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SEPTEMBER PREACHING PLAN

Sept 1st

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Song of Solomon 2: 8 - 13
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 45: 1 - 2, 6 - 9
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	James 1: 17 - 27
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 7: 1 - 8, 14 - 15, 21 - 23

Sept 8th

8.30 Lockyer	A Hortin	Proverbs 22: 1 - 2, 8 - 9, 22 - 23
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 125
10.00 AUC	A Hortin	James 2: 1 - 10, (11-13), 14 - 17
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Mark 7: 24 - 37

Sept 15th

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Proverbs 1: 20 - 33
9.30 Denmark	D Laffin	Psalms 19
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	James 3: 1 - 12
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 8: 27 - 38

Sept 22nd

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Proverbs 31: 10 - 31
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalms 1
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	James 3: 13 - 4: 3, 7 - 8a
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 9: 30 - 37

Sept 29th

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Esther 7: 1 - 6, 9 - 10, 20 - 22
9.30	A Hortin	Psalms 124
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	James 5: 13 - 20
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 9: 38 - 50



THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

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



SEPTEMBER 2024



All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful-
the Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty
who has made all things well.

Together in Song 135, Photo courtesy Alan Glasgow

Message from the Manse: TRUTH

Doubt about the truth of my own beliefs and convictions has been one of my companions for a very long time. These days, I find it a struggle to find truth outside my thinking as well: in the media, online, who can be trusted? If I know someone has lied more than once, do I then distrust this person in all they say?

In John's Gospel (8:31-32) we read "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free". This is not simply truth as in 'facts' which can be verified, statements we can check. For two thousand years these words about knowing truth and the freedom it brings with it have been the basis for thinking about truth and freedom. As Australians we talk about our freedom, our freedoms, thankful for the rights they give us: freedom of speech, freedom of religion and so on. For a Christian in the Middle Ages, rights were not at the forefront of their thinking. Seven hundred years ago people did not see truth as something you could find with your mind, by thinking, reasoning, and fact finding. For them the source of Truth was God, who was addressed as 'Eternal Truth'. They saw as the most important truth that God is love. Mystics of that era attempted – and sometimes succeeded – in 'seeing' the face of God, the face of love, of Truth itself. This seeing is more an experience, a taste of God's truth in the depths of one's being. This divine Truth was believed to be the basis for human truth. There were corruption and violence back then, as there are today. People saw this as 'sin' and could have despaired over the extent to which human beings turn away from God, from loving ways of being. Mystics of the day taught that there was a way out of the human condition. Trust in the Truth of divine love, trust that all life, all that exists, is God's gracious gift, having faith in this ever-present, all-encompassing love can set people free from sin, and the evil that results from it. Experiences of self-doubt, envy, depression, jealousy, cowardice and failure are real, but they are not true signs of what makes us human in the depth of our being,

DIARY DATES

- THUR 5th SEPT** FUNERAL for Rosemary Day, 11am Amity Rose
- TUES 10th SEPT** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome
- FRI 13th SEPT** SCOTS MARKET at CWA Hall, Serpentine Rd,
open 9am - 3pm, come along and support us and
enjoy morning tea or a light lunch whilst there.
- THUR 19th SEPT** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café,
ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947
- FRI 20th SEPT** AUC COUNCIL MEETING, 4pm Lesser Hall
- SUN 22nd SEPT** SHOEBOX DEDICATION SERVICE. All who have
helped in any way are asked to make the effort
to attend so we can have the opportunity to thank
you all.
- SAT 28th SEPT** THE QUIET SPACE, featuring David Rastrick

DIRECTORY

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Roster for AUC and Lockyer:

	<u>DOOR/</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>RECORDING/ MUSIC</u>
<u>1st Sept</u>	C Roberts	S Harris	C Ferry	J Pell
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	P Elms
<u>8th Sept</u>	D Hockey	M Little	A Tero	W Dwyer/ S Harris
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	
<u>15th Sept</u>	D Hosking	W Dwyer	C Ferry	M Vertigan/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	
<u>22nd Sept</u>	C Ferry	E Verran	A Tero	J Pell/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	
<u>29th Sept</u>	D Coxall	C Ferry	C Ferry	M Little/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	

MORNING TEA, Lockyer only**1stSept** M Hannington**8th Sept** J Thompson**15th Sept** J Dunbar**22nd Sept** S Wood**29th Sept** J Bowman/J Wright

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take your turn and inform Lisa at the office of the change. Thank you to those willing to take part, helping to make services run smoothly.

