



Regional Directory

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Contact Us

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Uniting Church in Australia
Albany Region Congregations



Welcome to our service.

Duke St Church morning tea is on the 3rd Sunday of the month, Denmark Uniting Church & Lockyer have morning tea after their Service.

17 March 2024.



Light

What does it mean to be enlightened or 'illuminated'? Early Christians who wrote about purification, illumination, and union as a three-step process for spiritual growth, found their inspiration in three books in the Hebrew Scriptures. Purification is related to the book of Proverbs, a collection of moral teachings intended to help the reader live an ethical life. Next comes illumination, which is linked to Ecclesiastes: a philosophical book which suggests that wisdom and insight are necessary for living well. The final step for spiritual growth is that of union with the divine, with God. This step to union is associated with the Song of Songs, the great love poem of the Hebrew Scriptures. The spiritual life, seen this way, is a gradual unfolding from ethical action, to wisdom, to love (compassion). Anyone with some life experience knows that things don't always move in a straight line. This is also true for spiritual growth, which is a process of moving more in a circle, or a spiral, than a straight line. The Lenten tasks of letting go, generosity, and spiritual practice can seem more like a merry go round than a slide. We can hop on at any point around the circle. However, to stay on the ride, we need to balance three elements: turning away from attachments, sharing with people in need, and becoming home to the love of the one who is already one with us. How do we find this love? How can we shine a light on this love?

Picture for example a still lake, with not one ripple disturbing the surface. We can see the beauty of nature, reflected in



A Grain of Wheat (John 12:20-33)

Today is the fifth Sunday in Lent. As we draw nearer to Good Friday and Easter we confront again the greatest mystery of life - death. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses an image to explain his death: burying a grain of wheat. Jesus believed that his Father was asking him to suffer and die. It was costly for him and, as a young man, he was frightened (deeply shaken v27), but, like planting wheat, he believed his death would be followed by new growth and a bountiful crop. As Jesus believed, so also he promised his followers, "if you let your life go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal" (MSG).

I 'understand' today less about the mystery of Jesus' death, but I 'know' more of the meaning of his death - love. This is faith growing into love, the Jesus way - letting your life go, reckless in love, and having your life renewed, and real forever. Dying with Jesus in this way yields a harvest, just like the burying of the grain. When we let go of our lives and live with reckless love, we shall join the harvest - those gather around Jesus in his new creation. When we live by the cross we join Jesus in the resurrection.

In the Northern Hemisphere, Easter coincides with Spring when the new life inaugurated by Jesus' resurrection is easily pictured. For us, Easter falls in Autumn - a time of planting, waiting for the winter growth of the crops and so the hope of a bountiful spring harvest is pictured. Will you join Jesus on his Easter journey this year? Many still do. Last week I heard a Russian woman asked whether she was afraid attending Navalny's funeral. "Yes! Of course" she said, "but Navalny ascended Golgotha and so must I".

Rodney Marsh



March 17

8.30am	LOCKYER	Rev. Corina
9.30am	DENMARK	M. Cranny
10am	DUKE ST	Rev. Corina
11am	MT BARKER	S. Wilson

March 24

8.30am	LOCKYER	A. Hortin
9.30am	DENMARK	G. Wilson
10am	DUKE ST	A. Hortin
11am	MT BARKER	E. Burns

Dates every week

Museum: Open Tues-Thurs, 9-11am.

Tuesday Discussion: Meets at 9.30am for 10am start at Elizabeth's place. All welcome to come and discuss a wide variety of topics.

Wednesday Prayer group: Meets at 9.30am at Heather's place. All welcome.

Thursday Bible Study group: Meets at 10am, Lockyer, Townsend St.

Thursday Lenten Studies: Will be offered by Corina, weekly on Thursday afternoons starting on 22nd February, to 21st March from 4pm -5pm in Lesser Hall. All welcome.

