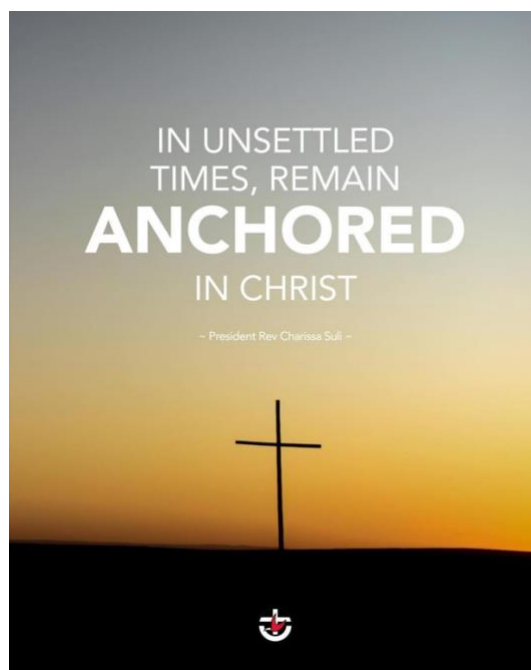


Surf Coast Uniting Churches

Sunday 15 March 2026

The Good Samaritan



introit **This little light of mine**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

We will sing in peace,
 We will sing in harmony.
 We will sing in peace,
 We will sing in harmony.
 We will sing in peace,
 We will sing in harmony.
 We will sing in peace,
 We will sing in harmony.

Welcome

May the worship Bless you

Acknowledgment

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people, traditional custodians of this land under God. We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Call to Worship

God of darkness and light
Open our eyes to your justice

God of goodness and glory
Open our minds to your wisdom

God of mercy and kindness
Open our hearts to your love



Clavé, Pelegrín, 1810-1880 RCL

Prayers

Ruth Harvey, Eggs and ashes, edit. Ruth Burgess & Chris Polhil, Wild Goose Publications 2004 www.lonabooks.com

Lord, our God
 Take us on our journey
 from where we are to what you want us to be
 so that we become a community
 where all are welcomed and no one is excluded
 all are valued and no one is made to feel inadequate
 all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong
 all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us

Lead us on our journey
 from who we are to who you want us to be
 so that patience is built into us
 kindness is assumed in us
 gentleness is part of us
 compassion flows from us
 truth is second nature to us
 and the commitment of love is part of us. Amen

Prayer of Confession

We spend a moment before you Lord
 bringing all that's on our heart
 hoping for forgiveness, grace and healing

Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
 "Our sins are forgiven"
Thanks be to God.

Greeting of Peace
 May the peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you

Let's offer each other the greeting of peace

YouTube Song - Just a closer walk with thee

Just a closer walk with thee
 Grant it Jesus, is my plea
 Daily walking close to thee
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

Reading - Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.^[a] "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead.

³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Song – YouTube - Bridge over troubled waters

When you're weary
 Feeling small
 When tears are in your eyes
 I will dry them all
 I'm on your side

Oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found

*Like a bridge over troubled waters
I will lay me down
like a bridge over troubled waters
I will lay me down*

Sermon

in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

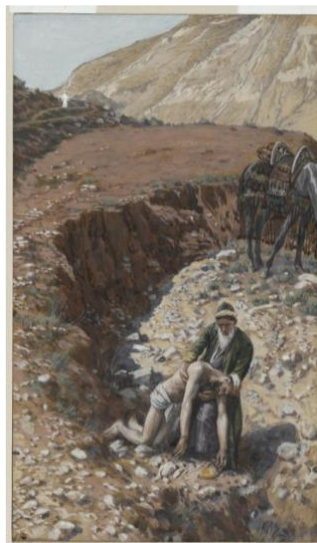
You may have heard the story about Aiden Becker a young man who died trying to protect a teenager who was being robbed and beaten by a group of men at a railway station. The nation has come to know him as a Good Samaritan

Thousands gathered at vigil on Friday night at the railway station and held candles as they honoured him. His parents came because of all those who gathered and joined them honouring their son. Aiden embodied core values from Australian society, of having compassion for others who needed protection and risking all to save them.

in today's gospel Jesus tells a story about what makes a good neighbour. The story of the Good Samaritan.

