



The Westerly



PPW & PWV Newsletter No.3

6th March 2021

Like Leaven in the Loaf (SYNOD 2021)

Rev Linley Liersch (MDSE) *Sorry I forgot to ask someone else for a reflection!*

Rev. Dr. Kylie Crabbe led our Synod Bible studies. She looked at "Ableism" in the Bible with fresh eyes. Reviewing Isa 35 we observe many references to illness and disability: weak hands, feeble knees, fearful hearts, the blind, the lame and the deaf. God makes a way for the people in the desert by lowering mountains. She noted that the people in this story are not altered. God changes the environment to make a way in the wilderness for the people of all abilities.

In reviewing the New Testament texts in the past, commentaries treated the people who are less able in as a 'narrative prothesis'. Not as real people but merely propping up the healing narrative that follows, where the power of God will be revealed. Kylie challenged this way of understanding the bible, stating that people of varying abilities on the outside the temple are more the people of God—than the scribes and the pharisee inside the Temple. For it is the people outside the temple who open their hearts to Jesus.

In summary Kylie observes that the Bible is full of people who have limitations and shared vulnerabilities. In fact how can we be the body of Christ if we are not caught up in the wellbeing of the other.

Jesus told them another parable "The Kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." The Moderator Rev. Denise Liersch speaks of how a tiny bit of hope can be dreamed large. That yeast itself is tiny and hidden and yet has huge potential to transform. The parable speaks to us of how the Spirit of God can work through the seemingly small and insignificant things barely visible to our eyes, and yet far beyond our expectations. [Crosslight Feb 2021 p.2]

What a great message for us when we (as individuals, as congregations, as presbytery staff) feel small and insignificant in the work we do, and yet Jesus tells us we are yeast for the world. That in our simple, ordinary, everyday tasks we join in with the work of God, as co-creators with God.

'Like leaven in the loaf' was Synod worship, led by Rev. Tupe Ioelu. This was a great Intercultural worship. That took the time and space to acknowledge country in a very meaningful way. As Alison Overeem welcomed us to her country in Tasmania, the lands of her ancestors. And Will Pickett acknowledged the people of Victorian lands and people. This liturgy weaved together the rich cultures of UCA in scripture and song, music and imagery, sign and symbol, art and prayer. Thanks to all who led us in our worship of our God who loves diversity.



Like Leaven in the Loaf

Synod 2021

Meeting virtually (online) **Friday 26 to Sunday 28 February 2021**

Church Council News

ADMINISTRATION - PROPERTY



Andrew Phillips
Administrator PM



There has not been a lot of promotion about the Victorian State Government \$250 credit on power bills for seniors and other eligible persons that commenced on the 1st February 2021 and goes through to 31st January 2022.

A number of Congregation members who may not be aware and could benefit. Here is a link to the information. Eligible criteria applies.

<https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/>

Look Andrew what happens when you don't send me a photo. Clipped from Facebook!

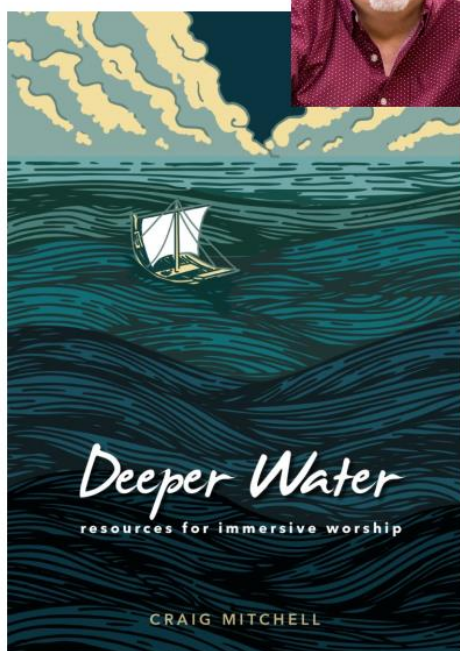
BOOK REVIEW



Last week Craig Mitchell launched his book "Deeper Water" on-line. He said so often contemporary or alternative worship is viewed as being 'light weight' but more often it provides worship that is meaningful and immersive. The launch reflected the book with news songs, prayers, poetry and reflections being shared.

From Media Com: Deeper Water is a rich compilation of immersive worship resources from Dr Craig Mitchell, Uniting Church educator and resource worker. The 180 page book includes gatherings, prayers, guided meditations, drama scripts, original songs, blessings, and multi-sensory worship ideas developed for a range of settings and age groups. Vivid language. Evocative Scripture reflections. Seasonal materials. Stirring music. Contemplative stations. Scripture index included. Cost: \$9.95.