March 21 AUC Fellowship, Vancouver Café 10 am

March 30 Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm

its unbroken surface. To see, we need light. Whether light shines through the water, or simply reflects off it, the image of a still lake offers intimacy with light, inner stillness. If you seem unable to find inner stillness (because you are working through grief, or trauma, or some other significant challenge), please be gentle with yourself. Lenten practice is not meant to discourage or to shame. Some athletes need a longer warm-up period than others. Many people need a long time, many wordless prayers, to find the light that is in stillness, the stillness that is light, the “peace that passes all human understanding”. It can be found deep within all of us. If it takes a long time to find it, this is not a failure or a problem. It is simply how things are. We are encouraged to be compassionate with ourselves!

Blessings, Corina

Prayers of the week

AUC: Maria & Keith Noakes, Linda Noble and their families.

Lockyer: Joan Wright, Jan Ahern and their families.

Mt Barker: Eileen Gilbert, Pauline Hordacre and their families.

Denmark: Judy & Graham Wilson, Sue & Bob Allan and their families.

Synod: Spearwood, St Mark's Leeming, The Billabong and Willetton Uniting Churches, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

Photo: Lightning over Leonora- Darren Gunther. If you have a photo you would like featured and is appropriate for the front page, please send it in. Email: unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com
Hard copy photos will also be accepted.



News & Notes

★ **Albany YouthCARE** Council is taking part in the **Containers for Change scheme**. Our registration number is **C10331167**.

All you have to do is take your eligible containers to a collection point at either IGA Spencer Park, or IGA York Street and **quote our number**. The money you raise will go straight into our Albany bank account. Most aluminum, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard drink containers between 150ml and 3L are eligible. For more information, check out the Containers for Change website.

★ **Offerings** We gratefully accept financial contributions ("offerings") to continue the work of the Church. Cash or cheques may be placed in the offering bowls at Sunday services. Direct bank transfers (EFT) are also welcome. For Albany, please use the details below:

BSB: 086 554 (National Australia Bank)

Account Number: 496 865 760

Account Name: Albany Uniting Church

Reference: Offering or Youthcare

For Denmark, Mount Barker and Lockyer please contact your treasurer for details. All offerings are anonymous. Feel free to ask for envelopes if you wish.

★ **Uniting World**. If you would like to donate to Uniting World. Donations will be used to provide urgent assistance, supplies & support longer-term recovery. To donate online, go to <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/donate-now>

★ **Connecting** people who cannot attend worship, can still stay in touch with us from anywhere in the world. You can receive the monthly Magazine, the weekly Bulletin and the Order of Service by email or in print. We also record Sunday services which can be sent on CD. Just contact Corina or Lisa to make arrangements (see back page). For those of you who use social media, Albany and Denmark have Facebook pages and some of us also post under tags like [#wesleyalbany](#) on other social media channels.

★ **Albany-Denmark YouthCARE**. Affirmation Service. We look forward to sharing together with the Pioneer Family Church at 47 Pioneer Road, on Sunday 17th March 2024, commencing at 5.30pm. It will be followed by a light supper. It is a wonderful opportunity for people from all local churches to join and support our chaplains and Christian Values Education volunteers.

★ **Francois Couperin - Leçons de Ténèbres**

Leçons de Ténèbres (lessons of darkness) is a genre of French Baroque music which developed from the polyphonic lamentations settings for the ténèbre service in Holy Week. Couperin's intensely personal depiction of Jeremiah's bitter anguish has an intensity and power rarely found in Baroque sacred music. Performed by four of the Great Southern's best chamber musicians:

Shamara de Tissera - Soprano

Marie Limondin - violin

Julie Parish - violincello

Adam Cook – spinet

The first half of the programme will feature the fascinating and complex harmonic progressions

and lavish ornamentation of this masterpiece of the Baroque.

The programme will conclude with 'Lighting the Darkness with Sound and Silence' – some poetic meditations and exquisite music from the court of the Sun King.

When and Where?

Friday 22nd March at 7pm at Wesley Uniting Church in Albany.

Wednesday 27th March at 7pm at All Saints Anglican Church, Mount Barker.

Entry by donation