

APRIL PREACHING PLAN

April 6th

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Isaiah 43: 16 - 20
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalms 126
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	Philippians 3: 4b – 14
11.00 Mt Baeker	S Wilson	John 12; 1 - 8

April 13th

8.30 Lockyer	E Burns	Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 31: 9 - 16
10.00 AUC	E Burns	Philippians 2: 5 - 11
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Luke 22: 14 – 23: 56 or Luke 23: 1-49

April 17th Maundy Thursday

5.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina
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April 18th Good Friday

9.00 Denmark	tba	Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12
10.00 Lockyer & AUC at Wesley, Duke St Mt Barker with Anglicans	Rev Corina	Psalms 22 Hebrews 10: 16 - 25 or Hebrews 4: 14 -16, 5: 7 – 9 John 18: 1 - 19, 42

April 20th Easter Day

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Acts 10: 34 – 43 or Isaiah 65: 17 - 25
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 118: 1 - 2, 14 - 24
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 15: 19 - 26
11.00 Mt Barker	R Anderson	or Acts 10: 34 -43 John 20: 1 - 18 or Luke 24: 1 - 12

April 27th

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Acts 5: 27- 32
9.30 Denmark	P & M Cocks	Psalms 118: 14 - 29 or Psalm 150
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Revelation 1: 4 - 18
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 20: 19 - 31



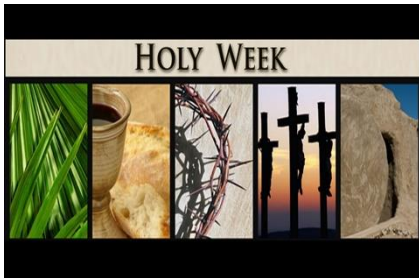
THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

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



APRIL 2025



Easter Sunday



the tomb is empty



HE IS RISEN

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE : Salvation

Only faith is needed for 'salvation', we don't earn 'being saved' by doing 'good works', so our protestant tradition tells us. Salvation is one of the most important words in Christianity. But what does this word actually mean? It is a loaded word for many people. Being 'saved' is interpreted as going to heaven after we die. If we are not saved, we will end up in hell. Sinners go to hell, everyone sins, so going to heaven is only a possibility if sins are forgiven. In this way of thinking, Jesus is our Saviour. He died for our sins to redeem us, so that we can go to heaven. People of other faiths, who don't believe in Jesus, cannot go to heaven. Really?

The biblical meanings of salvation, saved and saviour are very different from these ideas. The words appear roughly five hundred times in the bible, both in the Hebrew Scriptures and in the New Testament. In the Bible, salvation is hardly ever about an afterlife. There is mention of life after death only in Daniel, the youngest book in the Hebrew Scriptures, written about 165 BC. The word salvation does not occur in it. In the New Testament, salvation is occasionally about an afterlife, but most of the time it is not.

The first biblical context of salvation is given in the story of the Exodus. The high point in Exodus is where they cross the Red Sea, and we can read "Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians." The people are liberated from economic, political and religious slavery. They are to daily remember this in words and in deeds. Israel was not to become like Egypt in any way!

The second context for salvation is the return of the people from exile in Babylon, where they were exploited as in Egypt. The second part of Isaiah describes this period. It says (45:17) "Israel is saved by the lord with everlasting salvation." God is saviour, and is present with the people, so they need not fear. God saves because the people are precious and honoured and loved. Salvation in here means return from exile – coming home.

The third context for salvation can be found in the Psalms, where

DIARY DATES

- TUES 8th APR** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12 noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome
- FRI 11th APR** SCOTS CRAFT MART at CWA hall, Serpentine Rd,
open 9am–3pm. Come and enjoy a delicious morning
tea or lunch and say hello to the stalls holders.
- THUR 17th APR** MORNING TEA, Vancouver Café, 10am. All welcome,
for details ring Mary Noack-Skinner 0427 554 947.
Lovely to see Barbara and her niece at the last one.
- SAT 26th APR** THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, 2 – 3pm.
Michael Goldschlager playing the cello

DIRECTORY

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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>RECORDING/ MUSIC</u>
<u>6th April</u>	C Ferry	A Lucas	C Ferry	W Dwyer
<i>Lockyer: M Hannington</i>		<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	S Harris
<u>13th April</u>	A Gunther	W Dwyer	M Gunther	M Little/
<i>Lockyer: J Thompson</i>		<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	P Elms
<u>18th April</u>	C Ferry	E Burns		W Dwyer/
<i>Lockyer: at AUC</i>				S Harris
<u>20th April</u>	A Glasgow	W Dwyer	A Tero	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer: at AUC</i>				P Elms
<u>27th April</u>	D Coxall	M Little	C Ferry	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer: J Bowman</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>		P Elms

