

WESLEY NEWS

JULY DIARY DATES

Sunday 5th at 10.00 am

Rev Alex Rodgers
PENTECOST 5

Thursday 12th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 12th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers
PENTECOST 6

Sunday 19th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers
PENTECOST 7

Sunday 26th at 10.00 am
Rev Mac Macdonald
PENTECOST 8



MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Wednesday afternoons in
the Choir Vestry at 4.00 pm

ARTS @ WESLEY

Patchworkers & Quilters

Monday mornings in the
Susannah Wesley Hall at
9.30am

Contact Pat: 8331 9816

WESLEY IS HOME TO

Young Adelaide Voices
Adelaide Harmony Choir
Metropolitan Musical
Theatre Company
Monteverdi Singers

MINISTERIAL MEANDERING

Rev David Baker

Moderator of the Synod of Queensland

Genesis 32&33

The story of Jacob's new name and his reconciliation with Esau

When the President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Dr Deidre Palmer, asked the moderators recently to reflect on what sustains us, and share a scripture passage that continues to feed us, my mind went to this passage from Genesis.

A bit of context: Jacob – Isaac's son; Abraham's grandson - has been on the run for some years. He had beguiled his older twin brother, the manly Esau, out of his birthright, and in connivance with his mother tricked his dying father, Isaac, to give him, not Esau, Isaac's deathbed blessing. Esau was ready to kill him, so he fled.

Twenty or so years later, he's been incredibly successful, but the fundamental deceit he's lived means he has to find reconciliation with his brother, so he sets out with all his wealth. Schemer that he is, he sends herds and gifts before him to win over Esau.

But he must reckon with the truth of his life, and the night before he's to meet Esau, he wrestles with God. He sees God face to face - and God blesses him and renames him "Israel", and gives him a sacred wound.



The next day, with all that is precious to him; his wives and children, he meets Esau.

And Esau says, what's with all this stuff you sent me? I don't need any of it, God has blessed me! It's great to see you!

And Jacob (Israel) says, "To see your face is to see the face of God".

The fascinating thing for me is that the tradition remembers Esau negatively – he was a poor steward of holy things – his birthright, his father's blessing; yet it also remembers this story; someone facing the truth about themselves, entering into vulnerability, finding reconciliation and grace – encountering the face of God, in the dark night of the soul, and also in the one who was supposed to be despised by God for his poor stewardship.

The face of God – reconciliation - is found in unexpected places. That's what the diverse memes of the Scriptural Tradition tell us.

Despite ourselves, and all our machinations, our ignorance of what is holy, God offers grace; but it's not cheap; it means being truthful; it means being vulnerable. Yet it's the most liberating thing we can know.

I encounter the face of God in prayer, particularly the prayers of relinquishment; and also in those with whom I journey; my family, my friends, my co-workers in the gospel.

Their love sustains me and gives me hope.

"Lord thank you that there is no place we can go that separates us from your abundant grace and liberating hope".



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



CHURCH WORSHIP IS HAPPENING AGAIN!

On Sunday 21st June we were able to hold a service of worship in the church for the first time since we were compulsorily shut down on March 23rd because of COVID-19. It was a joyful occasion. The service was led by Rev Alex Rodgers and we had a choir, hymn singing and a chance to hear our magnificent pipe organ being played by Graham Bell. We enjoyed the opportunity to be able to share in corporate worship and to see one another again.



There were a few rules to follow such as sanitising hands, signing in and sitting a safe distance apart but we managed the procedure well and will soon adjust to the changed routine. We are ensuring that all surfaces are sanitised before each service, even the door knobs.



HOLY COMMUNION

It is our usual custom to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. The Church Council was undecided about the best way to hold this in a COVID-safe manner so we will not take communion in July and give ourselves a chance to familiarise ourselves with other COVID-safe practices first.

WE CAN SING!

We are very fortunate at Wesley Kent Town to have such a grand and spacious building in which to worship. Each Church Council had to decide whether to allow singing or not. Our Church Council voted unanimously to permit hymn singing and it is because we believe we have the space to do it safely and there is no doubt that we all love singing well-known hymns which act to re-inforce our faith.



Singing brings joy to many people – but did you know that singing can lead to incredible benefits in your physical, emotional, and social health? Here are 11 reasons why singing is good for you.

- Singing strengthens the immune system
- Singing is a workout for your lungs and diaphragm
- Singing improves your posture
- Singing helps with sleep
- Singing is a natural anti-depressant
- Singing lowers stress levels
- Singing improves mental alertness
- Singing can widen your circle of friends
- Singing boosts your confidence
- Singing broadens communication skills
- Singing increases your ability to appreciate other singers

<https://takelessons.com/live/singing/health-benefits-of-singing>

WHERE NEXT WITH COVID-19?

On Monday 29th June, the rules change again as we move to Step 3 of the recovery. This step sees the relaxation of the 4m²/person rule to 2m²/person. For the time being we will still require people attending worship to continue sitting in alternate pews as this enables social distancing to be practised more easily.

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA NEWS

The UCA has outlined a set of principles and key actions that will guide the way to a better future as Australia recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer said the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the stark inequality and disparity in our Australian society and exacerbated the disadvantage faced by our most vulnerable people.

“In recent days, we have seen thousands of people around our country stand against inequality, specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the pressing need to address deaths in custody and the calls for Voice, Truth and Treaty.”

“It is a reminder that as a nation we must do better.”

“As Australia looks to a post-COVID-19 world, we have a unique opportunity to renew our vision, to reimagine policy and to find creative ways to rebuild a nation that is just for everyone,” said Dr Palmer.

“One of the key learnings in this time of crisis is how deeply we are connected to one another, how deeply we depend on each other. What we have seen clearly is that we are only as strong and healthy as the most vulnerable members of our society.”

Dr Palmer commended the Federal and State Governments for their collaborative leadership in ensuring Australians were kept healthy and those impacted economically could access support. “It has shown us that when we make sacrifices for the well-being of the whole society, everyone benefits.” The document, *Build Back Better: A Just Recovery, Post-Covid-19*, draws upon the Uniting Church vision for a just Australia based on our belief that each person is created in the image of God and deeply loved by God.



As Christians, we see in the life and mission of Jesus, God’s call for abundant life for all people and the renewal of the whole creation.”

CONTACTS

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