A minister was at the door as usual at the conclusion of the service, in order to shake hands with the parishioners as they left. However, on this occasion instead of shaking hands with one man, he pulled him to one side and with utmost seriousness said "you need to join the Army of the Lord". "But I already belong to the Army of the Lord" replied the man, a little puzzled. "Then, how come I only see you at Easter and Christmas?" was the response of the minister. "I'm in the Secret Service" whispered the parishioner.

Catherine of Siena taught. Humans are created in the image of God, the image of Truth, and when they sin, it is a departure from the way they would act based on faith in this Truth. God created the world out of love, freedom and joy – qualities that really are the foundation of human identity. Catherine wrote (God is speaking) “you will find humility in the knowledge of yourself when you see that even your own existence comes not from yourself but from me, for I loved you before you came into being. And in my unspeakable love for you I willed to create you anew in grace. So, I washed you and made you a new creation in the blood that my only begotten Son poured out with such burning love.” Difficult – or shocking – as this image may be, for a Mediaeval Christian, human nothingness and failure as well as humanity’s reflection of God’s image were simply truths of life.

The Spirit of Truth is among us and lives within us, setting us free to be the best human beings we can possibly be. We are offered, still today, freedom *from* fear, illusion, ignorance, selfishness, and the impulse to ‘lord it over others’. We are challenged to be free *for* love and service to the world, especially to people who are oppressed, neglected and vulnerable. In our time and place we can still take to heart Catherine’s words encouraging us to use our particular gifts to speak and live the divine truth. “Such is the freedom of your humanity, and so strong have you been made (...) that neither the devil nor any other creature can force you to the least sin unless you want it. You were freed from slavery so that you might be in control of your own powers and reach the end you were created for.” Paul wrote to the Galatians “For freedom, Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery (...) For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.”

Each of us embodies the truth in our own way. We can write letters, look after loved ones, create art or make music, each to our own

gifts. These are the result of the power of love that enables us to live in truth and freedom. This freedom and the way of life that it asks for, is not so much about 'rights' or entitlements. It is about living for others, about putting the whole before the part. We can 'know' the Divine Truth in our innermost being and trust that we are free. I give thanks for this faith and rejoice! Join me?

Blessings, Corina

BITS FROM BARKER:

Nita had a well-earned rest from playing at our service recently when Valerie visited and offered to play instead. The weather that day produced more rain than has been seen in Mt Barker for years and those of us who went to lunch had to almost swim to our vehicles. Alan Hortin took our service that day and he and Anne joined us for lunch afterwards in spite of the challenging conditions. Nita and I led the monthly service at Overton Aged Care which was well attended. It is always good to catch up with Milly at those services. Eileen is currently spending some time in Albany Hospital while she undergoes a medication review. Her son is house-sitting in her absence to make sure there isn't a repeat of a break-in as happened last year.

Regards, Sue Wilson

Lockyer News: The good news is that I had a lovely chat with Joan on the phone as I did last month and she is improving. Not so good is that she still finds it hard to find her old get-up-and-go as are many of the Lockyer congregation for an 8.30 start on a Sunday, fellowship meetings and bible studies. We agreed that it was important to maintain contact with one another, to share in our faith journey and give support where and when we can. It made me think back to when the doors of the churches were forced to close due to Covid and the joy when they opened again. The well-being of our congregations is important, we can all contribute to this. Clare Ferry

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

It is good to have Corina safely back with us and she generously took time out to provide us with a message in spite of having much to catch up on after her time away. The message is worth reading through several times and she sums it up well in the closing paragraph. It amazes me that so often, with a number of people writing articles for the magazine independently, how a common thread can be found in each. Although the Mt Barker members are few in number, they have great spirit and look out for one another and the same goes for Lockyer. Seb points out in his music news that we all have gifts we can use, however small, just don't be afraid of the challenge, have faith. As we grow older and health issues become a problem, it becomes harder to commit to attending church every Sunday, if at all. That is understandable but don't be a secret service agent of the Lord (ref page9 and the piece a friend sent me). Keep in touch and share thoughts and ideas, pass on helpful information and most of all let people know you care.

Clare Ferry

Friendship is a chain of gold
Shaped in God's, all perfect mould,
Each link a smile, a laugh, a tear,
A touch of the hand, a word of cheer.
Steadfast as the seasons roll,
Binding closer soul to soul.
No matter how far or heavy the load,
Sweet is the journey on Friendship Road.

The 1stSeptember means winter is over, even if it is still cold, windy and wet, it is also Father's Day so greetings to all the fathers reading this. Parenting is an ongoing responsibility with many joys but ++also frustrations, so they deserve at least one day per year to sit back and know they are loved.