The story begins with a legal expert trying to test Jesus in front of a crowd, with a question which Jesus puts back into him by asking him a question. *What's the law say?* The legal expert knows the law and spells it out. He knows the law off by heart.

He may have been surrounded by his neighbours, people from his family and village who were Jewish. Wanting to look good in front of them the Legal expert asks Jesus; *Who is my neighbour?*



Tissot – RCL

Jesus tells the story of a man who has been robbed, beaten, left naked, and left for dead. I wonder if the beaten man's story evoked outrage and compassion from the crowd.

The poor man. Left for dead in a desert, where the night is dark and freezing and there are wild animals and he's naked, how shameful. Most people would have been afraid of this happening to them. Everyone knew, the road between Jerusalem and Jericho was dangerous. It was 18 miles long, a long day or nights walk through the desert.

A Jewish priest and Levite see the man lying naked and bloodied at the roadside on the ground and cross to the other side of the road. They don't even check if he's alive. They wrote the laws. Were supposed to uphold the laws.

The crowds knew the Priest and Levite didn't want to become ritually unclean by touching a corpse, they would be unable to fulfill their duties until went through a process of cleansing. It would be inconvenient for them to help.

Someone does have compassion and mercy for the man lying by the roadside and they stop and help him

He was a Samaritan. Jewish people at this time hated Samaritan's and treated them as outsiders.

Things are not working out for the Legal expert who was hoping to look good in front of his neighbours.



Morot. RCL

The Samaritan gets his first aid kit out and uses wine as disinfectant, oil to soothe and bandages. He may have clothed the man. He puts him on his donkey and takes him to an inn and cares for him. His journey to Jericho has been delayed, and he needs to get to his destination, so he makes sure the man is well cared for until he returns.

By now, those who were listening to the parable are wondering: *What if the man is Jewish.*

Perhaps they are thinking, what if I was robbed, beaten, left naked and for dead. What if no one else stopped to help me, except for a Samaritan.

Then Jesus puts the legal expert on the spot. He asked him: *Which of the three men was this man's neighbour?*

The legal expert says: *The one who showed him mercy.*



Individuals and communities can embrace values of compassion and can reach to help others in distress.

The Surf Coast communities have many groups of people who help out their neighbours. Feed me, the Community Garden and groups that protect plovers and the rivers. People who stop at the roadside to help people whose tyre has burst or to rescue injured wildlife.

During the fire season volunteers from emergency services like the CFA, risk their lives to protect the community. Life savers from the Surf club help anyone who gets into trouble.

There are a lot of Good Samaritans. I wonder what it was like for the man who was helped by the Samaritan. What was it like to be on the receiving end. Have you ever been helped by a Good Samaritan?

I don't know about you, but I grew up with my parents saying don't trust strangers, don't accept rides from strangers. I was trekking with a group in Morocco a few years back and a guide, an ex-skiing champion taught me how to pace myself and breathe while climbing a mountain. On the way down we were running late, and the others were way ahead of us and a bus was waiting. The guide spoke to some young men in a village, Berbers and Muslims, strangers, and we hitched a ride to the bus.

Sometimes trust and humility are needed to receive help from Good Samaritans who often, like Jesus, help to break down boundaries between people who are very different and mistrust one another.

Imagine travelling to Melbourne or a large city overseas and being robbed and beaten and left for dead. You are lying on a footpath and people look at you and assume you're a drug addict and cross to the other side of the road and walk past you. How would you feel?

Then someone you didn't know, stopped to help you. How would you feel if they called for an ambulance or took you to a hospital or helped you up and made sure you had a hot drink and paid for a taxi for you and journeyed with you back to your hotel, to make sure you were reunited with your family.

It's just as important to be a Good Samaritan
as it is to receive help from a Good Samaritan

The Lord be with you

Hymn 129 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Offering

Lord, giver of every good thing, we bring to you our lives, gifts and resources for the building up of your kingdom and church. We give thanks for blessings and transformation that come through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Prayers of the People

Prayers for peace for the world and for each one of us

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Hymn 590 What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus
all our sins and griefs to bear,
what a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer:
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Notices and Sharing

Blessing

God be with us on our journey
Jesus, guide us in your love
Lord, gift us through each other.
Renew us as your pilgrim people,
through your Holy Spirit.

Hymn 156 Morning has broken

Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
fresh from the word.