

MARCH PREACHING PLAN

March 3rd Lent 3

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Exodus 20: 1 - 17
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 19: 1 - 14
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 2: 13 - 22

March 10th Lent 4

8.30 Lockyer	E Burns	Numbers 21: 4 - 9
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 107: 1 - 3, 17 - 22
10.00 AUC	E Burns	Ephesians 2: 1 - 10
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	John 3: 14 - 21

March 17th Lent 5

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34
9.30 Denmark	M Cranny	Psalms 51: 1-12 or 119: 9-16
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Hebrews 5: 5 - 10
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 12: 20 - 33

March 24th Lent 6 Palm Sunday

8.30 Lockyer	A Hortin	Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalms 31: 9 - 16
10.00 AUC	A Hortin	Philippians 2: 5 - 11
11.00 Mt Barker	E Burns	John 12: 12 - 16

March 28th Tenebrae

5.30pm Lockyer	Rev Corina	
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March 29th Good Friday

10.00 Lockyer & AUC Combined at Duke St	Rev Corina	John 18: 1 - 19: 42
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March 31st Easter Day

9.30 Denmark	D Laffin	Lamentations 3: 1-9, 19-24
10.00 Lockyer & AUC Combined at Duke St	Rev Corina	Psalms 118: 1, 2, 14 - 24 1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 20: 1 - 18



THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

*Lockyer, Albany Uniting Church,
Mt Barker, Denmark*



March 2024



*The month of March takes us
through our Easter journey.*

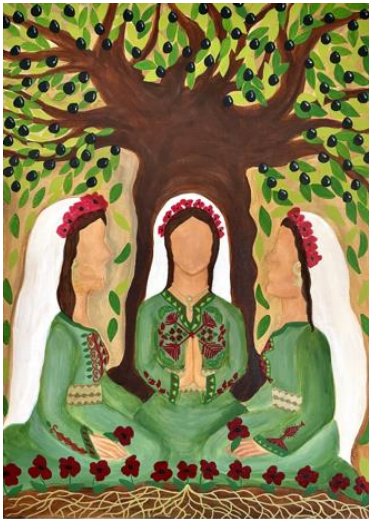


*May you feel Christ's love
in your heart and be filled
with his peace and joy this
Easter Day, March 31st .*

Message from the Manse: World Day of Prayer 2024

This year's World Day of Prayer service was planned for the day I write this, Friday 1st March.

Albany did not have a service today, but Denmark did, and the Uniting Church was hosting, with Judy Wilson leading and me speaking. This year's service was prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women in Palestine, a few years ago, and its theme is 'I beg you... bear with one another in love' (Ephesians 4).



This is the picture that is on the cover of the order of service: Three women peacefully praying under an olive tree, sign of everlasting and abundant life. They are wearing traditional Palestinian dress. The golden roots show that there will be Palestinian people always, and they will work for their rights and freedom. The poppies have the same meaning as they have for us. A key around the neck of the woman in the centre represents hope of return to Palestine as it existed before 1967.

Since this service was prepared much has happened, which cannot just be ignored on a day like today. What follows is my talk given in the Denmark World Day of Prayer Service :

I have attended World Day of Prayer services for many years. The stories shared by the countries preparing the liturgy are often sad. The three stories for this morning are no different. The women speak about occupation, about violence, about fleeing and about living in exile. However, I don't recall ever having been to a World Day of Prayer service for a country that is facing the level of violence and destruction as does Gaza, part of Palestine today. Over thirty thousand people are dead. Eighty percent of the population is now unemployed, and ninety percent of the agriculture is gone. There is

DIARY DATES

- WED 6th MAR** WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
Holy Family Catholic Church, 10am
- THUR 7th MAR** LENTEN STUDY, Lesser Hall, 4 – 5pm
- TUES 13th MAR** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome,
- THUR 14th MAR** LENTEN STUDY, Lesser Hall, 4 – 5pm
- FRI 15th MAR** AUC COUNCIL MEETING, Lesser Hall, 4pm
- THUR 21st MAR** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café,
ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947
FINAL LENTEN STUDY, Lesser Hall, 4 – 5pm
- SAT 30th MAR** THE QUIET SPACE, with Shamara and Friends
Wesley Church, 2 – 3pm

