



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.

31 March 2024.



Compassion

“Remember: if you want to make progress on the path and ascend to the places you have longed for, the important thing is **not to think much** but to love much, and so to do whatever best awakens you to love.” Teresa of Ávila.

“Love makes the world go round” and the New Testament “proclaims that “God is love”. This is the only way the Bible writers attempt to define God. The mystery of the Divine cannot be captured in words or concepts. Yet, if any one word could come close to giving us an impression of the Divine, love would have to be it. Love is the key to spiritual growth. When mystics celebrate love, because it can “carry us into the heart of God”, they are not saying that thought or wisdom doesn’t matter. This is not some sort of contrast where loving is good, and thinking is bad. Rather, “thinking is good and love is even better”.

Jesus promised his friends, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” It is easy to meet those words with a thinking mind, where “the truth” is a principle, a concept, a dogma, or an expression of the mind. In the light of the wisdom of St. Teresa of Ávila, perhaps we need to think of how truth is just as much an expression of love as of thought. We can love truly, and the love that is truth is what sets us free. “Us” here can be understood to be “all of us,” all with whom we are in relationship. How compassionate are we? As we walk through Good Friday to Easter Morning, maybe we can do a check, and if possible, find a way to help our heart to grow in compassion. This could involve actual acts of compassion, or heart-centred love expressed



Divine Love

On this Easter Day the following is especially important when there are so many people who remain resistant to Christian belief. Most of these people are either unaware or refuse to believe the gospel accounts of Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross. The world is crying out for love with popular songs as one example that further that cry. They may call for greater evidence of love but look for it in the wrong places and often in ways that are harmful, all missing the ultimate expression of love, the divine love that is found in one source only – God. In many ways the Christian church can also miss out on that expression of divine love. Each Christian carries within themselves their own unique and very limited concept of God, often influenced and distorted by negative experiences in their developmental years. 1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. It doesn’t say that God is loving or God has love. There are many people who belong to various churches who have never actually formed a relationship with Jesus so have never experienced the love that knowing him as Lord and Saviour brings. These people can be faithful members of the church but have never allowed themselves to feel the love of God and the feeling of confidence that really knowing God creates. Our language restricts our understanding of this powerful truth – that God is love. The reason for God’s existence is love. He does not love to exist – He exists to love. Because of that great love that is God, God sent his beloved Son to die a painful death on a cross in order to save humankind from the bonds of sin and death through his defeat of those bonds through his resurrection. Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed!! Let us pray that as we meditate on the divine love of God, our lives will be enriched to the point where deep in our hearts we know without doubt that God is love.

Ideas taken from the late Reverend Selwyn Hughes.

Submitted by S. Wilson.



March 28 Maundy Thursday

5.30pm **LOCKYER** Rev. Corina

March 29 Good Friday

9.30am **DENMARK** J & G Wilson

10am **DUKE ST & LOCKYER combined service at Duke St** Rev. Corina

March 31 Easter Sunday

9.30am **DENMARK** D Laffin

10am **DUKE ST & LOCKYER combined service at Duke St** Rev. Corina

11am **MT BARKER** S. Wilson

April 7

8.30am **LOCKYER HC** Rev. Corina

9.30am **DENMARK** Rev. E. Sanderson

10am **DUKE ST HC** Rev. Corina

11am **MT BARKER** S. Wilson

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.

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

April 4th & 5th Craft Markets, York St, 9am-3pm

in prayer, meditation, or affirmation. Whether compassion is acted on or held in our heart, we can consider how compassion can foster liberation. Compassion can free us to be more kind, caring, forgiving, or available for others. Compassion for self is a way to set us free from old wounds or bad memories or lingering conflicts. Perhaps as our compassion stirs us to act in caring ways, we find ourselves acting to support the freedom of others, and in doing so we are fostering a free spirit within ourselves. Where there is true love, there is God, setting us free.

Easter blessings, Corina

Prayers of the week

AUC: Helen Oxenburgh- Lowe, Emma & Jay Pell and their families.

Lockyer: Joy Dunbar, Louise Hordacre and their families.

Mt Barker: Deborah Murphy, Philip Webb and their families.

Denmark: Margaret & Phil Cocks, Michael Cranny and their families.

Synod: (South West Region) Bay Life and Capel Uniting Churches; Augusta and Margaret River Uniting Churches; the Methodist Church in Fiji.

Photo: Internet image. 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.