Wesley Music News: A bit of a quieter month this time. After The Quiet Space (no pun intended) returned on Saturday 27th July with Adam James Cook spinning a charming meandering yarn with well-loved hymn tunes, cellist Julie Parish and Patrick Elms will join us on 31st August whose previous QS was described as “superb”. You may be reading this after that and we’d love to hear your feedback on the event and the program generally. Further ahead, they will be followed on 28th September by David Rastrick. You may remember he is a gifted trumpet player and guitarist, who creates a background texture with loops, short sections of music recorded into a machine, which then repeats them continuously. Last time it was mesmerising so we hope you do join us.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters, whether directly or indirectly. What we’re doing is difficult, so every support and every piece of encouragement is valuable. We hope in time it will not be so challenging but that’s a bit of a way off! The point is that anything worthwhile is challenging and takes a number of people. An example of people doing small things to help is Clare’s flowers – when she provides the arrangements for the Sunday service, she sometimes gives the bouquet to me when cleaning up. Many of you won’t know I’m currently living in reduced circumstances so being able to put a few beautiful flowers around my home gives me sometimes weeks of joy in what can otherwise feel a bit grim. Remember you all have things to offer – even the smallest gift from God, if shared, grows and grows us.



Seb Harris

PRAYER PROMPTS:

Think of all who mourn the loss of loved ones, and pray in particular for the family members of Rosemary Day who passed away last Sunday, and also Elaine Archer’s family, especially her husband John and her sisters. Continue to keep Allan and Judy McKechnie in your thoughts, and pray that Elizabeth, and also Joan Wright from Lockyer, are soon feeling fit and well again. Pray for Esma Hare, who is going through a difficult time just now, as is Kerrie Bentink, as her son Luke has been very ill, so pray for them also.

Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Gaza and pray for compassion from Israel’s leadership. Over 40,000 civilians have been killed in Gaza and I think particularly of the children there.

Ending on a brighter note, I have been in touch with Mary Ericson, now settled in Perth, and she sends her greetings to everyone, especially to Clare and hopes she is well again! (she is)

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: We have finished packing this year’s boxes and Corina will lead our Dedication Service on Sunday 22ndSept.



Please make every effort to come as this is our best opportunity to thank all of you who help in any way. Please keep the Shoebox Dedication in your prayers and pray for the children who will receive the boxes this year. Please pray too for all those around the world who are packing boxes. We give thanks for all who help in any way and think of the under-privileged children who will receive them, especially those who are in the war-ravaged countries. "Let the little children come to me for such is the kingdom of heaven"

We have quite a lot of shoebox items left over from this year which will get us off to a good start next year. We don't need any more small coloured pencils, HB pencils, blue and black biro's or sharpeners, though we will need pads for the 2 – 4 years plus large coloured pencils, coloured biro's and exercise books for the older children. We also have enough small beanies but need more of the medium size ones. Those who have been knitting balls for the 2 – 4s will be pleased to know we have enough of them for next year! Dropping the number of boxes from 250 to 150 makes collecting items much easier of course! We will need marbles and tennis balls next year and I'll keep you up to date as the year progresses.

Meanwhile, I have used up all the cards you have given me so please start saving cards again for us to make into little picture books. We use the small "brag books" (small photo albums), available at Office Works for about \$2.20 if you would like to get some for us. You are all marvellous and make our job so much easier with all your support. Many thanks to Keith for the beautiful little wooden toys we put in the boxes for 2 – 4s. I also need to mention how much I appreciate the help from our little team, especially Lyn Catchpole, her friends the 2 Kath's, Dot Elliot who helps everywhere but in particular also gets up at 2.30am for the Bargain Bonanza, Wendy Osborne who also helps everywhere but also does a tremendous amount of sewing for us and collects a lot of items from the op shop she volunteers at, and also Antonia who fills in when needed and sews the pencil cases for us. A special mention to Esma Hare who

makes the beautiful big bags with handles for us to put in each box. 150 bags were a lot to make! We raised \$440 at our last Bargain Bonanza, with two more before the end of the year. Our little group has decided that as we will probably have enough money by then for this year and a good proportion for next year, we will not continue past this year with the Bargain Bonanzas and will make 2025 our last year for the Shoebox project, calling it quits after the dedication service. 2025. Quite frankly, we are all getting older and very weary, getting up at 2.30am in order to get our stall space is too hard. I will continue with the CWA craft markets, even after we finish the Shoebox project, but will just sell my biscuits. I have a lot of friends there and enjoy catching up with them and also others who call in. I was one of the original stall holders and we are the longest remaining craft market in Albany- we have been going for more than 30 years! I then started the Shoebox project in 2003, so have been doing that for over 20 years as well.

I'll conclude with the numbers and destinations of last year's boxes, as some of you have been asking me about them, and for those who make the metre square rugs that go to Wheelchairs for Kids, Albany sent 312 this quarter.

God bless, Edith