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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>RECORDING</u>
<u>3rd March</u>	C Ferry	W Dwyer	C Ferry	T Reed
<i>Lockyer</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	
<u>10th March</u>	D Hockey	C Ferry	A Tero	W Dwyer
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	
<u>17th March</u>	B Bickford	W Dwyer	B Reed	M Vertigan
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	
<u>24th March</u>	C Ferry	S Harris	C Ferry	M Little
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	
<u>29th March</u>	C Ferry	E Burns		
<u>31st March</u>	D Coxall	M Little	A Tero	J Pel

Morning Tea, Lockyer only

3rd March *M Hannington* **10th March** *J Thompson*
17th March *J Wright/J Bowman* **24th March** *S Wood*

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take a turn, thanks to those willing to take part to help make services run smoothly.



A "Thank You" note :

Many a thank-you to everyone for their wishes, cards and gifts. A special BIG thank you for the special morning tea and the magnificent sponge cake.

It's lovely to make new friends,

John & Elaine Archer

a famine developing rapidly. The people who were involved in preparing this service may not be living in their own home. Their home, their town, their city, may be in ruins. I think we all heard the stories and the prayers in this service in the light of the recent and current catastrophe.

So, what can I add to the prayers, this morning? Maybe some more prayer. I have a book entitled *In God's Hands*. It is a book with 52 chapters, one for each week of the year. Every week offers prayers from Christian people from a different region, as well as some background information – some history and statistics. The first week of the year, prayers are offered from Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Where Christians act as the brothers and sisters they are, they can cooperate and contribute to a work like this. The book was published by the World Council of Churches, about twenty years ago, when the Israelis built the wall. This is the prayer of a Palestinian Christian woman back then.

'O Lord, I am standing today in front of an eight-meter-high concrete wall in Abu Dis, on the Mount of Olives. As I look at it, I see how small I am and feel how powerless I am. I raise my face toward the blue skies and ask, "Does the Holy Land need a wall?" When you, Lord, were crucified in Jerusalem, weren't you disturbed by the animosity that was so clear to see, so well established, in the hearts of human beings? On that Friday, an earthquake took place, and the only thing you tore away was the curtain that divided people from God and from each other. I thank you, our crucified Lord, that your death gave us hope, showing us that no walls are needed, either between you and us or between us and our neighbours. Instead, we need to find the humanity of others and accept it. I pray, Lord, forgive us for the walls of hate we so readily create. Forgive us for being deaf to your holy word and help us to remember that you came to bring reconciliation, breaking down all barriers. Lord, forgive us for reaching out only to our friends and dear ones, and not to our enemies. I feel powerless, angry, and discouraged in front

of this concrete grey barrier. Please do not let hatred penetrate my heart. Do not allow fear to paralyse me. I pray that the walls may disappear, and that animosity will be exchanged for neighbourliness, hatred will be replaced by love, life will be treasured, not taken away, that hope will take the place of despair and that war will be exchanged for reconciliation. In the name of Jesus.'

Where people enter violent conflict there are only losers. I am a follower of Jesus who peacefully resisted oppression by creating inclusive communities of peace, compassion, and hope. Therefore, I cannot – I do not want to take sides where two people(s) fight. In God's hands we all are, Palestinians and Israelis in the hands of love and light. May the peace of our Lord be with us all and fill the hearts and minds of all the people in the Middle East, as well as our own, I pray, Amen

Blessings, Corina

BITS FROM BARKER: We are still moving about. It was great to hear that one of our members attended the recently held Summer Spirit in Perth. Pauline travelled to South Australia to be with family members following the passing of her sister-in-law during the month. Carolyn is still in Queensland, helping her brother prepare their mother's home for sale, following her move into aged care. All being well, I intend to travel to Perth myself this week for a short visit, returning on Saturday, in time for Sunday's service. My son Jonathan is currently receiving treatment for cancer. He says he is fine but sometimes communication by technical means is just not enough and I'd really like to see him in person.

Thanks to Doug for all the work he does in and around the Church building, and to Nita who ensures the garden is watered and who is our faithful musician on Sundays.

