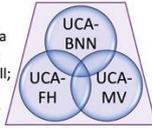




**Whitehorse  
Uniting  
Cluster**

The Uniting Church in Australia  
Congregations of: Blackburn  
North / Nunawading; Forest Hill;  
and Mountview (Mitcham);  
in a shared ministry together



**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Hymn: Father, We adore you**  
**2012 Melissia Hogston**  
<https://youtu.be/Ph-ZBiETB0>

### **Welcome**

May the Worship be a blessing

### **Acknowledgment**

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place  
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

### **Call to Worship**

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers

**Let Mutual love continue**

Do not neglect to do good and share what you have

**Let Mutual love continue**

### **Prayers of Adoration**

#### **Loving God**

You are our helper we need not be afraid

We need only to come to you in prayer

and you will comfort and bless us.

#### **Jesus our Lord**

You teach us how to offer hospitality to the most vulnerable and needy  
with your grace we are encouraged to continue offering mutual love.

#### **Holy Spirit,**

You still our hearts and fill them with peace

You fill our hearts with the fire of God's love

You inspire us to reach out to others with love

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Come Holy Spirit, come fill our hearts with love

inspire us to offer hospitality to all

### **Prayer of Confession**

Lord, if we haven't loved one another as you love us

Forgive us and help us love you and others more

Lord, we come before you now in a moment of silence

with all that is on our hearts

Seeking your forgiveness and transformation

*Silence*

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us  
*"Your sins are forgiven"*  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**YouTube Hymn O Christ the Healer**  
 First Plymouth Church Lincoln 2016  
<https://youtu.be/1O5vdLNE-Gw>



**Readings NRSV**

**Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

13 Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?' <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

14 On one occasion when Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable.

<sup>8</sup> 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

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**Young at Heart – Kitchens**



The best kitchen is our own kitchen at home. It's a magnet for family and friends who don't want to gather anywhere else. We all know kitchens can be anywhere. In the middle of a river or in a cave where the stove is a couple of bricks and hot coals with a tagine on top with meat, dried fruit and veggies cooking inside. What we eat is often influenced by our customs. I grew up eating roasts and apple pie on Sunday. When I got married my mother-in-law taught me how to make curries and when I travelled to Morocco, I ate meat cooked with dried fruit and veggies. When we travel, we encounter different forms of hospitality. In Nepal, the guest is treated like a god. I was a guest of my friends from Didi Bahini Samaj, a Nepali women's group last Saturday at their Teej fundraiser where there was non-stop dancing. I was welcomed with a Kata or scarf with the other guests, and we had to dance on stage in front of everyone, where one of my friends taught me on the spot how to do Nepali dancing. There was a feast where we ate together and I was even offered a sari to wear. I felt welcomed and included. I'm sure you have had many experiences like this over your lifetime.

### Sermon



*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen*

Kitchens are the place where all the action happens in families.

On Sunday I was blessed to be invited to a lunch hosted by Mary and Bert Fox, members of Forest Hill. The company, conversation and food were heart-warming. Many thanks to all the families from Forest Hill who opened their homes to members of our cluster.

The hospitality offered in today's gospel is in stark contrast to what's offered in our family homes today. It's a different culture, where homes of the wealthy were different from ordinary people's homes. The wealthy had large homes for extended family with a large courtyard-like room set up for entertaining other wealthy families, with a large table and couches for people to recline upon where slaves brought food and musicians entertained them. There was a network where people shared wealth, power and status amongst themselves and invitations to meals

had strings attached. Payback was expected regarding political appointments or business deals or invitations to other banquets.

Jesus was invited as a Rabbi and teacher and was expected to share his wisdom and teachings with guests. They were watching him closely and he was watching them as closely. Jesus began his first teaching with a parable about humility. I'm sure the host was pleased and felt good about himself.

