

PRESBYTERY PORT PHILLIP WEST

SEPTEMBER 15TH 2020—NEWSLETTER NO.15



Citizens of Heaven

Rev. Trang Vo

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.” Philippians 3:20-21 [NRSV]

When I was studying at the Theological College as part of my formation, each week, the college would have different groups leading worship. When it was my groups turn to lead, we prepared the entire Order of worship, from prayers, to hymns and the sermon.

We carefully crafted the liturgy since we were considering those that were part of our community, that is, we had people that come from different backgrounds, such as South Korea, China, Tonga, and Canada, to name a few. In the process of forming the Order of worship, there were occasions that we spent time on researching hymns in different languages and find one that we hope would be familiar to our community so that we can sing together. When I say familiar, I mean a hymn that has been translated into many different languages, and hymns that have an easy tune to follow, at least. That was good. But I always felt something was missing, which I wasn't quite sure what it was at the time.

Gradually, I realised that it was about unity. I thought about when a hymn was being sung in a different language other than English, what does it mean for the people that are participating in worship at that same space. And the sort of effect it has on visitors that come to worship with us on the day. Is our corporate worship connecting us deeply with each other and with God? Or could it have a vice versa effect as at times we are too focused on individual's culture than the culture that has intended for us- Christ's culture- us in Christ's identity. So, in this month of September, as we are focusing on “Inclusive worship with different Cultures” is an opportunity for us to deeply reflect ways that can bring unity in worship.

When we reflect the stories in the scriptures, especially the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians. The community was in the midst of arguing about Jesus' incarnation, life, death and resurrection- the person of Jesus, Paul urges the Philippians to realise that their “citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20). In the same way, when we are trying to figure out whether something is right or wrong, “which culture?” we are reminded that the culture that we inherit from the world in which we live only holds us together temporarily. On the other hand, the identity that we have inherited that comes from God is sustaining and keeping us together now and the rest of eternity.

What

CULTURE

do you identify with?

Inclusive Worship with different Cultures

Mental Health Matters

Rev Fiona Bottcher [Deacon]

We are “a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal” (Basis of Union), yearning for the kind of inclusive diversity that defines the body of Christ, for: “There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ.” (1Corinthians 12:12).

In the mental health wards, I’ve been greatly inspired by the work of Social Workers and Peer Support Workers. I’ve witnessed their incredible capacity to bring out the best in patients by genuinely empowering them within a system that too easily robs them of control.

Relinquishing power creates space for a patients’ own experience, wisdom and authority to be honoured and incorporated into their treatment and recovery. This kind of inclusion requires compromise and, sometimes, sacrifice. In systems with strong cultural biases, a genuine power shift is critical for authentic inclusion to be possible.

For our prayers and longings for inclusion to be realised, we need to call out imbalances of power and have the courage to sacrifice our own power and control. Without this genuine invitation, we cannot truly be formed into the image of Christ, one body with many parts.



7 million
people at
risk of
starvation
in South
Sudan

[LINK HERE](#)

PPW Translations

Would anyone be willing to
translate PPW survey into
other languages?

Contact Linley Liersch

Linley.liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au

COVID –19

CALD Languages

Victorian Multicultural Commission

[RESOURCES](#)

[LINK HERE](#)

9 minutes @ 9

PPW Presbytery Ministers pledging to pray with you twice a day...

Prayers for inclusiveness:

Loving God, Invoke in us a Spirit of enquiry for the voices that are missingin the hustle and bustle of daily living and trying to keep our spirits up in this time of great confusion, help us also to stop and spare a thought for our neighbours as we pray for:

- ♦ Those who have family in countries ravaged by the Covid disease.
- ♦ Our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities as they face counter cultural restrictions.
- ♦ Those confused by regulations.
- ♦ Children, teenagers and youth in our communities, dealing with the massive challenges of remote study, help us to find ways to respond to their spiritual needs.

God of all knowing, as we cannot gather together, we cannot see the struggle on the faces or in the body language of our members who are: isolated, frail, confused, neglected, living in fear or just feeling forgotten.... bring those people to our hearts and minds and speak to us a caring response.

We ask these prayers in the name of Christ. Amen.

Jeanne Beale

Note for those preparing worship liturgy: In our offerings of worship that are extending into a wider community, is our language inclusive of those who have not grown up in the church, and does our liturgy include: women, people of colour, children growing up in a variety of family settings, people from LGBTI communities, CALD communities, people with disabilities and those with a variety of mental illnesses?

PPW Focus Worship Service

Your congregation can attend **Focus Worship Service** through the Presbytery by going directly to the YouTube and typing the congregations name...

