



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches



## Lectionary Readings

### LENT 5: March 29th 2020

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

### Palm Sunday: APRIL 6th 2020

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalms 51: 9-16

Philemon 2: 5-11

Matthew 26:14 to 27:66 OR

Matthew 27: 11-54

## SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

We are sad to say that all our churches are closed due to COVID 19 restrictions. However we continue to support each other and worship together is available via video services on the web site each week.

[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

Our regular Service times when we are open again:

Anglesea	9am
Airey's Inlet	10.30am
Torquay	9.30am
Bellbrae	11.00am

29th March 2020

**Minister: Rev. Suzie Castle**

On Leave: Saturday, Monday & Wednesday

All other days:

**M: 0421 023 197**

**E: [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)**

Check our webpage regularly for past newsletters and future events.

[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

**NOTE: this newsletter will be hand delivered for those without email addresses.**

## **Lent 5:**

### Presence

I slow myself down for a moment, and try to realise that God is present.

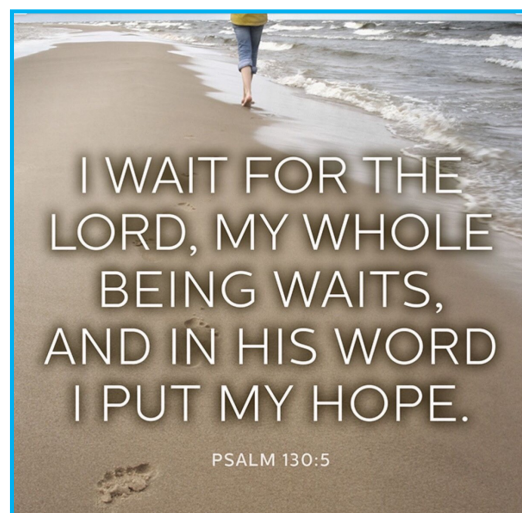
To me. Here and now. He is present in what I do, in the people that I meet, and the situations I find myself in daily. How can I make this reality real for myself?

### Freedom

I try to let go of concerns and worries that may be dragging me down at this present moment. I place any concerns I have in God's hands - at least for these few minutes of prayer.

### Consciousness

When I return to my everyday tasks, remind me, Lord, that you are always there beside me. I need never despair.



## DIARY DATES : March & April 2020

PALM SUNDAY—5th April

(also the first day of no daylight saving—turn your clock back!)

MAUNDY THURSDAY 9th April

GOOD FRIDAY 10th April

EASTER SUNDAY 12th APRIL

Victorian School Holidays: Tuesday 24th March to Mon 13th April.



Our Knitting Groups across the Surfcoast are keeping busy during the restrictions. Marilyn Wendt from Anglesea's Prayer Shawl group has some shawls and cot blankets which have been blessed by Suzie and are waiting for a new home. If you know someone who would like one please contact Marilyn on 0427 750 369

And Torquay Beaut Beanies are happy to finish off a Trauma Teddy for you if needed. Call Jan Hale on 0400 869 660

**Please note cancellations or changes due to COVID19 restrictions.**

### EVERY WEEK

#### Tuesdays

Torquay Beaut Beanies **is meeting in private homes**

Anglesea Prayer Shawl Knitting Gp **is knitting at home.**

#### Thursdays & Fridays

Torquay Coffee and Kids **Please check the FB page**

### ONCE A MONTH

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

Dine Out Lunch Group **is cancelled**

#### 2nd Tuesday

Anglesea Aged Care Service **is cancelled**

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Anglesea Fellowship (**NOTE: in recession until May**)

#### First Thursdays

Elouera Aged Care Service **is cancelled**

#### First Fridays

Aireys Inlet Coffee & Chat **is cancelled**

## COVID 19 Resources ... making life better in isolation

There are many resources available to keep you well and healthy during restrictions—from movie streaming to video conferencing for coffee and cake with friends. Some are listed below:

- \* The Uniting Church at <https://assembly.uca.org.au/> has numerous podcasts, news items and updates and worship resources. AND of course our own website at <https://surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au/>
- \* Your local library at <https://www.grlc.vic.gov.au/> has audio downloads, streaming story time & news
- \* ZOOM conferencing is an easy download from <https://zoom.us/> . 40 minutes free for anyone, or a monthly subscription is available for longer calls and more control. Available for tablets or laptops and phones. NOT good for secure phone calls or data transfer.
- \* DISNEY channel and AMAZON Prime both have free months subscriptions available
- \* GooglePlay on your smart TV or laptop has many lovely current movies for download for reasonable prices (Downton Abbey anyone?)
- \* Use the Government Health site for the **facts** (not commercial TV) <https://www.health.gov.au/>

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

BELLBRAE: Marilyn & Neil SEWELL

BELLBRAE: Carleen THOERNBERG & Michael LAMBKIN

TORQUAY: Doris ALEXANDER (at Elouera)

TORQUAY: Paul & Julie ANDREWS, Scott & Megan



**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet. [aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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

**BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM :** Uniting Church Hall, School Road, Bellbrae. Ph: 5261 5139

**USUAL OPERATING HOURS:** Thursday & Friday 10am to 4pm . **SORTING DAY:** Tuesday 1 to 4pm

**NOTE: All our churches and Op Shop are currently closed as per COVID 19 restrictions**

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: [newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com) DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm

I assume many of you are feeling unsettled as you physically distance yourself to protect yourself and your family from COVID 19. That unsettled feeling may be fear, but it may also be grief. Grief is felt at the loss of worshipping in a gathered community or because of the enormous change that has happened in the world, our country, our church and our homes. In all this, know that God draws close. Christ's love for us was never more evident than at his birth, at the death of Lazarus and on the cross. Our Lenten journey continues where we take the opportunity to pray, repent, fast and change. Go peacefully knowing the Prince of Peace goes ever before us.

Leaders have been working on keeping us connected following church closure due to the COVID 19. While we are in uncharted waters, we will continue to pray about the opportunities Jesus is placing before us to continue building faith and support for our members.

Here's some of the systems and events you are invited to participate in as you stay home to flatten the curve.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

1. Our Web Site will be your port of call for information and online services – [www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au). Weekly worship services can be found under the "Online services" tab.
2. A team has been developed to drop off weekly the worship service and prayer points to the letterboxes of members who don't have internet access.
3. A shortened worship service that can be shared through our google drive, is being created for Elouera Aged Care.
4. The newsletter will be put up on the web site each week.
5. We have added all op shop volunteers to the newsletter mailout to keep everyone updated. People can choose to unsubscribe.
6. A team has started up called PAT (Plodding Along Technology) that offers free ongoing technology support. It's run by retired folk to older folk. This has been advertised on the Surf Coast Community Facebook page.
7. Daily devotions are up on the Surf Coast Uniting Church Facebook page.
8. Lent Event bible study has continued via Zoom
9. Church Council meeting has been held on Zoom.
10. Pastoral care systems have been set up as phone call checks and conversations.
11. The Communications team will keep you well informed through phone, email, video, Zoom, website, Facebook and newsletter.

## CONNECTING IDEAS

1. Set time aside for 7:00pm each night for prayer. Know that your friends will be doing the same.
2. Share prayer together. Make a prayer friend.
3. Call someone in the church directory who you'd like to get to know better. Maybe offer to pray for and with them.
4. Martin Hooper had a great idea that invites op shop volunteers to send in memories of Op Shop funny stories. Please limit them to 150 words and email it to: [newslettersurfcoastus@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastus@gmail.com)
5. If you would like the church to continue to receive your planned giving, we are asking you to phone your Treasurer at each church about how this can done.
6. A drop off system is being developed for any items you have for 'Uniting'.
7. If you need us to pick something up for you let me know. Pharmacies are now doing home deliveries.

Take care and keep safe  
Blessings

Rev Suzie Castle  
Ph 0421 023 197