Morning Tea, Lockyer only**6th April** S Wood**13th April** J Dunbar**27th April** Anne Hortin

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.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Every person I contacted for material or to take part in the above roster agreed cheerfully. With so much conflict going on in the world and so many people struggling to survive, not just in third world countries but in our own community, it was so rewarding to receive such cheerfully given help. I felt it truly reflected Corina's closing words to her message, as did the story and pictures in the article Edith provided. Christ's light does shine and the Holy Spirit is at work. Easter blessings, Clare Ferry

the word means: rescue, deliverance from danger, sometimes of an individual, sometimes of the nation. Danger often comes from enemies or 'the wicked'. Sometimes the psalmist prays to be saved from illness, or death, or 'the Pit'. There are no prayers asking for eternal life. We find texts like "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" "Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me." "Save all the oppressed of the earth."

These three meanings of salvation can be found in the New Testament as well: liberation from slavery, return from exile, and rescue from danger. To be saved is to be delivered/rescued from what troubles us. The result of being saved is a new kind of life, a life of trust, a life without anxiety. So, salvation is about deliverance as well as transformation – change. There are many other biblical texts and images referring to salvation as transformation. Isaiah 35 has some, like, "The dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom... Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert." "Say to those who are of a fearful heart. 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'" "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped, then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy." Salvation will bring an end to sorrow.

The Gospels tell stories of Jesus restoring people to life. God is not a god of the dead, but of the living. "Let the dead bury their own dead." (Matt 8:22) Jesus said this about living people: we can be alive and yet dead. This saying also holds good news; there is a way of leaving the land of the dead. The movement from death to life is also in Paul, who writes about dying and rising with Christ, and entering into a new kind of life. In John, this is what 'born again' means. There are many examples of Jesus healing people. This too, is salvation, restoring to health and community, healing of the wounds of existence. New life. Salvation is personal. Yet, in the Bible it is also about how we live together in communities, societies and nations. Salvation is political as well as personal.

What would global salvation, a saved humanity, look like? Exodus, the prophetic writings, Jesus, and Paul show a vision with two main components: a world of justice and peace. Biblical justice is most of all economic justice, concerning the basic necessities of life: land and food. Peace means peace of mind, peace with people we meet or live with. Peace in the Bible also means the end of violence and war. Ancient Israel knew violence by the ruling elite to keep the population in line; violence of wars, often caused by rulers wanting to conquer more land – and wealth. Ordinary people had no say in politics, but were often victim of high taxes, they could be conscripted, had animals stolen, or crops ruined by invaders – resulting in famine. So, in Old as well as New Testament, salvation means there will be peace through justice, not by violence. Thousands of years later, we are in dire need of global salvation, I think you will agree. Following in Jesus' footsteps is a way to salvation. Christianity – at its best – offers personal salvation, that we may become the best we can possibly be. Our religion also offers a way to transform the world, for it to become a world of justice and peace (the Kingdom of God). Trust and be not afraid, the light of the risen Christ is shining, and the Holy Spirit is at work in the world.

Happy Easter! Corina

BITS FROM BARKER:

I have had my son, daughter-in-law and five-year-old granddaughter staying for almost three weeks. They have attended our church service twice which helped boost our numbers, then when Alan and Anne Hortin came during the month, Maxine and Arthur also attended, so for once we had a large group go to lunch. The service at Overton went well and it was lovely to see Milly there. Nita organised the music and now has it down to a fine art as the words come up on a screen with the music. May you all have a safe and blessed Easter.

Regards, Sue Wilson

Wesley Music News:– April 2025

We recently conducted a survey on The Quiet Space. Thank you to everyone who responded either online or on paper. Among other things, one finding is that most attendees value the monthly schedule. Therefore, we have reinstated a monthly schedule for now, although we are also making other improvements. More on the survey outcomes coming soon.

We appreciate the number of people who have contacted us to offer their volunteer services, although most are unwilling or unable to undertake the tasks we need. This is part of the reason for moving from a monthly to an ad hoc schedule, because of the challenge of completing the basic tasks attendees expect of us. If you are interested, please specify what you are offering. For example:

Creative writing skills

Facebook Event creation

Photography (taking photos to use in promotional materials)

In-person hosting – doors, lighting, projector, greeting attendees, securing donations etc

Creating and sending the official monthly email notifications

Distributing flyers by email or in-person, or other promotion

Writing procedures

Finding and making agreements with suitable musicians

These are the minimum necessary tasks which the survey showed attendees expect to be carried out by our volunteers. We're grateful for any genuine support.

In the meantime, arrangements made so far:

Patrick Elms on March 29th,

Michael Goldschlager playing cello on April 26th

Ross Dwyer on guitar on May 31st.

