. As a widow she is vulnerable to predatory behaviour of greedy people. She goes to make her temple offering. Around the edges of the Women's Court of the temple were thirteen wooden offering boxes. The opening of the box was bell, or, trumpet shaped, and made of bronze. Bystanders could hear the coins rolling into the collection box. The widow approaches the collection box with two small coins. They are "lepta" and together are worth less than a cent. This is her offering, and she is the hero of the story. She gives of herself, as Jesus gives of himself.

The woman gives it all. Yes, she has two coins. She could have put one in the box and kept one for herself, but no, they both rattle into the box. We cannot help wonder what we would do. What would I do, imagining myself to be that woman. All I have is there in my hand, nothing is set aside for the future. I am at the offering box, do I keep one for myself? I know what I would hope to do, but, to be honest, I can't really say.

But we come back to the contrast, "The scribes exploit and grab in their spiritual poverty; she in her poverty has a wealth of generosity... the point is total openness, the costly self-giving, the vulnerability" (Loader, *First Thoughts, Pentecost 25: November 10*). Jesus' new way is the way of self-giving love, only possible because of God's own giving. May God's grace in Jesus continue to free us to love others.

Grace and peace to all, Richard

### **Go Group end-of-year luncheon**

Vi Radcliffe needs to know who intends to attend the end-of-year luncheon so she is able to make a firm booking. Please indicate today on the registration sheet provided if you plan to attend. The luncheon will be held on Wednesday 20 November. You will be advised of the cost and location of the luncheon next week.

### **Church news bulletin bloopers**

- † I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, yet shall be live.
- † Lent is a period for preparing for Holy Week and Easter.



### **Sunday Service 10 November 2024 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. 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](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.

*(Continued from last week's article by Rev David MacGregor)*

History. As in the late 1930's, Rev George Macleod, an activist, pacifist, visionary Church of Scotland Minister, believing that the church had lost touch with ordinary working people, with what community is all about, with the needs of the world, invokes a grand vision of completing the rebuilding of the Abbey and especially the eating, sleeping and meeting quarters adjacent to the Abbey.

He gathers a collection of Church of Scotland ministers, trainees, as well as unemployed folk and begins the rebuilding of the Abbey surrounds; experiencing the common life together, worshipping together, being community together in that Benedictine tradition, and so the Iona Community is born. 86 years later I thank God for the astounding privilege of being just part of the 2024 iteration of that international, ecumenical Christian movement, as it continues for "*the purposes of:*

- *Transforming lives to change the world*
- *working for justice and peace,*
- *the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship."*

The Iona Community has long embraced the hospitality of God. God indeed welcomes all. As we sang *God Welcomes All* often during my time on Iona, God's welcome deeply impacted me. It's something so lacking in these demanding times. I recall the brief reflection I offered at a weekly Service of Welcome, when reflecting on Matthew 25's 'Parable of the Sheep and the Goats', I suggested a better title would be the Parable of Welcome. It's a parable of whether we will reach out, or we won't, and yes, the implications. Whether we'll dare to see and seek Christ in our neighbour; that neighbour who's different to us. The Parable of Welcome. To those on his right, the King says ...

*'I was hungry ... when you've done it for one of the least of these of mine, you have done it for me.'*

**From "Open doors and open hearts on Iona" By Rev David MacGregor**

## **Church Council meeting October**

At its meeting on 28 October 2024 Council considered the following matters

Council met with members of the JNC to discuss the revision of the Congregational Profile that has been done and will be made available to prospective ministry agents. Some suggested amendments were made. Once the amended Profile is received, it will be forwarded to the Chair of Presbytery.

A report was received on the refurbishment of welcome bags for new members of the congregation. Other matters relating to the task of being a greeter were also discussed.

Council received a financial report from Treasurer Reg Dix and agreed to approve the expenditure of \$45000 (inclusive of GST) to cover the cost of resurfacing of the carpark. How it will be financed depends on whether the church is successful in receiving a grant from the Queensland Gaming Community Benefit Fund. Reg also reported that an anonymous donation of \$10,000 was received and it was agreed that it be put towards the cost of the carpark resurfacing project.

Council asked the Services Stream to bring to Council a report on the future use of the Hall including recommendations on any opportunities for an income stream.

Ron indicated that he would step down as Chair of Church Council at the end of the year. Rev Matthew Stuart has indicated his willingness to take up this role until the end of next year.

## 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 5 November 2024

Week \$1,972.22

Budgeted Offerings \$27,360

Offerings year to date \$ 28,959.99

Difference plus \$1,599.99

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 17th November 2024

### 9am Service

Preacher	David M
Reader	Val D
Greeters	Joan D
Offering	Greg S & Peter P
Livestream	Don A
Data	Richard W
Organ	Carmel S
Morning Tea	Jillian B & Val D

### Lectionary Readings

1 Sm 1:4-20, 1 Sm 2:1-10  
Heb 10:11-14,(15-18), 19-25, Mk 13:1-8

## AUC Prayer Network.

([aucprayer@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.)