



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

25 August 2024

From Anne Threlfo

Since we've been hearing about how poetry can open us to the sacred, I thought I'd share a short poem which I recently come across, and does that very thing.

Yes, I can hear the groans! Poetry is not everyone's "thing", which is quite understandable since I hazard a guess that many of us were turned off poetry by the way we were taught it at school. I also suggest that most of us are more familiar with poetry than we realise. What about nursery rhymes you learnt as a child, and have repeated to children and grandchildren since? Are you able to recall the words of a favourite song? That's poetry! Do you have a hymn which goes around in your mind when you pray? More poetry! Have you read the book of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes or Song of Songs? Poetry! In fact, more than half of the Old Testament is poetry, and some significant parts of the New Testament are poems: the Magnificat and Zechariah's song in Luke 1 for example.

"The Place Where We Are Right", was written by Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai in the 1980s. What interests me in the poem is that an insistence on being right can become hard and unyielding, like ground that has been trampled and packed down so firmly that something new doesn't have a chance of growing.

The poet suggests that love and doubt together till the soil and open space for something new to emerge. If I love and hold onto something so firmly that I close myself to another possibility it becomes very difficult to open myself to be transformed, or love my neighbour.

Perhaps a healthy dose of doubt; of myself, of others, of places I belong, stories I tell, and beliefs I hold, allows me to hold all of these things more lightly. Doubt coupled with love provides space for God to work in me, and to be in relationship with others since I'm not so certain of my own "rightness". They allow the ground between myself and another to be soft enough to find common ground, where given a little rain and sunshine, flowers will grow. So, be a mole!

What do you hear in this poem? Does it say anything to you about faith and doubt? (Hint: this, or any other poem can speak to you in any way which has meaning for you. It doesn't matter what the author intended, or what a so-called "expert" says!)

The Place Where We Are Right

Written by Yehuda Amichai

Translated by Stephen Mitchell

From the place where we are right
flowers will never grow
in the spring.

The place where we are right
is hard and trampled
like a yard.

But doubts and loves
dig up the world
like a mole, a plow.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
where the ruined
house once stood.

DIARY

Thursday 22 August

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb – James and Hebrews

Sunday 25 August – Pentecost 14

- 9.00am Divine Worship
Leader: Sue Warren. Guest Preacher: Ben Waters
1 Kings 8 (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

Monday 26 August

- 1.30pm SFED
3.30pm Worship Committee Meeting - Teralb

Tuesday 27 August

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

Thursday 29 August

- 10.00am Presbytery Gathering at Salamander Bay Uniting Church
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb – James and Hebrews

With Guest Speaker
Rev Graham Perry

Sunday 1 September – Pentecost 15

- 9.00am Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom
Song 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2,6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Monday 2 September

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation
1.30pm SFED



I would like to thank everyone for their well wishes & prayers I am recovering well but slowly. As a result of this medical issue I am unable to do the Walk for Mito on Sunday but all the wonderful donations I received are still going to the 'Mito Foundation' to help find a cure & to support children & adults like my friend's granddaughter Audrey. My daughter-in-law Leisa is hoping to take on the walk on my behalf. I hope to have photos of the start of the walk, which I can share with you next week.

See you all soon.

Love Cathy

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

* those in our congregation whose loved ones have died in recent times

* Cathy Beeton

* Lesley

* Kelly

* Laraine Chegwiddden

* Tony Sellen

* Nelda Marshall

* Vivianne

* Shirley Elkin

* Lorraine Pepper

* Vicki

* Judith Fuller battling cancer

* Pam and Ken

* Lyn Benson

* Jean

* Fred Bryant

* June Locker

* Ryan Walpole

* Kathryn Gray

* Jacqueline Fenwick

* Isabella

* Janice Wright

* Eileen Dunn

* Pam and Mert

* Judith and family

* Enid Power

* Max

* Tom and Kathy

* Don Humphries

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- pray for guidance and discernment
missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- The orphanage
- Tom and Neos
- HCA Table Talks across the Hunter
- Kahibah Fair
- Local Government elections
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots





The Hunter Presbytery Prayer Diary



This diary provides an opportunity to pray each week for congregations in the Presbytery. By praying together, we can encourage one another in mission, as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across the region. Each week there will be information and a prayer for each of the congregations in the Hunter Presbytery. This week we pray for:

25th August 2024 - Muswellbrook Trinity Uniting Church

Muswellbrook Trinity Uniting Church meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, with a regular attendance of anywhere between around 8 to 15 people. We don't have our own Minister, or even Lay Preacher, and have to borrow whoever is available from near and far in the valley for each service. We are mostly in our 70s, long term members of the church and we all feel like family. We are visible in our community through a couple groups who rent our hall on a regular basis, we donate the use of our hall to the local U3A throughout school terms and also donate the use of the kitchen and the hall every week to the local Community Kitchen, in which we have an active representation as volunteers.

