



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.

8 December 2024.



Refining Fire

The prophet Malachi does not get as much attention as we might give him today, with his plea for the people (I read 'all people') and the priests in particular, to return to the God who loves them. He writes *Where is the God of Justice? Well, pay attention! I am sending my Messenger to prepare the way for me, the One you seek will suddenly come to the Temple, the Messenger of the Covenant whom you long for will come, says YHWH Omnipotent. Who can endure the day of the Coming? Who can stand firm when that One appears? That day will be like a smelter's fire, a launderer's soap. The One will preside as refiner and purifier (...) refining the priests like gold and silver – then they will once again make offerings to YHWH in righteousness.*

The people of Malachi's day like those of Jesus' time, longed for God to come and deliver them from their oppressors. These days our oppressors are not foreign armies, but individualism, consumerism, and all the spin off effects these have, like selfishness and overindulgence. So, we might long for God to come and deliver us as well. When God would deliver the people in antiquity, God would return to the Temple; the covenant would be completed, the kingdom of David restored, and God's faithful would dwell in peace and prosperity. Malachi throws in a warning. God's coming will not be pleasant, it will be like a refiner's fire. The prophet Isaiah shares his experience (Isa 6:1-7). When he encounters God, he also sees clearly his own condition. "I saw God, high and lifted up (...) Woe is me, I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips." When we experience God's presence, inevitably we also become aware of the parts of ourselves that are not in line with the 'god-like' person we are meant to be. The refining fire, stinging soap, is needed to get rid of the



Perseverance

If we have caught a vision of God's purposes in the world, we can persevere against great odds.

There are no cheap victories in the Christian faith. Hence all the huffing and puffing of the 'name it and claim it' gospel is hopelessly off track. Christianity had its beginnings in the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth. It has a long history of martyrs. The Christian faith therefore is much more one of perseverance than of conquests. Christians are the little flock in a fallen world. They are called to a servant role and are challenged to be salt and light in our troubled times.

Therefore, Christians are called to faithfulness and perseverance no matter what happens. We are reminded that 'we continue to act with maximum perseverance... in spite of the absence of temporal effect'.

Reflection: The act of perseverance can only be an act of faith.

Taken from Resist the Powers by Charles Ringma.

Submitted by S. Wilson



December 8

8.30am	LOCKYER	E. Burns
9.00am	DENMARK HC	Rev. Corina
10am	DUKE ST	E. Burns
11am	MT BARKER HC	Rev. Corina

December 15

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

December 22

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

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am	DENMARK	Rev. E. Sanderson
10am	DUKE ST/LOCKYER	Rev. Corina

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 10am at Heather's place. All welcome.

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

impurities and rubbish inside of us. Experiencing God as a consuming fire is not pleasant or enjoyable. Our not so pretty traits are very much part of who we are, and being confronted with cleansing fire may fill us with dread of being destroyed. However, we are asked to go through a process of confession and cleansing, hoping to become more Christlike. Do we trust God enough to surrender to the purifying fire? I pray we do.

Blessings, Corina

Prayers of the week

AUC: Jennifer & Max Shearer, Lloyd Stewart and their families.

Lockyer: Rod Marsh, Judy Thompson and their families.

Mt Barker: Carolyn & Doug Lincoln, Anne Mackie and their families.

Denmark: Ron Munro, Carmy O' Sullivan and their families.

Synod: North Midlands Shared Ministry (Carnamah, and Three Springs Uniting Churches) Methodist Church of Sri Lanka.

Photo: Orchid- Rev. Corina. 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.

December 13 Scot's Craft Markets. 9-3pm, CWA Hall

December 28 **Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm**



News & Notes

Albany YouthCARE Council is taking part in the **Containers for Change** scheme. Our registration number is **C10331167**. Take your eligible containers to a collection point at either IGA Spencer Park, or Container Recycling Depot, 93 Stead Rd Centennial Park 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, supply & 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.