We hope to see you there, Seb

supply safe water for the community and provided Sergey and his family the resources and equipment to set up a bakery, with enough supplies to sustain their community for six months. Sergey's new bakery now provided not just essential food but also viable employment to those assisting with their production and delivery services. He and his family transformed their

hardship into an avenue for God to be glorified in their community. The bakery and a community water well now function to fulfill critical needs for food and safe drinking water and through word and deed, the hope of Christ is being shared by Sergey and his family in war-torn communities and surrounding areas.



LOCKYER NEWS:

Recently we hired out the Hall for an 18th Birthday Party. It evidently went off well. The Church Council has instituted a policy of “no smoking – no alcohol” which seems to be accepted quite well. A glass panel in a rear door was damaged but was replaced by Glass Suppliers on the next working day.

We are fortunate in having some additional people coming to our Services at the moment. This has boosted our numbers to about 12 on most Sundays. We continue with morning tea after the Service, the ensuing chit chat and Fellowship is enjoyed by those able to stay for a cuppa.

Alastair and Jennifer Anderson are touring Tasmania at the moment. May they have a refreshing and relaxing time on their travels. Anne and Alan Hortin will be away during the first three weeks of April, having a cruise down the Mekong River in Cambodia and Vietnam. Their pharmacist is from Vietnam and has requested a full report upon their return! Alan recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Sue Wood is going to Adelaide to see family, and will enjoy getting together with them, and meeting a great grandchild for the first time.

We do pray for those who are not so well these days, and thus unable to travel. Joan Wright is now home again but rather restricted in what she is able to do. There are those we know who are unwell, but we also pray for those who may be suffering mental illnesses, or have concerns with families and friends.

God of the risen Christ and our God,
we rejoice in your resurrection power,
which is fully ours in Jesus Christ,
and we pray that you will keep us alert
to the sufferings, needs or duties
that burden many people this Easter.

Bruce Prewer

PRAYER PROMPTS:

Please continue to keep Judy and Allan in your prayers. Pray for Doreen Keding as she settles into full care, and for Ruth and Mick Vertigan whose home was flooded throughout as a result of the recent rain storm. They are unable to live there at present, we pray that their home is repairable and the process doesn't take too long. Pray for all those war-torn areas where innocent civilians are being killed and injured, thinking particularly of the children. Pray, for those who reside in nursing homes, and also for those members of the four regional churches who are unable to attend Church during this Easter season, for whatever reason.

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:

We have finished decorating our boxes for this year, indeed they are our final boxes. We gave "Mainstreet Shoes and Bags" a thank-you card (and some of my biscuits for their morning tea) as they have been saving empty shoeboxes for us for about 20 years. The local co-ordinator who picks up our finished boxes, says every time, that our boxes are the nicest – we decorate every box with colourful contact. We are still short of some items for this year's boxes – marbles (about 700), tennis balls (50), small toys (dinky cars, yoyos skipping ropes, etc), and undies: 30 for 2 – 4 boys, 20 for 2 – 4 girls, 20 for 5 – 9 girls and 45 for 10 – 14 boys. As before, K mart is still the cheapest - \$5.50 for 7, look at each end of the racks where they are displayed. Bulk bags of tennis balls are also available there. Our thanks to Antonia who bought a heap of dinky cars off the internet - a good percentage of them were new. Thanks too to Keith who is still making wooden toys for us – small ones for the boxes and large ones for fund-raising. They are beautifully made and painted. We also need about 50 large bags with handles that Esma is making for us! I am going to miss the interaction with you all over this project. It has been a highlight in my life and has helped me to get to know you all. We will start packing about July/August. I will still personally keep up

a small fund-raising effort at the CWA marts, baking and selling my biscuits and sending the money raised to Samaritan's Purse to be used for their shoeboxes. If you have any interesting, new-looking items, pass them on to me and I will put them on my stall as well. I'll finish off with some recently received news from Samaritans Purse, meanwhile, again, many thanks to all, and God Bless, Edith

Providing both physical and living water in Ukraine

Every day, the aroma of freshly baked bread filled Sergey's family bakery in eastern Ukraine. Together they delivered bread across their city amidst the backdrop of everyday sounds – the hum of traffic, the laughter of children playing, and the barking of dogs.



When the frontline of war reached their town, Sergey and his family left behind all that they had, to seek refuge away from the conflict and the destruction of their home, their city, and their community. In the weeks that followed, a future without reliable water, electricity or food became their new reality. Despite the turmoil, Sergey was determined to be the difference between hope and despondency for his family and his fellow countrymen. He would travel outwards towards the conflict zone to assist in evacuating residents still trapped in their homes for fear of ongoing rocket fire. For months, Sergey's bravery saved hundreds of lives. When Samaritan's Purse Disaster Assistance Response Teams reached Sergey's town, they found the city's water sources destroyed by shelling. Sanitation/ Hygiene specialists drilled a borehole well to