Craig Mitchell has written and edited worship and education resources for the Uniting Church in Australia, The Upper Room, and Seasons of the Spirit for over 30 years. It includes: 11 new original songs co-authored with Leigh Newton, David MacGregor, Tim Beale and Allan Hoare, including new songs "We Walk On", "There is A Thin Place" and "Spirit of Creation". His songs "Like a Candle" and "God of Creation" are used internationally. *"We Walk On" was played as part of the launch a great song for a pilgrim people always on the way.*



EDITORIAL NOTE:

We are hoping the PWV & PPW newsletter will help you feel connected with the wider church. Please feel free to forward it on. Note, that we are trying to do it in a way that does not make more work for PWV Staff! That is lighter and simpler. There will be times when it seems 'uneven', give us time to build networks across the presbyteries. But you can email me directly with your local stories, forward a local newsletter with a great story and pass on photos. It would be great to hear some Lenten Huddle ideas. **Linley Liersch.**

Contact: linley.liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au

Mental Health Matters

REV. FI BOTTCHER (SUNSHINE MENTAL HEALTH)

I love the simple images of the “seed planter” and “bread maker” as metaphors for pastoral care. They call me to challenge my innate desire to fix things, particularly other people! Planting seeds and baking bread requires a certain humility; you are not in control of all the elements, you simply bring them together – in the right measures, conditions and time.

In an episode of the “Everything Happens” podcast hosted by Kate Bowler, Kate – historian, author and “incurable optimist” – interviews Fr Greg Boyle, known for his transformative work with former gang members in Los Angeles. What caught my attention was hearing Greg talk about “compassion fatigue” and the way ministers and carers often “burn out”.

He says that it's the tendency for people to “make it about themselves” that causes burn out, as they work hard to try to fix, save and rescue others. His simple remedy is to stop making it about us and focus on “delighting in the people in front of us”. I love that!

When we are open to receiving people as they are, we allow ourselves to be changed by them, like yeast in flour, the Kingdom of God among us: creating, transforming, nurturing.

**My mum's first “lockdown loaf”
- August, 2020!**



Sounds of Lent

Rev. Narelle Collas

Sights and Sounds of Lent - meditations for the season By Bernard J. Haan, Jr., Arden W. Mead

Making recordings of the following and using these in the worship services.

- Bag of silver coins
- A torn robe
- A basin of water
- A whip
- Hammer or nails
- Palm branches
- Dice

Or download free sound effects:

www.soundeffectsplus.com

Joint Ministers Retreat

—Save the Date

PPW & PWV ministers retreat for 2021.

Norval House Halls Gap

September 5th—Wednesday 8th 2021.

The theme of the retreat will be ‘Renewal’.

Julie Perrin will be our guest facilitator on our retreat. Julie Perrin is an oral storyteller, writer and teacher.



Her website is called Tellingwords. As a writer she notices the extraordinary in everyday. As a story teller she weaves wisdom tales and poetry with lived experiences. As a teacher she passes on story telling skills and rituals.

In 2011 she won the Pat Glover Storytelling Award at Port Fairy Folk Festival.

We are blessed to have her leadership!

Our Activities



Tues 9th 1 pm	PWV Afternoon Lenten huddle
Tues 9th 7 pm	PWV Evening Lenten huddle (LP)
Wed 10th 2 pm	PPW Afternoon Lenten Huddles
Wed 10th 8:15	PPW Evening Lenten Huddle (LP)
Thurs 18th	PPW Lay Preachers Chat
Fri 19th	Pastoral Care Session 3
Fri 26th –Sat 27th	Lay Presiders Training—Stawell



Chris Barnett is happy to have new members join the Lenten Huddles this month as long as you can be at the March and April meetings. For zoom links contact CB.

Chris.Barnett@victas.uca.org.au



Designed by the Uniting Youth Camp leaders for a COVID Year.

Uniting Youth – on Discord

March 19th 7 pm TRIVIA NIGHT

(Log-on early on the night 6:30 pm)

Plan A: Gather Young people at church and log onto Discord for a fun night of Trivia.

Plan B: Youth at home can log onto Discord for a fun night of Trivia with their family and friends.

Register as a group or as individuals: Linley.liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au

Name; Number in Group / Individual; Congregation name (if applicable); Youth Leader / Minister (if applicable)

We will send you further information on how to log on Discord etc.

Practice log- on time for Discord on Friday 12th 5 pm – 6 pm.

Sponsored by: PPW & PWV Uniting Church