



Surfcoast Uniting Churches



Lectionary Readings

Lent 1

March 1st 2020

Genesis 2: 15, 17– 3: 1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Lent 2

March 8th 2020

Genesis 12: 1-4A
Psalm 121
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17
OR Matthew 17: 1-9

SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

This Sunday 1st March 2020

HOLY COMMUNION at Anglesea & Airey's

Anglesea: Rev Margaret Russell	9:00
Airey's Inlet: Rev Suzie Castle	10.00
Torquay: Brian Shaw	9.30
Bellbrae: Brian Shaw	11.00

Wed 5th March @ ELOUERA at 2.15pm

Next Sunday 8th March 2020

Anglesea: Rev Margaret Russell	9:00
Airey's Inlet: Rev Suzie Castle	10.30

HOLY COMMUNION at Torquay & Bellbrae

Torquay: Rev. Kenneth Ralph	9.30
Bellbrae: Rev. Kenneth Ralph	11.00

1st March 2020

Minister: Rev. Suzie Castle

Leave days: Saturday & Wednesday

All other days:

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Check our webpage regularly for past newsletters and events.

www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au

LENT 1

The first week of Lent draws us into the Garden of Eden. The story is more complex than childlike renderings sometimes allow. Amongst the different theological threads it contains, lies a tale of two trees and different deaths. The tree giving the fruit that precipitated the Fall, is the *Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil*.

God said death would follow if that fruit was eaten. The serpent said death would not follow. We must presume God would not lie, but it just might be a case of both telling the truth. There would be both a death and not be a death in this Garden tale.

"Who wants to live forever?" sang Freddie Mercury of the rock band Queen at a time when he may well have already known that his own life expectancy was seriously limited. The answer is that no one would want to live forever in an earthly sense. As one philosopher once said, "death gives life meaning". Because death lies before us we live with urgency. We respond and achieve, travel and prioritise. We lean into life! Which leads us to the second tree in the Garden tale, *The Tree of Life*, which shows God's intention for us is life.

The old argument that surely a knowledge of good and evil is a welcome thing, is tackled by the poetry of the story suggesting that to eat of the forbidden fruit is to seize for oneself the right to make the judgment of good and evil. This presumes our own superiority and renders God inferior. This is a death within us: we become dead to God and alive to a diminished understanding. God was right - here is a death. The serpent was right because life continues - just not the life of God's intention.

Moses would offer the Hebrew people wandering through the wilderness a stark choice, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life!"

Choose life, as God intends, as to do otherwise is a death.

Later, Jesus would bring the Garden poetry and the Moses challenge together in his call to lose our life in order to find it. What this means in choosing self-denial or death of self, leads us to find full life as God intends. Obviously this is complicated as people misconstrue self-denial as giving up one's own needs and passions. But it simply means to find the good as God judges and living it heart and soul.

Holy Week Reflection Question: What choices do I make for 'life' or 'death' that help the Kingdom flourish or die in my life and community?

Peace Be With You, Rev. Suzie Castle



DIARY DATES : March 2020

Thursday March 5th @ 11am Please note change of day and time.

Torquay Lenten Studies commence at Torquay Church. All churches are welcome. We are using Lent Event Material.

Thursday March 5th @ 2:15pm. Service at Elouera Aged care Torquay .

Friday March 6th @ 10:00am Aireys Inlet Coffee & Chat

Friday March 6th @ 2pm World day of Prayer at Torquay.. followed by **SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP @ 4:15pm** .. All welcome.

Tuesday March 10th : Anglesea Aged Care Service

Saturday 21st March: Tamil Welcome Feast at Queenscliff Uniting Church. Enjoy a delicious dinner, and learn a little about Tamil refugees.

EVERY WEEK

Tuesdays

Torquay Beaut Beanies 10:30am

Anglesea Prayer Shawl Knitting Gp 2:00pm

Thursdays & Fridays

Torquay Coffee and Kids 9:30am

ONCE A MONTH

4th Monday

Dine Out Lunch Group 12 noon

2nd Tuesday

Anglesea Aged Care Service

4th Wednesday

Anglesea Fellowship 1:30pm

First Thursdays

Elouera Aged Care Service 2.15pm

First Fridays

Aireys Inlet Coffee & Chat 10am

Airey's Inlet

St Aidan's Church
29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet
aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

Anglesea

Trinity Uniting Church
Murch Crescent, Anglesea

Bellbrae

Bellbrae Uniting Church
School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae

Torquay

Torquay Uniting Church
27 Anderson Street, Torquay

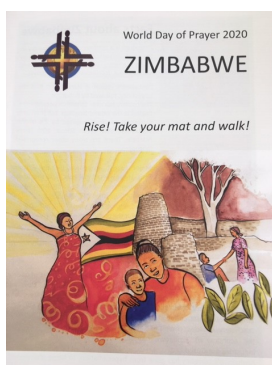
A CELEBRATION of ECUMENICAL PRAYER THE WORLD DAY OF PRAY

is hosted by Torquay Uniting Church this year.

This ecumenical Link service is focused on Zimbabwe

Friday March 6th at 2pm.

Torquay Church members are asked to
Please bring plate of afternoon tea
to share with visitors.



SacredEdge
FESTIVAL

SACRED EDGE FESTIVAL 2020

Diving Deep into Diversity, Arts, Music and Stories

May 1 to 3 2020

Queenscliff Uniting Church

Register to attend at www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au

Or call 03 5258 2854

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM

Uniting Church Hall, School Road
BELLBRAE
Phone: 5261 5139

OPERATING HOURS

Thursday & Friday: 10 am – 4 pm.

Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm.

Sorting Day: Tuesday 1 – 4pm

EACH WEEK WE LIST MEMBERS FROM OUR COMBINED CHURCH DIRECTORIES
FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CARE (IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)

ANGLESEA: John & Margaret RUSSELL

ANGLESEA: Marian SHEARS

ANGLESEA: Lesma STARCK

ANGLESEA: Colin & Dianne STRACK



YOUR NEWSLETTER can be delivered to your INBOX every Friday, just email us to be included.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com **DEADLINE:** Thursday at 4pm