Sept 20 Bacchus Marsh — Sept 27 Preston

Mission On-line

If you have a mission on-line idea you would like to share in the newsletter email. Write 150 words and send a photo to
Linley Liersch
Linley.liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au

Collaborating on the Future Church—REPLAY

You missed it so here is your chance!
Tuesday 22nd Sept - 9 am to 10:30 am

At Presbytery the eLM staff, Mat Harry, Chris Barnett and Linley Liersch made some observations to get you thinking about collaborating together. We observed that an enormous amount of time is spent preparing worship. This time-consuming worship preparation has meant that mission and discipleship is under emphasised. We would like to encourage greater collaboration across presbytery. Ministers and Church Council members can begin to think about what this could mean for your area. What are you passionate about? Children, youth, families, CALD resources, Bible studies, discipleship, mission on-line... ?

Hosts: Mat Harry, Chris Barnett & Linley Liersch

Join Zoom Meeting -
this session will be recorded for future use.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81461466322>

PPW TRIVIA NIGHT

We had 150 people attend and 16 teams compete in the Presbytery Trivia Night. People attended from the Macedon ranges to Torquay, Brunswick to Western Heights, Tasmania too!

It was a great family fun night to beat the Covid Blues.

Trivia included music, sports, name that hymn, general knowledge, TV, Children's. UCA acronyms have never been so funny!

Congratulations to **Rusty's Team** for coming first. Auslan applause on zoom below.



Crafting Intercultural Worship Hints

By Rev. Dev Anandarajan
(eLM Intercultural Leadership)

1. Regularly let different cultural groups influence your style of worship
2. Learn a song from another language
3. Learn symbolic gestures from the cultures in your congregation
4. Display cultural symbols in the worship space
5. Have the Bible read in a cultural language
6. Do whatever is possible to ensure everyone has a chance to use their own language.
7. Try to express yourself in plain English, not academic English
8. Consider providing simultaneous interpretation and written translations
9. Invite people to pray in their own language—God does not require English!
10. Preach about anti-racism
11. Talk about our call to be an intercultural congregation/church
12. Use diverse imagery to describe God (eg. eagle, mother hen, persistent widow)



Reformed Worship “In Christ there is no East nor West: Ideas for Embracing Diversity in Worship.” Suggest inviting ethnic minorities to take a lead in worship. Use drama, art, music and story. Importance of having pauses in the service for new people.

<https://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-2001/christ-there-no-east-or-west-ideas-embracing-diversity-worship>

Chapter Next recommend strategies for Multicultural worship service. <https://www.chapter-next.com/strategies-for-planning-multicultural-worship-services/>

Intercultural Worship Resources

UCA Samoan language worship services:

Click on or cut and paste into your browser the following link for Synod Vic/Tas Samoa worship service on Youtube - SamoanUCA Victoria https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoBbUqypl_Tnuufp2eLia5A and subscribe. Also Zoom bible study offered by Rev. Kiliona Mafaufau of Lidcombe UCA in NSW. Sundays at 7.00pm <https://ucanswact.zoom.us/j/95871421732> Meeting ID: 958 7142 1732

CALD Resources from SA Synod <https://sa.uca.org.au/cald/cald-events-and-resources>

Inclusive Worship - Enabling cultural gifts

PPW Workshop recordings of speakers Rev Dev Anandarajan on ‘Crafting Intercultural worship’, Sani Vaeluaga and Peter Gaydor-Whyte share their experience as leaders of worship; Rev Randall Pryor on ‘The nature of Christian worship across cultural contexts’ posted on <https://vimeo.com/user111726530> -

Towards Intentionally Anti-Racist Worship

Article by Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White (Leichardt UCA) <https://uniting.church/towards-intentionally-anti-racist-worship/>

Learn a song from another language:

<https://songs2serve.eu/songs/>

2:19 Helping local Churches to embrace nations.

<https://www.twonineteen.org.uk/multicultural-worship-top-tips/> Further tips on inclusive worship as mission, helping discipleship and growing the body of Christ.

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship recommends

four essentials for multicultural worship are 1) prayer for renewal; 2) Be Intentional; 3) Practice radical Hospitality; 4) Acknowledge discomfort.

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/four-essentials-for-multicultural-worship/>

Seedbed suggests that you work to make your worship Intercultural. It take intentionality. <https://www.seedbed.com/13-tips-for-leading-an-intercultural-church/>

Intercultural Matters by Rev. Swee Anne Koh speaks about images and music used in worship can being inclusive too. <http://intercultural-matters.com/worship-resources/liturgical-ideas/>