

WESLEY NEWS

APRIL DIARY DATES

Sunday 3rd at 10.00 am
Rev Doug Hosking
Holy Communion
LENT 5

Thursday 7th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 10th at 10.00 am
Rev Mac Macdonald
PALM SUNDAY
Start of Holy Week



Friday 15th at 10.00am
Dr Rodney Fopp
GOOD FRIDAY

Sunday 17th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
EASTER DAY

Sunday 24th at 10.00 am
Rev Mac Macdonald
EASTER 2

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Wednesday evenings in the church at 7.30pm.

WESLEY IS HOME TO Young Adelaide Voices

Adelaide Harmony Choir

Metropolitan Musical
Theatre Company

Organ Music Society of
Adelaide Music Library

EASTER AND THE PATH THAT LEADS TO PEACE

James Morris in his “Farewell the Trumpets” records two contrasting entries into Jerusalem in modern times. The first was the German Kaiser in 1898, who made a ceremonial entry of preposterous pomp – bands, German sailors with long rifles and bayonets, the Kaiser dressed in a white cloak with silver threads and on his helmet a giant eagle.

He entered through the victor’s gate (Jerusalem had seven gates) on the West side. But his whole entourage was so large they had to pull down sections of the ancient wall to let them in!

By contrast, General Allenby during WWI, who had commanded the last great cavalry charge in history (mainly Australians) came to the outskirts of the Jerusalem and the Turks fled from Jerusalem. Allenby was so in awe of Jerusalem and its symbolic significance that after receiving the keys to the city by the Mayor (a Moslem) he entered in silence, on foot wearing, as his troops did, their dusty khaki through the Jaffa Gate on the East side (also known as the Gate of Friends). He entered as a pilgrim rather than conqueror.

On Palm Sunday we have a much older story of an entry into Jerusalem by one who grasped it’s symbolic power. No triumphal entry, no war horse, just a colt never ridden. Jesus deliberately recalls a forgotten prophet, Zechariah who proclaimed, “a leader would come in humility and peace and *command peace to the nations.*” When shouted out as Jesus entered, it was too much for the Pharisees who wanted Jesus to stop them. “No”, he said, “if they didn’t shout out then the very stones would.”

When it comes to attaining peace there have been times when subjugation has had to be resisted by force. Think of Hitler, the Japanese empire and now the Russians wreaking havoc in the Ukraine. But other ventures are now seen to be foolish and tragic - Vietnam and the fiasco by the coalition of the willing invading Iraq are examples. We may differ on this! In contrast however, Jesus knew that with the Romans the only viable path was non-violence. Jesus lamented over Jerusalem – *if only you had recognised the things that make for peace.* So, let us ask, what are the things that make for peace in our day? Do we set up another common enemy like we once did with the Soviets and call it China? Do we form alliances which may not really be in our best interests? Have we really given due respect to island nations of the Pacific who feel stranded among the major powers?

Or on a personal level, does it do any good to think ill of those we dislike or to be people who only talk about are those we are “over against”? Where does that end? Do we have to be violent in our words, thoughts and sometime actions? The path which Jesus commands is the way of peace, finally a choice and that undoubtedly is the way of non-violence.

Easter allows us to rethink the nature of power – when a defeat is actually a victory. How so? First those who exercise power by force and intimidation have got it all wrong. There never will be peace while there are those who **have** to impose their rule on others. And further, those who think power is primarily exercised by force, cannot reckon with the power of love, when it is associated with the cause of freedom, the commitment to expose the truth and the willingness to lay down one’s life for the cause of freedom. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela all played by different rules. They looked at things differently and asked, “what is also best for those who are our enemies? how can they be confronted with the truth? in what non-violent ways can this be done?”

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PATH TO PEACE



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



EASTER AND THE PATH THAT LEADS TO PEACE (continued from page 1)

If this is to work for us, something has to change within us first; to become the ones who no longer want to control and dominate others. We have to find peace within ourselves. Again, the symbol of the cross has the power to do this. It was not a sign of weakness but was a deliberate choice on Jesus' part, something that took immeasurable strength - made in the sheer faith that the way of love would work. **What Jesus did was to "internalise strength"**. He redefined power by relocating it within himself and there let the final reality we call God, to work within him.

And this choice is ours, to no longer want or need to dominate others, but to let the way of profound love work itself within us. With an inner strength we can live openly and not fear the truth and not to automatically justify ourselves. We can take responsibility for our lives, our mistakes and the ways we can hurt others. At the same time, we can call others to account and not be afraid if it



hurts their feelings. With an inner strength we can rehear the words of Jesus: "my peace I give unto you, unlike any other peace, a peace beyond normal human understanding"

Let this peace be born again and flower within us this Easter season.

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday Service:

Sunday 10th April at 10.00am

The Palm Sunday Service will be a beautiful start to Holy Week. A service of readings and choral music presented

by an **augmented choir** will lead our thoughts from the palm-strewn arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem through penitential music towards the power and solemnity of Good Friday. The service is organised by our organist and choir director, Graham Bell. The worship leader will be

Rev Mac Macdonald.



Good Friday Service:

Friday 15th April at 10.00am

Dr Rodney Fopp

This meditative service will focus on the journey to the Cross as we reflect on the great sacrifice Christ made for us.



Easter Day Service:

Sunday 17th April at 10.00am

Rev Mark Dickens

We celebrate with joy the risen Christ.

All services will feature special music presented by the Wesley choir under the direction of organist/choir director, Graham Bell.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting of the Congregation** will be held on **Sunday 24th April at 11.00 am** in the church following the service of worship. There are vacancies on

the Church Council. Anyone who is a member or member-in-association is eligible for nomination. Nomination forms will be available shortly from Jenny Stewart and Mark Symons.

At this meeting, the financial statements will be presented by the Treasurer, and reports will be received from the Chairman and the Secretary of the Church Council. There will not be a minister's report this year. The Treasurer will also present the budget for 2022.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We remember members of our church community who are struggling with poor health.



Raelene Chelley has chronic arthritis which causes her a great deal of pain. It affects all the joints in her hands which makes it difficult for her to drive her car. She has always loved craft work and is grateful that she still has some movement in her right thumb and index finger which allows her to do some creative work. Another problem area is her shoulder which she is scheduled to have surgery on at the beginning of May. She misses coming to church and is hopeful she can make it for Easter.

Pat Symons is also suffering from painful rheumatoid arthritis in her spine which is affecting her daily living. Husband, Mark, is kept busy taking her to specialist appointments.

Doug Stewart sustained a crush fracture to his spine which has caused him strong pain and reduced his mobility. Fortunately there are signs that it is beginning to heal so that his mobility has increased significantly in recent days.

Catharina Corbett has not been well for some months so has not been able to attend Sunday worship. She misses everyone and hopes to be well enough to come again soon. She will be celebrating her 89th Birthday early in April. She says she has tried adding and subtracting but can't get it to come out any better than 89. Obviously she hasn't lost her sense of humour.

Elizabeth Brookes unfortunately has contracted Covid but is only experiencing fairly mild symptoms and expects to be well enough to be back at church on Palm Sunday when she is the scheduled reader. Elizabeth's husband, **Frank**, has so far been testing negative for the virus.

CONTACTS

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