

Services – Sunday 3 March, 2024

Lent 3

9.30am Five Dock

Preacher: Rev Wattson Pualilo

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Theme: "I've got the power"

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



Lent Event:

A Call to Faithful Action on Climate Change 14 February – 24 March 2024

Each Sunday during Lent Phillip has / will show a Lent Event video on the impact of climate change on Pacific islands with a call for us to be more active in response. Our donations will be forwarded to Lent Event

Monday Bible Study will not meet this week.

Sunday 24 March at 11am Congregation Meeting

Reports will be required from the Minister, Treasurer, PAC, Pastoral Carers, Worship Committee, Meals on Wheels, Small Groups, Church Council and Congregation.

Reports to be at the Church Office by Wednesday 13 March for distribution on Sunday 17 March.

The **minutes** of the recent **PAC, Worship Committee** and **Church Council** meetings are on the Church noticeboard.

The **PAC** meeting set for Wednesday 20 March has been rescheduled to **Wednesday 15 May** at 11.30 am.

Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day: 13 Feb 2024

We were pleased to offer this morning tea to members of the Congregation and the community. 17 people attended, including 9 visitors. Karen, the Chaplain from Kitty Doyle, and 4 residents from the units came and a mother and child from the Child Care. The Congregation welcomes the possibility of a relationship with the Chaplain from Kitty Doyle.

World Day of Prayer – Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the Service and the day so special. We were blessed to have Wattson lead us and encourage us through the Word. Those visiting appreciated the service, the fellowship and the morning tea.

Supply Ministry

Synod Admission of Ministers Committee decided last Tuesday 27 February to extend Rev Wattson Pualilo's ministry for a further 12 months until 28 February 2025. The request to extend Wattson's ministry with us until then will be decided at a Presbytery on 14 March 2024.



Praise and Prayer Points.

SILENCE is not always golden

The Four Seasons gave us the song 'Silence is golden'. But have you ever wondered what it would be like to lose one of your senses.

Sadly, the majority of Deaf and blind communities still face challenges in their daily lives most of us never encounter, including the ability to access and understand Scripture. As a Wycliffe Australia 'Mission Possible' event in Melbourne, Saul and Rebecca Thurrowgood shared about their heart to reach Deaf people with the Bible in a language that speaks to their hearts. Their talk was titled 'Faith comes by hearing ... but what if you're Deaf? And included live sign language interpretation throughout the night. They also shared about the motion capture technology Saul had been creating called Chameleon that is helping to advance the work of Bible translation for Deaf communities.

Attitudes have changed over the years but there is still a stigma attached to deafness. Deaf people aren't necessarily any more included in services and planning. It takes more intentionality and preparation to truly include Deaf people and provide them with the resources they need. Many Deaf people have other disabilities and deafness has come as a secondary issue. They tend to be abused more because they are more vulnerable.

A 2018 study in America determined that 'the hearing world tends to view being Deaf as a disability...rather than as an identity that also brings opportunity for personal growth and community' (Mousley & Chaudoir, 2018).

Rebecca shares: We often get asked, 'Well if Deaf people can see, they can read the Bible, right? Why do they need a translation of their own?' When you don't have that phonetic input, reading is quite difficult. And it is not just the words, it's the way words are put together. But sign language is more than a series of words. It's a language that expresses culture, identity and belonging. That's the way I believe God speaks to us. He's not just a hearing God – he's also the God of the Deaf. He understands sign language too!

Pray: • for the Auslan Scripture translation Saul and Rebecca are planning to start in coming months.
• that a team of Auslan signers can be formed and trained to help with the motion capture being used for Chameleon.

(taken from Wycliffe Today, Christmas 2023.)