



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

YASS PARISH APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

PASTORAL CARE *phone* 0408 400 542 or 6226 1132

CHAIRMAN Church Council: Barry Banks

SECRETARY Church Council: Ruth Thompson

TREASURER Church Council: Lesley Cox

EDITORS: Ruth Thompson krthompson54@bigpond.com.au
Barbara Rayner brrayner@bigpond.com

As part of God's people we are called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ, within our community through regular worship, faithful witness and humble service.

Psalm 95:8-11

When we read the second half of Psalm 95, which reports God's reaction to the Israelites' complaining of thirst in the wilderness, we wonder whether God really said these words. Did God really announce that he "loathed" the Israelites who begged for water in the wilderness?

We are thirsty to hear from God, and we know that Christians primarily listen for the voice of God by attending to the words of scripture. But we also know that scripture is complicated, crafted by human beings in particular situations who were grappling with painful memories and fragile hopes. Is it possible that the writer of this Psalm engaged in what psychologists call "projection," ascribing to God their own thoughts and feelings? Maybe they were ashamed of the way their ancestors tested God and assumed God felt the same.

We still have to test the voices we hear and take time to discern whether what we are sensing is God's voice or some other voice – the internalized voice of our parents or peers for instance, or the voice of our own subconscious speaking its deep longings and fears. It gets even more complicated when we remember that God can speak to us through these other voices as well.

So we have to ask ourselves whether the voices we hear are leading us to love, compassion, self-acceptance, and joy or whether they are drawing us into negative thoughts and feelings. When we pay attention to Jesus, though he sometimes has harsh things to say, his words typically lead to abundant life,

greater joy, and genuine community. These thoughts can be helpful guidelines as we discern the voice of God, even in the words of scripture.

Prayer: God, we are thirsty to hear your voice but we know how easy it is to confuse your voice with the voices of others. Help us to hear you and respond in love. Amen

Contributed.

APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS:

	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
2	Palm Sunday Passion Sunday	Is 50:4-9a Is 50: 4-9a	Ps118:1-2;19-29 Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11 Phil 2:5-11	Mt 21: 1-11 Mt26:14-27:66 or Mt 27:11-54
3	Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11
4	Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36
5	Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32
6	Maundy Thurs	Ex12:1-4, 11-14	Ps 116:1-2,12-19	1 Cor11:23-26	Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35
7	Good Friday	Is 52:13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Jn 18:1-19; 42
8	Holy Sat	Job 14:1-14 or Lam 3:1-9,19-24	Ps 31:1-4,15-16	1 Pt 4:1-8	Mt 27:57-66 or Jn 19:38-42
9	Easter Day Easter Evening	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6 Is 25:6-9	Ps 118:1-2,14-24 Ps 114	Cor 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 1 Cor 5:6b-8	Jn 20:1-18 or Mt 28:1-10 Lk 24:13-49
16	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1Pt 1:3-9	Jn 20:19-31
23	Easter 3	Acts 2: 14a,36-41	Ps 116:1-4,12-19	1 Pt 1:17-23	Lk24:13-35 Jn 10: 1-10
30	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Pt:2:19-25	

Prayer Points for April:

- For those in Africa affected by floods
- For blessings for all the visiting preachers
- For those who are ill
- For those recovering from floods in Australia

Church Council News: Chairperson Barry Banks chaired an information session on 12th March so that everyone has a chance to understand ways forward in our Parish. Voting is on 26th March at a Special Congregation Meeting after the service.



Rye Park News

The congregation have accepted an offer from Rev Nadira Pardo to conduct the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday

CONGREGATION MEETING:

The AGM of the Yass Congregation will be held on 23rd April 2023. Elections for: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Church Notices, Presbytery Representative, and Chief Stewards will be conducted.

Expressions of interest in Newsletter Editor and Property Committee are invited.

The general meeting of the Congregation will follow with elections for 3 Elders and 2 Church Councillors.

Elders Barry Banks, Judith Banks and Ann Ranyard have concluded their terms. Church Councillors Barry Banks and Judith Banks have concluded their terms.

Nomination forms together with explanatory notes will be available in the foyer from 2nd April 2023. Nominations close on 9th April 2023.

Please see Owen Graham if you have any questions.

Christine Anderson
Congregation Secretary.

WORSHIP ROSTER----ST ANDREWS CONGREGATION
April 2023

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	READING	PRAYERS	Morning Tea	FLOWERS
2nd April	Rev Christine Moimoi	Suzie Graham	Suzie Graham	Ruth & Kerry	Barbara
7th April	Rev Christine Moimoi Good Friday			No morning tea	
9th April	Rev John Braakman Easter Sunday	Tim Holmes	Ruth Thompson	No morning tea	Ann
16 th April	Rev Anne Ryan	Chris Anderson	Sandra Henshaw	Ann & Chris	Sandra
23rd April	Rev John Braakman	Tim Holmes	Ruth Thompson	Gordon & Sandra	Ruth
30th April	Russ Neal	Gordon Henshaw	Sandra Henshaw	Chris	Ruth

Stewards: Ruth and Kerry Thompson
Counters: Gordon Henshaw and helper
Duty Elders: Suzie and Owen Graham

UCAF NEWS

UCAF invites everyone to join us for a light luncheon on Sunday, 26th March. We have not received any acceptances at this stage but lunch will go ahead and all are welcome to join us in the hall after the Congregational Meeting.
 Next Meeting will be on 22nd May at 2 pm. All welcome
 Ruth Thompson for UCAF members

Parish Calendar: APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat 1
2	3	4	5 Morning Tea GWL	6	7 Good Friday Yass 9:30am	8
9 Yass 10 am Rye Park 6:30 am Sunrise Service	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Yass 10 am	17 Elders Meeting 2 pm	18 Services TEG 11 am Warmington Lodge 2pm	19	20	21 Playgroup 9.30 am –11.30 am	22
23 10am Yass Rye Park 5 pm	24 <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Items due</u>	25 Anzac Day	26	27	28 Playgroup 9.30 am –11.30 am	29
30 10am Yass						