

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

28th March 2021

Welcome to the Surf Coast Uniting Church newsletter.

All our sermons can be viewed at www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au



Rev. Suzie Castle : m: 0421023197 e: suzie.castle@gmail.com

SURFCOAST SERVICES each week: 9.30am at Airey's Inlet & Torquay. 11am at Bellbrae

We acknowledge that we meet to worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present, and emerging. Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

I heard God clearly this very day when reading through **Luke 4:4-30** for this week's **Lent Event** bible study. During your daily/weekly bible reading, I commend this passage to you.

All the references to the Spirit of the Lord in the opening paragraph make it clear that Luke wants us to be in no doubt as to Jesus' identity as God's chosen spokesperson.

Elijah was sent to a widow in a foreign land. No one in Israel was to hear the words of God's prophet, only a widow in Sidon. In every imaginable way she was an outsider. She was a widow. She was poor. She was female. She was a foreigner. She was a pagan. But to her, the prophet went. To her, the word of God went. Jesus uses the story to speak of the inability of those too close to an issue to hear the truth.

Because prophets don't come from within the system. To be effective, a prophet often comes from outside, perhaps because it is only an outsider who can truly see the way things are, who isn't blinded by familiarity or self-interest.

The people of God, Jesus seems to be saying, need to listen to outsiders. The people of God are distracted by their own problems, tied up in arguments and busyness and are not good at hearing when God wants to tell them something new.

What if Jesus is telling us that the prophet who speaks to us will not be from our hometown? That we need to hear what God is saying through people who do not share our views, our politics, or our assumptions. That we need to hear outsider stories of encounters with God, what God is doing in their midst, how they understand faith and faithfulness. And to hear our ways of living, our church and our institutions critiqued by those who live outside our bubble.

These 'outsider' voices are likely to make us uncomfortable, make us feel threatened. They may challenge things that we hold very dear. In this modern world of social media, our experience of the world is carefully curated, so that we can easily ignore those with whom we do not agree. We have built layers of mental and emotional defences against ideas that alarm us. When we open ourselves up to hearing the voice of God through the lives of those who are very different from us, we are given a gift. We get a view of the world and of God that we could never construct ourselves. This is how God can break through to us, lift the fog and challenge us to grow.

Peace be with you
Rev Suzie Castle, Minister of the Word

Thursday 1st April—Everyone is invited to join the **Passover Meal** this year at Oak Tree Place, 25 Anderson Street, Torquay at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. \$15 pp. **PLEASE RSVP** to Robyn.harper@bigpond.com OR 0407 829 926. DEADLINE: Monday 29th March

Friday 2nd April—Good Friday Services.: Torquay & Bellbrae at 9.30am. Airey's Inlet at their local ecumenical service.

Afterwards Hot Cross Buns to share at the Genats at 8 Gogoll Crescent, Torquay, *All welcome BYO buns (but there will be plenty!)*

Sunday 4th April: Easter Sunday. Services as usual.

Lectionary Readings

March 28 : Palm Sunday April 4:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a	Acts 10: 34-43
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29	Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
Philemon 2: 1-11	1 Cor 15: 1-11
Mark 11: 1-11	John 20: 1-19
OR John 12: 12-16	

Preaching Roster

March 28:	Good Friday:
Palm Sunday	Bellbrae & Torquay worship at 9.30 together.
Airey's Inlet & Bellbrae:	Aireys at Ecumenical Service
Video sermon	Easter Sunday: Airey's Inlet & Bellbrae: Communion with Rev Suzie Castle
Torquay: Rev Suzie Castle	Torquay: Robert Packett



Plan your Week: Diary Dates

Torquay and Aireys Inlet Lenten Study Group

on Thursdays at 10:00am in Oak Tree Place and at 2 pm at Aireys Inlet.

Come along and take this special time of Lent to reflect on what it means to you and the world.

This week at Airey's Inlet the study is "Experiencing Freedom". All are welcome to come and join the discussion.

At Torquay: "Who is my Neighbour". Please join us—no experience necessary

DIARY DATES: Easter Holidays: Friday 2nd April to Monday 5th April
SA school holidays start on Friday 9th April.



**EASTER
SUNRISE
SERVICE**

**6:30am
Easter Sunday
April 4th**

Cosy Corner Beach
(off the Esplanade near Point Danger)









Uniting needs the following:



Tinned peas, carrots, green beans, (420gm tins), Sugar (1 kg) vegetable oil for cooking, Tomato sauce, Cornflakes, Instant coffee (150gm), tissues, Toilet rolls, toothpaste, laundry powder or liquid (small).

Most items to be left at the Harpers front door (53 Cowrie) But—margarine, butter & cheese need to be handed to Robyn personally.



Bellbrae Opshop & Bookshop Roster:

Sat.27th: Cheryl P, Karlene, Carleen, Suzie, Sam, Jane, and Robert.

April 4th: TBA

Combined Pentecost Worship Service:

The Uniting Churches across the Greater Geelong area will join together in a celebration service for Pentecost on **May 23rd at 3pm.**

This is a service for all ages and an inspiring time to allow the Holy Spirit to revitalise and empower us. There is a Combined Choir for this service so singers, please call Rev Amanda Nicholas on 0413617469 to join the choir.

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them".
JOHN 7: 37-38

The Geelong Commandery of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, invites you to a **TRIVIA AFTERNOON**

on Sunday 18th April from 1.30pm to 3.30pm,
Christ Church Hall, Moorabool Street. Geelong
\$20 per ticket (includes delicious afternoon tea)

**All proceeds raised will support the work of
Cottage by the Sea**

Contact: Gayle Dougall 0429 679 549 or our
own Ro Thompson 0408 319 385



Combined Pentecost Worship Service

All the Uniting Churches across
the Greater Geelong area are
joining together in a celebration
service for Pentecost.

May 23rd, 2021

3pm



If you like to sing, you are invited to join the combined choir for this event. You will need to register through this trybooking link
<https://www.trybooking.com/BPVSP>
or phone Rev Amanda Nicholas on
0413 617 469

MONDAY

Dineout

3rd Monday of month 12:00
noon@ The Beach Hotel, Jan Juc
All welcome .
Call Jean on 0409969392

TUESDAY

Prayer Shawl Knitters;

2:00-4:00pm weekly in Anglesea church

Beaut Beanies:

10:30am in Torquay Church Foyer
weekly

WED THURSDAY

Bomboras Coffee Ministry

10:00am Café on the esplanade at Torquay. Rev Suzie attends on the LAST Thursday of the month.

**Worship at Elouera ,1st
Thursday of Month at 2:15pm
NEXT—Thursday 1st APRIL**

FRIDAY

Coffee & Kids

9:30-11:00am
In Oak Tree Place

SATURDAY

**Op Shop at Bellbrae from
10:00-4:00pm**

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

Weekly offerings can be made via direct debit or credit to the congregation account :

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403 Please add notes in the deposit area to identify your congregation:
Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

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