



# CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

24 July 2022



## Faithful Prayer

The psalm for this week celebrates God's mercy, truth, righteousness, and peace. Hosea starts with a negative imagery, borne out in the names of the prophet's children, and yet also promises the people shall one day be called children of the living God. Colossians reminds us that God brings new life, and Jesus teaches that we can trust God to be present and to provide for us. All of this is summed up in the simple pattern of prayer Jesus teaches.

**Hosea 1:2–10** speaks to a time when the people of Israel treat God abominably. The prophet utters a devastating word from God, "you are not my people." However, all is not lost, even at such a time. God's nature of love and compassion always emerges, even in bleak times.

The writer of **Psalm 85** is confident that righteousness and peace are at the very heart of God; God's favour and pardon will prevail. The psalmist knows the answer to the question, "will you be angry forever?" It is a resounding "no"!

Similarly, **Colossians 2:6–19** places the substance of our relationship with God squarely in the nature of God. Thus, our relationship with God is possible not because of what we do but because of who God is.

Our understanding of the nature of God informs our prayer life. In **Luke 11:1–13**, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray.

In the time of Jesus, religious teachers, perhaps including John the baptizer, taught formulaic prayers to their followers. In this passage, Jesus teaches his followers a prayer pattern. Christians have come to know this prayer as The Lord's Prayer, Jesus' Prayer, or The Prayer Jesus Taught. Tom Harpur, in *Prayer: The Hidden Fire* (Northstone Publishing) notes that scholars believe "The Disciples' Prayer" is a more accurate title.

The version of this prayer in Luke is shorter than the version in Matthew; some scholars believe Luke's rendition to be an earlier version. Luke's account forms the "third panel of the triptych" of Jesus' teaching about living as disciples. The first two panels being The Good Samaritan and the visit to Martha and Mary.

The first two statements in the prayer establish its foundation and orientation. Addressing God as holy or hallowed sets God apart from the world. The words of prayer then proclaim a great hope: God's way of being and God's desire will be present in the world. The third, fourth, and fifth petitions ask God to provide for three basic needs – sustaining the world by providing food, restoring individuals and communities by forgiveness, and protecting the world. With these three things fully achieved, we can imagine God's reign will have come indeed.

Jesus sets prayer in context by describing further to whom we are praying, and employs two striking images to underline the certainty of God's response to our prayer. The first image is of a neighbour who refuses to provide hospitality. Refusing hospitality would have seemed absurd to the story's first hearers because of hospitality customs in first-century Middle Eastern cultures. Hospitality was a social requirement and often essential to sustaining health and wholeness for the community. The bizarre image of a parent who gives a child snakes and scorpions assumes that even the least suitable parents will provide basic care for a child.

The message to the disciples and to all hearers of this text, including us, is that God is good. God will always hear and respond – not because we are worthy, not because we have the right formula, but because it is in God's nature to be generous and loving.

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This week, we are invited to visualize ourselves asking, seeking, and knocking unceasingly – to be confident that to persist in prayer is to move forward in faith, hope, and love.

From Seasons of the Spirit

*Based on the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester*  
Dear God,  
for these three things we pray:  
to love you more dearly,  
see you more clearly,  
and follow you more nearly  
every day. Amen.

# DIARY

## Thursday 21 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square  
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## Sunday 24 July

**9.00am** *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Worship Service**- Leader Kerrie Dixon – Preacher Rev Tom  
*Readings: Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 11:1-13*

## Tuesday 26 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie Fair  
12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

## Thursday 28 July

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square  
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## Sunday 31 July

**9.00am** *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Worship Service** – Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom  
10.15am Congregational Meeting  
*Readings: Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9,43, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21*

## Monday 1 August

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

## Tuesday 2 August

9.30 – 11.00am GCK (Grandparents, Carers & Kids) at Garden Suburb  
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie Fair

## Thursday 4 August

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square  
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## Sunday 7 August

**9.00am** *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Worship Service** – Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom  
**Children's Corner with Cathy**  
*Readings: Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20, Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-24, Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16, Luke 12 :32-40*

## Monday 8 August

10.00am Worship Service at Woodlands

## Tuesday 9 August

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake

## Wednesday 10 August

10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

## Thursday 11 August

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café a  
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb  
11.00am Communion Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

## Friday 12 August

6.00pm Ladies night at Kahibah

## Saturday 13 August

9.00am Quiet Morning at Garden Suburb

## Sunday 14 August

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**9.00am** **Worship Service** – Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom  
*Readings: Isaiah 5: 1-7, Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19, Hebrews 11: 29-12: 2, Luke 12: 49-56*

