



Services – Sunday 19 March, 2023

Lent 4

9.30am Five Dock

Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Preacher: Rev Wattson Pualilo

Theme: "For God has chosen"

We are glad to have you with us today in worship.

It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you.

DIARY DATES



Monday 20 March from 3.00 to 4.15pm

Monday Afternoon Lenten Bible Study

We are using the prepared Lent Event Bible Study material which is a 7 week series entitled 'How to be a Good Global Neighbour'.

Reading: Luke 12: 27-34 and Malachi 3: 8-10

Theme: 'Are we called to Generosity or Justice?'

This week only the group will be meeting at Bev and Ian's home.

State Elections – A Reminder

The Church foyer and part of the interior will be used as a Pre Poll centre from **Friday 17 March** to **Friday 24 March**. The Electoral Commission will have exclusive use of this space.

Sunday 26 March

The ***Congregational Meeting*** on will take place in the Fellowship Room following the worship service. Reports are ready to be picked up today.

Thought for the week

Your prayers, no matter how unintelligible they seem to you, are heard and understood by God. Your message is never lost in translation.

*"So do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*
Isaiah 41:10

"Something really remarkable is happening in these patients" said a Sydney researcher about a group of women experiencing the deadliest form of ovarian cancer yet surviving for more than a decade when 60% die within 5 years of being diagnosed. The newspaper article* reporting on a study analysing the genomic# and immune markers of these women, conveys the researchers' surprise at their findings particularly as some of this group experienced genetic mutations and losses usually associated with especially poorer outcomes..

The findings suggest these survivors had a "very interesting" response to their cancers involving cells which help coordinate the body's immune response and known to improve cancer survival, but previously in the shadows. The survivors were also more likely to have gene changes associated with DNA repair which seemed to make them more responsive to treatments like chemotherapy. The researchers suggest there might be something inherent in the biology of these longer living women contributing to their survival.

The research findings, now being validated with an ongoing study testing the results with a larger group of patients, open up possibilities for targeted treatments so far unsuccessful in women with these cancers.

The learnings of medical science are encouraging but should prompt us to turn to God in prayer and with thanks for his role in every part of our life and living from beginning to end.

*"Before I shaped you in the womb,
I knew all about you.
Before you saw the light of day,
I had holy plans for you."* Jeremiah 1:5

* Aubusson, K., 4 December 2022 "Remarkable genetic mutations found in survivors of cancer against all odds"
Sydney Morning Herald, pp8-9

Genomics refers to the study of all of a person's genes