Things may have become uncomfortable when Jesus challenged the status quo, the payback system. Jesus would have left both host and guests with uncomfortable questions about who is welcome to their banquets. Jesus challenges them to invite people who cannot pay them back. The pay back would come from God where they will be blessed, will be in a good relationship with God and will get to be part of the end times resurrection, where eternal life will be their reward. It sounds like a very challenging choice.

The timing of this gospel is challenging.

I had a lovely time at the lunch on Sunday and when I got back to my car, I received a phone call from a man called Clinton. (The office phone was called forward to my phone.) Clinton was asking about the meals on Sunday night. The timing of his call, just after I'd finished a lunch with Mary and Bert and with this week's gospel, is challenging.

What is God saying?

I don't know Clinton. I couldn't tell him who had dinners on Sunday night and didn't want to offend him by saying he wasn't invited to the lunches. I decided to check things out and see what's available. I've spoken with Joy from Elm Street, at Bayswater Uniting. My understanding is they have a drop in with a meal on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. But that is a long way to go for a local. I contacted Jill from Centre 81 to see if he was known there. We know Evan. He drops by at Centre 81 and phones me now and again, for a chat.

I spoke with Peter at our team meeting, and he knows of Clinton and so do many people at Blackburn North Nunawading. He lives nearby and often comes for morning tea after the service and members have invited him for a coffee and paid for his meals at a café and given him lifts because he doesn't have a car and Laletti was generous with him.

Peter mentioned he'd heard Mitcham Anglican offer a meal on Sunday nights and looked at their website and found out they offer a meal every Sunday night and it's part of their churches mission. There is a photo advertising the Mitcham Community meal at St Michael's Mitcham on their website. It's a photo of all the members of the church and seems to be the whole church's mission to the community.

So, what is Jesus saying to us in today's gospel?

We don't live in a payback culture like the people in the gospel. Most of us have humble kitchens and it's not part of our culture to invite the needy and vulnerable into our kitchens. Most of us are cautious, for the sake of our families. I have heard of one or two ministers who have invited homeless people home for a meal and to stay.

I wonder what Jesus is really saying to us.

Perhaps Jesus is asking for a reorientation of our hearts, where we share the abundance of our resources and blessings with the vulnerable and needy. We have a lot to offer. Many of us have given out our abundance and continue to do so. Our cluster churches have an Op Shop and Centre 81. Anyone is welcome to join us for the cuppa after the service. We can, from partnerships with Uniting, contact them; perhaps we need extra services for those who come to us for help.

Perhaps we can contact St Michael's and ministers together. There is no use reinventing the wheel.

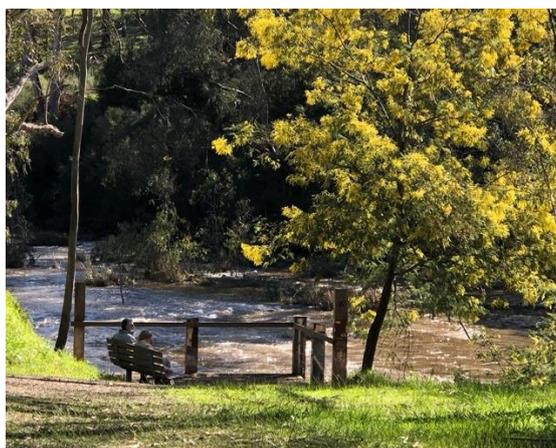
What we offer together meets many needs. Centre 81 has a list of services available and has been supporting people through the challenges of the past few years with hampers. Perhaps we are being invited to unite in our care for the vulnerable in our community. We could begin with sharing information about what's available in our communities, in

newsletters, notice boards and websites, so that next time we are more empowered to assist and can empower those who reach out to us for assistance.

Perhaps we can take a more ecumenical approach. Perhaps we can work together with WCC to minister in a more united way. Perhaps we are being invited to begin new journeys in how we share with the most vulnerable in our community. The good news is this is a gospel that questions our hearts and reorientates them.