## Monday 15 August

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

## Tuesday 16 August

9.30am GCK (Grandparents, Carers & Kids) at Garden Suburb  
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie Fair

## Thursday 18 August

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square  
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

# THE PRAYER PAGE

"Lord, give me your eyes and ears today as I move about in my neighbourhoods. Show me your heart and help me to love those people around me who are my neighbours" Karina Kreminski



## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* Woodcock family
- \* Moran family
- \* Catherine
- \* Shirley
- \* Olivia
- \* Jean
- \* Kelly
- \* Enid
- \* Fred
- \* Ken
- \* Eileen
- \* Wilma
- \* Ken

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- Recording of our Church Services
- GCK group
- Our spiritual journey

## Wider Community Prayer Points

- Housing affordability
- Flood victims
- Ukrainian families impacted by war

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power



Sunday 31 July  
at 10.15am

following worship

**Next week!**

(The meeting will be live streamed)



Agenda items include: Budget, Mission update, Hunter Community Alliance update

# Children & Family Worker Update

Hi Everyone

As promised a run down on our Holiday Kids Club last Wednesday, 22 children had a wonderful day featuring a visit from a Baby Animal petting zoo. Even though it was a very cold day, the children rugged up well & enjoyed their time learning about the animals, petting them & even feeding them.



The children loved it & I think the animals did as well. But that wasn't all they did of course they had their wonderful craft items to complete, thanks Laraine & David for organising them. Games, story & song & a party food lunch. I think I am confident in saying that 22 children left Holiday Kids with a very big smile on their face. Thanks again to everyone involved.



SRE started back this week, with so much sickness around please keep all our SRE teachers in your prayers this term.

Cathy

Everyone is required to wear a face mask when singing is taking place

Masks may be removed during other parts of the worship service



It is strongly recommended that face masks be worn at all times when you are with other people in our church buildings.



## Wanted to Borrow

### BIRDCAGE

For use in the prayer focus on the Quiet Morning  
on 13 August

If you have one which is not in use, please  
contact Anne Threlfo or Vicki Hancock

Thank you!

*Come Away*  
**Quiet Morning**  
Saturday 13 August  
9am - 12.30pm  
at Garden Suburb Uniting Church

Cost \$10 includes morning tea. Register with Anne Threlfo [annethrelfo@gmail.com](mailto:annethrelfo@gmail.com) Ph: 0439 754 376

The advertisement features a background of a blue sky with white clouds. On the left, a wire birdcage hangs from a string. On the right, a small bird is shown in flight. The text is arranged in a central column, with the title 'Come Away' in a large, cursive font, followed by 'Quiet Morning' in a bold, sans-serif font. The date and time are listed below, followed by the location. At the bottom, there is a line of text providing the cost, registration information, and contact details.

# Banner Workshop



## Exploring the role of the visual in worship while preparing for the Seasons of Creation

Prepare for the celebration of Seasons of Creation during September through learning simple skills in paper cutting banners that could be used in your church.

Participants will have a hands-on experience of techniques in paper cutting that can then be used to develop a project in your local congregation. This workshop is focused to give you tools and ideas to have fun with this medium or inspire your congregation during the Seasons of Creation from 1st September to 4th October this year.

Cost: \$15 for refreshments and material

**Saturday 28th August 2- 4.30pm**

**Jesmond Park Uniting Church  
15 Robert St Jesmond**

Rod Pattenden is an artist and art historian  
who likes to pray with his eyes open!

Booking to [pattenden@bigpond.com](mailto:pattenden@bigpond.com) Rod 0418 861267

**Some of our Church Contacts:**

**Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

**Children & Families Resource Worker:**

Mrs Cathy Beeton

M: 0409 445 933

E: [Cath4858@gmail.com](mailto:Cath4858@gmail.com)

Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

**Administration:**

P: 4943 4019

E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au)

24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

**Bank Account Details for the Charlestown Garden Suburb Multi-Centre Congregation:**

Bank Account held with: Uniting Financial Services

Account Name: Charlestown Congregation General Account

BSB: 634 634 Account No.: 100030837

**For Offering please put Ref: Offering**

**Keep up to date with happenings and info:**

Webpage: <http://www.chagsuca.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownUnitingChurch>

Project Reconnect: <http://www.projectreconnect.com.au>