

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

22nd August 2021 Edition 131

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

Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae and Torquay.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au



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.

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK:

Dear Prime Minister

As a Church we have watched with great distress the takeover of Kabul, Afghanistan by the Taliban. Over the years many of us have had the enormous privilege of being invited into the stories told by refugees in Australia. We have been blessed by the experiences they bring to our lives as well as how we have been able to enter into their lives.

Being a refugee isn't about politics from where we sit in pews surrounded by kind and compassionate followers of Christ Jesus. Being a refugee is about fleeing danger and death. Being a refugee is about people. People who until this past week could go to school, go to work, sleep peacefully because they were safe to do so. People who were not exhausted and in agony from planning and panic. People who could sit at dinner tables with family and friends sharing a meal and their lives.

People who have an identity, a name, a culture and hope for their children's future.

But here we are witnessing a frightening, unsafe and unknown life for many.

Jeremiah 9:17-18 says:

"Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider, and call for the mourning women to come; send for the skilled women to come; let them quickly raise a dirge over us, so that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids flow with water."

God expresses grief which carries on from Jeremiah 9:10 to where it is said that God "will weep and wail" for the devastation of the land and for the unfaithfulness of the people of Judah. God says that he does not want to weep alone and calls for the mourning women to weep with him.

As we gather in pews and faithfully study God's Word, we are to share in and care about what is happening to these citizens in another country because their panic and desperation isn't about politics for us. It's about people.

Dear Prime Minister, because we are distressed by the suffering of these people, we ask you to issue priority refugee visas for Afghans and their families who have worked alongside our Australian troops for years. We ask that you would open ways for them to seek refuge here in this land so they may find safety and we can be privileged to hear the stories told by displaced and oppressed people. So that we can be engaged and involved in the experience of sharing their lives and have them share ours.

As a Church, we will continue to pray for policy makers and enforcers. We will pray for strength and wisdom for you Prime Minister - particularly for the massive workload that sits before you. We will pray for those people fleeing their home and those who remain.

Peace be with you
Rev Suzie Castle



Lectionary Readings

AUG 22: Pentecost 12

1 Kings 8: various

Psalms 84

Eph 6:10-20

John 6: 56-69

Preaching Roster

Aug 22: Pentecost 13

Airey's Inlet 9.30am

Bellbrae: 11:00am..

Rev Suzie Video Sermon

Torquay 9.30:

Aug 29: Pentecost 14

11am: A Combined

Service led by Bellbrae

at Oak Tree Place.

Followed by Lunch.

Everyone Welcome

OPSHOP Service Roster

Fri 20th: Carol M, Valerie, Noelene

Sat 21st: AM: Val, Fran & Carleen

PM: Ro, Suzie & Tricia

Fri 27th: Josie, Robyn, Geoff

Sat 28th AM: Maxine, Carleen

PM: Suzie, Carol, Robert

A Prayer for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace,
We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.
Be living bread to those who are hungry each day
Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic
Be their true home to all who have been displaced
Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views
Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.

Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,
Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care
Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and
Hold us all in your unfailing love.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness.
AMEN (from actforpeace.org.au)

⁵Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. JOHN 6: 56

REMEMBER your donations for UNITING - Long Life food in small containers. Small items of toiletries are always needed.**THANK YOU**

CALLING ALL KNITTERS: UNITING needs rugs and blankets, so if you can knit a square, the Beaut Beanies group will sew them together and make useful, warm coverings for those who need them. 20cm squares are needed—please use 8ply wool, any colour, and 4mm (8) needles. Cast on 40 stitches and cast off at 20cm. Our project will complete for presentation on 31st October.



THANK YOU! Beaut Beanies have received letters of thanks for their donations of beanies. Staff at Andrew Love Centre wrote, "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, we are very grateful, you are making people happy and warm from your kindness. Bless you."
Baby clothes have gone to Geelong Mums and many Christmas Teddies are being made for Red Cross. Great work knitters.



Happy Birthdays this week to Alan H, Isla G & Cheryl D. Also a merry smile and thank you from Olive with her cards & flowers for her 100th birthday celebration.



FUTURE events: PUT THEM IN THE DIARY...

Surfcoast UC Stewardship Calendar of Services

29th August: 11am A CELEBRATION of Ministry led by Bellbrae at Oak Tree Place and followed by Lunch
5 September: TIME: The Giving Plate (Father's Day)
12 September: TIME: The Giving Tree
19 September: TALENTS: Café Church
26 September: TALENTS: Prayer
3 October: TENDING CREATION:
10 October: TENDING CREATION: (Garden Theme)
16 October: TENDING CREATION: Family Pet Fair @ Aireys Inlet
17 October: TREASURE:
24 October: TREASURE:
31 October: Celebration : COMBINED WORSHIP @ AIREYS INLET followed by Lunch. (Feed Me Torquay to cater)

Plans are underway for our **Combined Worship & Lunch on Sunday 29th August**. Bellbrae musicians are practising, worship leaders are planning and we need a few extra helpers for lunch.

The To-Do list: 1.If you can bring sandwiches or sweet slices please contact Maxine on 0422 632 809
2.IMPORTANTLY—please let us know if you are coming as numbers will be tight! Contact Robyn on 0417 563 260 or robyn.harper@bigpond.com. Or Sign up in church this Sunday.

You are invited to the Geelong Progressive Christianity Discussion Group Thursday 26th August 1.30 -3.30pm

We meet at t Waurn Ponds Library Meeting Room

Topic: *Progressive Christian Liturgies for Communion, Baptism and Funerals* (See Rev Rex A E Hunt www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgies.html)
All welcome in person or via zoom. New zoom participants please email heather.bowe.dennis@gmail.com for zoom login.

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

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403
Account Name: **Surfcoast Uniting Church**
Please identify your congregation in the notes area:
Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

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

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