



Surfcoast Uniting Churches

Lectionary Readings

EASTER 2: April 19th 2020

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

EASTER 3: April 26th 2020

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Psalms 116: 1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1: 17-23

Luke 24: 13-35

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

10am Sunday Service

"Stay and watch with me."

Your words, Lord, to the disciples
before your suffering and death.

I know, Lord,

You will stay and watch over me
all the days of my life.

19th April 2020

Minister: Rev. Suzie Castle

Suzie is on sick leave all this week. Please contact your congregation leader for assistance if needed.

Check our webpage regularly for past newsletters and future events.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

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

??? Who can we blame? ???

That's a question that's been going through some people's minds as they try to come to terms with COVID-19. But blaming and judging people doesn't ever make things better. Complaining about what governments are or are not doing won't help the situation.

The Bible says, "*He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous*" (Matt 5:45b NIV), which means everyone is in the same boat; we all have to deal with this situation together.

It doesn't help to start accusing people. In fact the same part of scripture reminds us that we should learn to "*love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you*" (Matt 5:44 NIV), this reads as the very opposite of blaming people, but instead means forgiving and helping them.

I find it helpful to remember these words "*Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!*" (Hebrews 4:15 CEV)

This is saying that he knows what it's like to live in this rebellious and hurting world, but he didn't turn from God (or even blame God). He would turn to God in prayer, and find help and strength there.

That's what it means to repent; to turn back to God and lean on him - when times are tough *and* when times are good.

Peace be with you
Rev Suzie Castle
Minister of the Word



The April 2020 CROSSLIGHT is available. If you would like a copy delivered to you or wish to pick up a copy – please ring Robyn Harper 0407 829 926. Our members who have the Newsletter home-delivered will receive a copy this week.

A digital copy is available on the web site:
<https://crosslight.org.au/>

Our Bellbrae congregation enjoyed a Zoom Service on Easter Sunday. Blessings Abound.



Our vulnerable neighbours are needing assistance. Please continue to support UNITING with donations of food and goods. UNITING have requested: TUNA, PASTA, & PASTA SAUCE. Any size.

You can deliver to Robyn & Alan Harper's doorstep at 53 Cowrie Road, Torquay.



Congratulations to *Robin Purdey* from our Torquay congregation on one of her poems being accepted in an anthology published by Black Quill Press entitled "*Messages from the Embers*". Robin is a member of the U3A Creative Writing Class.

Orange Moons

Bushfires in the high country
burn for six and a half weeks
worry and waiting
smoke and heat
ash on the roses
blood red suns
orange moons
magpies breathless
longing for rain.
Fire map meetings
leave or stay
photographs in the boot of the car
grandfather's bible
grandmother's jade beads
mops and buckets
stuffed downpipes
phone trees, ember attacks
containment lines
hazard reduction
watch and act
fire crews with slip-ons
a new vocabulary.



Robin's Bio as it will appear in the book: Living in a little town in the western district of Victoria, I was five years old when we were burnt out. Never forgotten. Sixty or so years later, fires in the high country burned only a few short kilometres up the mountain from our home. I am now retired by the beach.



Check out www.brucewatsonmusic.com for a song a day from Bruce Watson. More details next week.

PAT (Plodding Along Technology) **Group** is open to anyone with techie questions, nothing too small or silly.



Call Jane Skelton 0400190580 or Alan Harper 0417563260

This week we ask you all to pray for our Minister, Rev Suzie Castle and her family. Suzie has been very unwell with pneumonia but is recovering well at home. She has found it very difficult to be sick and to miss Easter worship and fellowship with her congregations.

Hold Suzie in your hearts this week, pray for strength and recovery.



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

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

USUAL OPERATING HOURS: Thurs & Fri 10am to 4pm. Sat 10am to 1pm. **SORTING DAY:** Tuesday 1 to 4pm

NOTE: All our churches & the OPshop are currently closed as per COVID 19 restrictions

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

Your Church Offering...

A big **THANK YOU** to all our regular givers. Your offering is helping keep all our bills paid each week. These include Suzie's stipend and our energy and cleaning bills.

We have opened a new National Australia Bank Account to which you can contribute, in person at any NAB bank, or through online banking.

Surf Coast Uniting Church Congregation Deposits

BSB: 083-929

Account Number 93-009-8403

Please identify your deposit with these tags:

Aireys Inlet: 3231 AI

Bellbrae: 3228 BB

Torquay: 3228 TQ

Contact your local congregation Treasurer for information about using our new account **OR** direct debit **OR** to drop off your offering envelope.

Aireys Inlet: Noni Johnson / Marilyn Wendt

Bellbrae: John Stephens

Torquay: Robyn Harper

Stay safe in this challenging time.

Robin Dennis,

Treasurer, Surf Coast Linked Congregations

Community Messages:

Plan ahead to support Op-shops, markets and church fete's when we are free to gather again. Start potting up those cuttings, making jam and sewing saleable items.



Jane Skelton is interested in hearing from anyone who could **sew scrubs**—call 0400 190 580

The **Book Shop @ Bellbrae** is open by appointment only. Browsers are welcome one by one and leave the money on the table. Call Carleen on 0415 173 794

Remember to keep saving your **STAMPS!**