Nita and I conducted a church service at Overton (aged care) last week. It was the first service held since Christmas and was well attended. The services are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

Many blessings, Sue Wilson

respect that emanated from people and filled the room. The music itself was interestingly country-style renditions of “Amazing Grace” and “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (gospel version) played with automated chords on a tinny Casio keyboard. While not my usual style, it worked perfectly well. They also kindly allowed me to sing a song solo, one of my aunt’s favourites “How Great Thou Art”. Apparently, it is a lot of others’ favourite too, and as always it was an honour to contribute to the grieving and celebrating process of a funeral. It’s also a great way that people can unite and forget divisions like generation, denomination, geography or politics. Finally, as I was leaving, my aunt’s direct family were dividing up mementos as keepsakes. I struck gold because none of the others took an interest in the Methodist Hymn Book that had belonged to her. So, I came away with not just something to remember my dear aunt by, but a poignant reminder of the Methodist music heritage that my own grandmother and other family had so often talked of. It seemed a very fitting way to close the loop.

I recall Salvation Army members from Albany visiting us for a service recently, and apart from their friendly disposition it was great to see they were simply keen to engage with the community outside their own congregation. I feel this is a reminder for us to remember to engage outside our usual circle where we can, or at least be open to it when it comes along. This could be in personal interactions, (spoken or unspoken), in musical styles and situations, or wherever we find ourselves. These are the values I’ve seen demonstrated here among our Church but I believe there’s always a risk we’ll forget the higher purpose Jesus led us to, and lapse back into our comfort zone. This is what I will be thinking of for the time being – uncomfortably, but I hope with courage.

Sebastian Harris

Thank- you Seb. Between Corina, with her message, her Lenten studies and her challenge to us in the Bulletin which Joan picked up on and the above story, there is no need for an editorial comment from me on what we should be striving for.

Clare Ferry

WESLEY MUSIC NEWS: February's Quiet Space with Julie Parish and Patrick Elms was reportedly superb – I say reportedly because due to a death in the family, I was unable to be there. Thanks to those who joined us, apparently we had more company than usual which is wonderful. As always, we welcome any feedback, good or bad, so we can keep improving. – wesleyalbany@protonmail.com
We're just as much looking forward to the next one on Easter Saturday, 30th March, with Shamara de Tissera and friends. Shamara recently moved to Denmark and has quickly started creating wonderful sounds and collaborations as a harpist, choir director with her own Viva Voce choir, soloist, music therapist and teacher. A versatile singer, she sang solo numbers for both alto and soprano at December's Singalong Messiah. If you thought that's multi-talented, she even plays French horn and hopes to join Albany Sinfonia if she can find someone with an instrument gathering dust that she can borrow. Add to that a delightful personality and we're just thrilled to have her in the community. She has started teaching singing at Duke St on Wednesdays, so if interested, get in touch to see if there are any places left. 0410 386 292 or email swanharp@protonmail.com
EASTER MUSIC: This Easter, as well as The Quiet Space on the Saturday, Patrick and I will share the worship service load. I will play for Good Friday while Patrick will look after our joyful Easter Sunday celebration of Christ's resurrection. We hope to see you all there.

If you'd indulge me, I'd like to add a little personal reflection. The funeral I attended was in the farming town of Kyabram, northern Victoria. It was run by the Salvation Army, as it was in memory of an aunt who had attended the Rochester SA congregation later in life, after growing up a Methodist. Some of you might remember the story in the February Magazine about Samaritan's Purse support of the flood recovery effort there. Among my hordes of cousins, I met a number of these people who had driven across from Rochester for the event. What struck me was the welcome, acceptance and

LOCKYER NEWS:

Just as the days ticked by fairly quietly, suddenly it has turned into a busy week, hopefully Monday will be free. Anne messed up Tuesday, telling us we had a meeting in the afternoon, Clare wanted Lockyer News, then Joy, bless her, swapped communion with me.

Corina gave us some food for thought in last week's Bulletin when she reported on the problems faced by the various aid organisations in Albany. She challenged us to think of something we could do, either as an individual or a congregation to help the poor and marginalised people in Albany. As a result, subject to the congregation agreeing, we will have a box at the door, similar to our Christmas hamper, where we put food items or our purchases for the mothers and babies etc. Lockyer is very generous with these appeals and I'm sure we can rise to the occasion this time as well, apparently, meat and pet food are in short supply. We should be helping people in our own backyard, so let's see what we can achieve.