The Lord be with you

### **A moment for quiet Reflection**



### **YouTube Hymn O let the Son of God enfold you**

Chet Valley Churches 2021

<https://youtu.be/6PYx0PXOyo8>

### **Offering Prayer**

*(about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have)*

**Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom all for transformation through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen**

### **Prayers of the People –Trevor de Run**

Loving God, as we approach You today in prayer, we praise You for Your creation and for all that You richly provide. We thank You for all which You have blessed us with. We pray to You for one another in our need, and for all the people of Your world. Help us to feel unity with those who are suffering and distraught for those with health problems, with those trying to ease the pain of a loved one and for those who are facing difficult life situations. Bless and protect all those who are striving to achieve peace and justice throughout Your world.

In our international prayer cycle, we pray for the peoples of the Western African countries of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, which have had political unrest since obtaining independence from their previous colonial rulers, which resulted in chaos, characterized by violence, and in turn crippled the economies in all of these countries. This has caused widespread shortage of basic commodities for the majority of its peoples. Provide these countries with just governance and economic stability, so that the underprivileged peoples can have basic shelter, food and water for their daily existence.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our congregation here in Mountview and we seek Your guidance as we maintain community and purpose for the congregations of the City of Whitehorse Cluster of Uniting Churches. We bring our concerns for those who are grieving, distressed, depressed or afraid, that they may be comforted, and their hearts lifted and filled with hope. We pray for our ministry team of Rev. Tina Lyndon Ng and Rev. Peter Cannon, as they work to provide for the Blackburn North/Nunawading, Forest Hill and Mountview congregations.

We pray for the other churches in our region, in particular for the Anglican Church of Holy Name, Vermont South and

in the Presbytery, for the Uniting Church at Lilydale and Montrose. Give their leaders the wisdom that they will respond to your will for them and for their community. We also offer our prayers for the Royal Australian Air Force Chaplaincy.

Risen Christ - Stand with us - Grant us peace – that we might serve You in the world, through Jesus Christ – our crucified and risen Lord – who taught us to pray....

Our father who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Save us from a time of trial and deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and ever. Amen.

### **YouTube Hymn What a friend we have in Jesus**

Alan Jackson 2018 Gaither Music

<https://youtu.be/znWu2HCJ92c>

### **Blessing**

We go in Peace in the love of God

in the Power of the Spirit

May the Lord Bless and Guard us

May the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us

As we bring Christ's love and peace to the world. Amen

### **May the Feet of God – tMt video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhiG-Vj8CGU&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=40>

### **Pastoral Care tips – Rev Tina**



### **The healing power of music and singing**

Music can calm our soul

A good sing can bring joy, peace, and healing to our soul.

I often see people listening to music as they walk

I like to listen to music whenever I drive in peak hour traffic. It keeps me calm

Some of us belong to choirs and look forward to a big sing with our friends  
Some of us like to sing our favourite hymns which often have a story that connects with our story  
A song or hymn can remind us of a happy and sad time  
We can celebrate a special moment with music  
Some people are so deeply moved by profound music; they cry holy tears  
Music brings back memories for those with dementia  
It brings all kinds of people together  
Some people say when we sing, we pray twice.  
Keep on singing  
Keep on listening to music  
Be blessed

This is a song sung by a ten-year-old boy. It's called Christopher's song

**YouTube song Open the eyes of my heart**

From All Around 2014

[https://youtu.be/-F\\_W\\_zl61bl](https://youtu.be/-F_W_zl61bl)

**Eric Clapton**

**Tears in Heaven – Epitaph 2010**

Music about grief and comfort

<https://youtu.be/JxPj3GAYYZ0>

**Celine Dion, Andrea Bocelli**

**The Prayer 2019**

Celine Dion

[https://youtu.be/W8DGuvab\\_Lc](https://youtu.be/W8DGuvab_Lc)

**Thuma Mina**

<https://youtu.be/l3eiDqHoLiE>