



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

10th May 2020

Worship together is available via video services on the web each week from 9:00am

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

**Bellbrae is worshipping Live on Zoom at 11:00am Sundays  
and Airey's Inlet is Live on Zoom at 1:30pm Sundays**

**Minister: Rev. Suzie Castle On leave: Saturday and Wednesday  
All other days: 0421023197 E: [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)**



## Lectionary readings

**Easter 5: May 10th** Acts 7: 55-60 Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14

**Easter 6: May 17th** Acts 17: 22-31 Psalm 66: 8-20 1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14: 15-21

**You are once again invited to have your bible at the ready for Sunday's online service. We will focus on the John [14:1-14](#) reading.**

In the lead up to Mother's Day, I have had a few recent issues cross my path that remind me of the strength, courage and resilience of mothers. One was a mum escaping domestic violence, another mum ending domestic upheaval, the third was mum of two Rachel Held Evans (RHE) one year on from her unexpected death. While the first two aren't on the world stage like RHE, they are the world to their children.

What each of these mums' stories have in common, besides sadness, loss and confusion; is battle, courage and strength. Mostly though, their stories are about a radical type of love that shields and shepherds their young at great cost to themselves.

I have been told many times that the great surprise of motherhood is the incredible love they have for their children. It's a love they have never felt before and it's all consuming and identity changing. It surprises them the extraordinary lengths they will go to protect and nurture their children. It surprises them the different feelings they now have about hope and determination that arises for more than just themselves. Once a mum, thoughts move from living one's own best life, to strategically building a life for their family where they can all flourish. From what I've heard over the years, that seems to be the hope and determination most mums have for their children.

My first claim this day, is that the first two women are powerful role models for their children because, through their determination and through many sacrifices, they have moved those who they deeply love and hold out so much hope for, into a place of safety so their children are given the best chance to flourish. It takes strength and bravery to bring children along with you as you hit reset on life.

RHE's teachings on Proverbs 31 are helpful here. You see, the most faithful use of this chapter is **not** as an unattainable standard women must reach in order to be worthy of praise, but as an example of how much in women's lives and work is **already** worthy of praise.

Proverbs 31 has for the longest time been translated as the virtuous women or virtuous wife. But the best original Hebrew translation of *eshet chayil* is *not woman of virtue*, but **woman of valour**. Two words change the way we look at and place expectations on women. RHE changed the world of so many women and men through her unrelenting and faithful pursuit of God's truth in scripture. She exposed that there is valour (courage, and strength) in our actions as women, in the actions of mums.

Mothers Day brings up different emotions for different people. For me it's become more than dedicating a day to my mum alone. It's about remembering the role modellers, the sacrificers, the survivors, the thrivers, the hopeful who have changed us. Whoever this mother figure has been in your life, may you hold this day in your heart with joy remembering how you have also brought opportunities for another to flourish because that was afforded to you. I also remember to you this day Lord Christ Jesus, who after great cost to Godself and out of radical love for this world, continues to shield and shepherd God's children.

RHE was a Christian writer who spent her short life in relentless pursuit of studying the scriptures and generously sharing her discoveries with the world. "Searching for Sunday" and "A year of Biblical Womanhood" are two of her books I recommend to you.

Peace be with You . **Rev Suzie Castle**. Minister of the Word

### A NEW COOKBOOK PROJECT

Many of us have been sharing recipes and snippets of cooking tips during lockdown and now it is time to put them all together. A small team has volunteered to help put together a cookbook of recipes from the **Surfcoast Uniting Church family & their friends**. If you have a recipe you're pleased to call your own (or can attribute it properly) then please send it to [surfcoastcookingandtrading@gmail.com](mailto:surfcoastcookingandtrading@gmail.com) or directly to Tricia Genat @ [patriciamgenat@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamgenat@gmail.com).

If you have a photo, or a quote, or a family story about the recipe – add that in too! P.S. If anyone owns or has access to a spiral binding machine, we would love to know.



### Community Messages:

**Torquay** are meeting on Zoom for Coffee and Chat Sundays at 10:00am. If you wish to join please email Jane on: [janeskelton2@gmail.com](mailto:janeskelton2@gmail.com)

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

**Position Vacant soon:** Robin Dennis will be concluding his term at Link Treasurer this year so we are looking for a replacement to train.

Please contact Ro Thompson.

## CRAFT CORNER.

After sharing Roma's Uniting Rugs last week; today we are sharing some of the many Trauma Teddies that June Angus has knitted to send to the Red Cross. These might end up in the Geelong Hospital for the sick children. Love the colours June.

I would like to continue this corner of the news sheet with crafts people have been creating. They don't have to be to give away to a cause, just share your talents with the church community here.

Send photos or stories to the newsletter email below.



**For those of us involved in the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change....** On May 15th there is still going to be a nationwide climate strike led by school students. But like everything else at the moment, it's going to be online.

**Nationwide Multi Faith Online Service for the Climate.** One way ARRC is suggesting is by going to a [multi faith online service on May 15th](#) at 10am that they are organising in support of the school students. Let's go to this service together! Let's show that we are united in this time of adversity in the spirit of love, reverence and compassion.

**Online student strike:** The other is by registering and attending the [online strike](#) itself at 4pm on May 15.

**Common Grace:** Common grace is also organising at 3pm May 15th a [National Online Prayer Gathering for Creation and Climate](#). If you think any these would be of interest, you might like to register to be a local contact by signing up at [https://www.arrcc.org.au/strike\\_signup](https://www.arrcc.org.au/strike_signup)

### Prayers for the people and our World

In this difficult time of a World Pandemic, we pause to thank God for:

The gift of new born babies and the hope that new life brings.

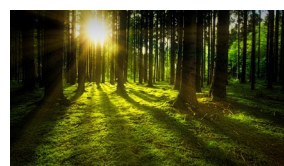
The gift of music, and stories and the many talents being shared during lockdown.

The wonderful expressions of generosity happening in and around communities.

The return to backyard gardens, home baking and spending time with family (even if it is on an electronic device)

Sharing worship together in new ways that is reaching more people than we could have ever imagined

And finally, we thank you for those who continue to go to workplaces so that the rest of us have our needs cared for and can stay safe. Amen



*Prayer from PPW Presbytery newsletter, May 2020*

**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

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