

weekly bulletin

20 September 2020



Growing in Christ | Showing Christ | Going Christ's Way

Bible readings:

Pentecost 16

Exodus 16: 2-15; Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45; Phil 1: 21-30; Matthew 20: 1-16

Weekly reflection

In today's gospel reading, the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16), Jesus spells out what the heavenly rewards system might look like. It's important to keep in mind that Jesus gave this parable in answer to Peter's question, "What then will we have?" (19:27). Peter, who had left everything to follow Jesus, must have heard this parable with some frustration, because it implies that the rewards that the apostles will receive will be the same as the rewards that lesser disciples will receive. That must have offended Peter's sense of justice.

Frankly, it offends our sense of justice too! We are accustomed to functioning in a world where one's rewards are proportionate to one's service. (Although we have to wonder if a professional football player is really worth as much as a thousand high school teachers.) Perhaps we would be happy to grant the apostles a larger share than we would expect for ourselves as long as we could expect more than a lesser disciple might receive. We feel for the all-day workers, who received the same pay as the one-hour workers. Is that fair? Don't they deserve more? Shouldn't the master treat them better? These and many other questions will exercise our thinking as we look at Matthew 20 in today's message.

Ian Smallbone

Oxley Worship Today Sunday 20th Sept - Live-streamed

Our worship today the 20th September will again be live-streamed **at 10am**. This will mean for those who can't make the service in person, you will be able to watch it live via our youtube channel. We will also record the service and will post it on our youtube channel later in the day. DVD's of the service will be available for those without internet access.

Contribute:

Email communications.oxleydarrauc@gmail.com by 7pm Thursday with notices for next week's bulletin.

Church Financial Update:

The Church's profit/loss for August is \$3,575.14 Loss.

The Church's profit/loss for the Year to Date is \$20,007.84 Gain.

Should you have any questions regarding the Church's finances please contact Russell Green.

Please pray for:

- continued prayer for all who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time.
- those who are still recovering from surgery or needing more surgery or recently hospitalised - Pam G, Nerida M, Clyde L., David W
- members of our community in nursing homes and their families who feel further isolated from them at this time - Del A, Claire M, Margaret R, Lorraine I, Margaret A, Joyce H, Stan O.
- the congregation of Indooroopilly UC, Toowoomba and their Minister, Rev Lyn Burden
- The crisis situation in Victoria and New South Wales amid the ever increasing Covid19 virus
- Our local community during the contact transfers of the virus
- Rev Ian and his wife Glenys.
- Carol N as she waits for finalisation on her new house

Gift for Andrew and Lyndell

As you would have seen, at the Celebration Service for Andrew we presented him with a farewell gift (Leather satchel, travelling bag and wallet containing some money) and presented Lyndelle with a nice bunch of flowers. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of these, please send a direct debit to our church account with reference 'Gift'. BSB-064011, account number 10032190, Account name - Oxley-Darra UCA

Sunday Worship - this Week - 20th September

Following the successful commencement of our church services last week, we will be continuing with the 10am timeslot for our Sunday services. These services will also be live-streamed. We still have some hurdles to overcome including the fact that we can only have 74 people in the church building and the cleaning requirements mean that we will only have one service, so no evening service at this time. We are requesting people to remain home if they are ill, have cold like symptoms, have compromised health conditions or other health vulnerabilities. Members who come to the services from then on will need to **register beforehand** and sign in to ensure that we are remaining compliant with Government restrictions. We will be continuing to live-stream our services and provide them on DVD for those who wish to continue worship from home. Please watch out for further updates during the coming week. Please wear a mask if you feel the need to.

DISCERNMENT OF CLT NOMINATIONS

There are three vacancies to be filled on the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) at the Congregational Meeting scheduled for 22nd November 2020. Please prayerfully consider any person you may wish to nominate for these positions. Nomination forms will be available in the future.

Resources for Ministry Team meets Thursday 24th September, 7pm. All Welcome



Rev Ian Smallbone
Minister

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