



Encountering God

Services – Sunday 7 May, 2023

Easter 5

9.30am Five Dock

Preacher: Rev Wattson Pualilo

Reading: Acts 7: 55-60

Theme: "Sleeping amongst stones"

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 May 8

Monday Afternoon Lenten Bible Study

meeting in the church at 3 pm,

Reading: Ephesians 1: 15-22; 3: 14-21

Topic: 'Praying for our grandchildren'

Wednesday 17 May 9.30am – 11.30am

Rosebank College has again requested use of the church for their Year 11 Studies of Religion students to be given an overview of Christianity. The Rev Graeme Tutt will be taking the seminar. We welcome this use of our church by the College.

Wednesday 17 May

PAC meets at the later time of 12 noon for this month.

Thought for the week

So let us thank Our Father,
that He sent His Only Son
so after this life's ended
and our work on earth is done
there's the promise of Eternity
where our "cross" becomes a "crown"
when all our trials are over
and we lay our burden down. (Anon)

*Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Clara H Scott (1895)*

Last month a crowd gathered in Western Australia's remote Exmouth to witness the first total solar eclipse able to be viewed directly from Australia in years.

Observers spoke of their excitement when the morning sky plunged into darkness as the moon covered the sun for 62 seconds. Reports referred to a burst of light appearing around the moon's edges like a diamond ring just before the sun was obscured, with little beads of light forming at the edges and little crescents flowing over the ground as the sun's light gaps in trees, followed by dark and light wavy lines creating a rippling effect.

Planets and stars appeared and those present felt the temperature drop by 5 degrees in this brief period while the landscape became silent. Participants spoke of feeling mesmerized or stunned by the happening while others declared the event "out of this world".

These folk directly experienced a special example of God's extraordinary design of our world. As important, here were people briefly taken out of themselves and their everyday lives to, in effect, encounter our maker. Hopefully they reflected on the significance of the event and felt prompted to know more about God. Let's take every opportunity to detect, acknowledge and be exhilarated by the truly exciting power of our loving Lord.

*Open my mind, that I may read
More of Thy love in word and deed;
What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead?
Only for light from Thee I plead.
Clara H Scott (1895)*