We invite everyone to our Tenebrae service on Thursday evening, 28th March, at 5.30 pm. Rev Corina will lead this special time of worship.

When man listens, God speaks. When man obeys, God acts. When man prays, God empowers.

Cheers for now, Joan

The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope,
 which makes us have that confidence in God,
 in his ultimate triumph,
 and in his goodness and love,
 which nothing can shake.

Basil C Hume (1923 – 1999)
 Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster

PRAYER PROMPTS: As I have ongoing major nerve pain problems and am too old for surgery, life has become a bit of a struggle lately. Please continue to keep those known to you who are not well at present in your prayers, including Judy and Allan McKechnie. I would also appreciate prayer for myself at this time, thank you, Edith

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: Unfortunately, I had to cancel my stall at both the last Scot's Market and the last Bargain Bonanza because of the poor state of my health. My doctor encourages me and I am responding better to the pain killers I am on now, so I am planning to be at the next Markets. By only packing 150 boxes this year it is easier with regards to fund-raising. Our up-dated list of the things we still need is as follows:

Soap, marbles, tennis balls, knitted balls, small toys and dinky-type cars, skipping ropes, jewellery and plenty of tooth brushes. If anyone can sew small skirts and shorts, we'd love those. We now only need undies for girls, sizes 2 – 4 and 10 –14. Esma is still making the lovely big bags that she sews for us and many thanks to Margaret and others of you who make the small toys and beanies we need.

This month I have included some information from Wheelchairs for Kids. We sent a goodly number of metre square rugs and toys to the Perth depot this month. I will give you the total numbers when I have them! Many thanks again for your support for this marvellous organisation.

God bless - Edith

Two More Wheelchairs Making a Difference in Thailand:

On January 20th we dispatched two "Wheelchairs for Kids Australia" chairs, via TOLL, to NSW, from where they were taken to Thailand by Occupational Therapist Amanda Prigg and her Physiotherapist partner, courtesy of Thai Airlines. Amanda reports:

"We have just arrived home from our Thailand trip and happy to let you know how we used the two donated wheelchairs. Thai Airways were fantastic – they were more than happy to transport the wheelchairs all the way to Chiang Mai. So, a good start!

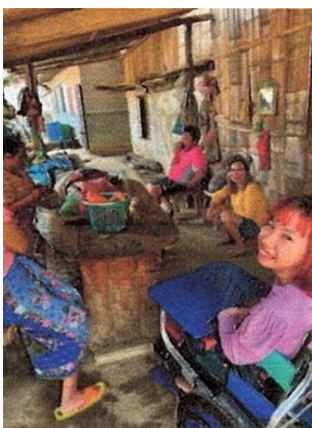
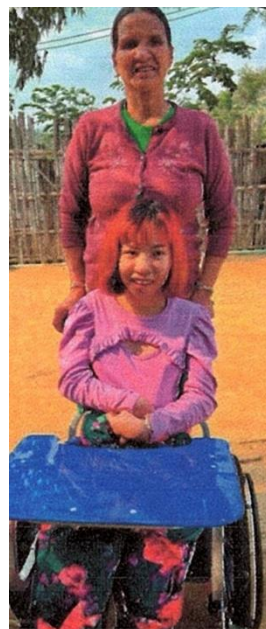


We had four days in Chiang Mai where we found the need for both child and adult wheelchairs was great – we are thinking that there has been limited availability due to Covid lockdowns. We ended up purchasing some adult wheelchairs to distribute as the need was so big.

The first WFKA chair we distributed was quite a difficult case – the 15 year old boy was so frightened of us that it was difficult to get measurements. This boy had some severe lower leg contractions, mainly due to sitting on the floor of the hut each day where he was looked after by his grandmother. The severe contractions also made it very difficult to seat him correctly. The best thing about this wheelchair was that we showed our local friend and contact how to construct and measure for the wheelchair so that as he grows, adjustments can be made.



Our second wheelchair was given to a 23- year- old woman whom I named Dara – which means “flower”. At first, we were not sure if we could fit the wheelchair to suit her; however, after measurements were taken, we were happy with the outcome and she was very happy also!



The WFKA chair means she can access the village plus sit with family. We will return to the village next time to check. We also showed our local contact how to adjust the wheelchair. Her previous chair was falling apart!”

(338 wheelchairs have been donated to Thailand. Editor)