Prayer: We pray for our congregation, our leaders in our faith and our efforts to grow our congregation, to extend our love and guidance in the community, maintain our buildings and remain a place of welcome and hospitality in the community. Amen.



Uniting Church The Hunter Presbytery

PRESBYTERY GATHERING

THURSDAY 29th AUGUST 2024

Salamander Bay Uniting Church
174 Salamander Way, Salamander Bay 2317

10 am Morning Tea
10.30am Programme begins

Guest Speaker

Rev Graham Perry
The Hunter Presbytery Minister

Offering shared between
Flying Padre based at Broken Hill and
Yaacaaba Centre, Port Stephens
(This service provides early intervention support and
counselling services to assist vulnerable people
who are at imminent risk of homelessness)

Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided.
Sales Table with Greeting Cards etc.

Supported by UCAF The Hunter Presbytery Committee



Tom is on Leave for 5
days – 26 to 30 August



If you have any
concerns during this
time, please contact
Anne Threlfo or your
Elder.

Spiritual Practice of the Week

A Rule for Life: offers unique and regular rhythms that free and open each person to the will and presence of Christ. The spiritual practices of a rule provide a way to partner with the Holy Spirit for personal transformation.

Practice: A rule for life can act like a plumb line, allowing you a still point from which you can gauge the intentionality of your spiritual journey. Here are some examples of a rule for life; use one of these, or write your own:

- Dedicate every day (in the morning) for the glory of God.
- Confess my sins before I go to bed.
- Forgive others.
- Eat sensibly.
- Pray for others.
- Give all wandering thoughts to my Saviour.

On a regular basis look at your life in light of your rule. What do you see? Where is God drawing you? What is giving you life? Where is your life out of control and not centred in Christ?

These resources come from Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us (Transforming Resources). InterVarsity Press

New Ventures Gathering!

SEE I AM DOING
A *NEW* THING!

With Rev Dr Karina Kreminski



An invitation to meet with congregations and leaders interested in developing new forms of mission and worship. We will also welcome Karina Kreminski who is exploring Fresh Expressions of Church in the Synod, and who has been an innovator and pathfinder in doing things differently. An important time for networking and finding courage and inspiration for change in your local church.

Thursday 5th September
9.30am to 12 midday

Adamstown Uniting Church
228 Bruncker Road Adamstown

Register attendance with Rod Pattenden:
pattenden@bigpond.com



Have you noticed the slight pause (silence) being observed after each Bible reading lately?

We have experimented with different ways to best present our Scriptures readings each Sunday.

- the Scriptures being read one after the other – no breaks in between
- the Scriptures being read with either a hymn/song between reflecting that which has been read
- the Scriptures being read after which quiet reflective music is played *and more recently*
- the Scriptures being read - and after each one, a slight silent pause, for your reflection on that which you have heard. Followed by a hymn/song to best reflect what we have heard in these readings.

Your Worship Committee would appreciate hearing from you about which method helps you connect more meaningfully with the appointed Bible passages for the day.

Thanks for your anticipated response!

Worship Committee.



Men's Breakfast recently heard the enthusiasm and knowledge of Michael Griffith as he spoke about the potential of poetry to open us to the Sacred. There's a recording of Michael's talk here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yy4ptapc>

If you want more, here's another opportunity for to gain some insight into how poetry can draw us into a deeper understanding of God, Creation, and ourselves. Register here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1275150>



The Call to Be

is pleased to announce the following lecture series:

How does Poetry Open Us to the Sacred?

Presented by Michael Griffith PhD

All lectures held on ZOOM

To be held on 3, 10, 17 September 2024 6-7:30pm

Cost \$60.

Please register and pay at <https://www.trybooking.com/CUOIG>

The meeting link will be sent by email from [trybooking](https://www.trybooking.com) once you have booked,

And is the same for all three meetings.

For more information see <https://catalystforrenewal.org.au>

or email thecalltobe@gmail.com

How does Poetry Open Us to the Sacred? Michael shares with us his insights into the poetry of Mary Oliver, T.S. Eliot, Judith Wright, Hopkins, R. S. Thomas, Psalm 23, Rumi and George Herbert.

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE – LISTENING SESSIONS

The Hunter Community Alliance is organising listening and action sessions across the Hunter.

These sessions are where our communities have a say in decisions that affect them, their families, and neighbourhoods across the Hunter.

We are listening specifically around household energy, housing, energy, and transition; as well as listening to what else is happening for people.

Then we discuss how we act together.

You'll meet other local Hunter Alliance members, organisations, and leaders.

Wear your organisational T-shirts, bring your members, family, friends and don't forget to bring a plate!



HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

COMMON GOOD LOCAL LISTENING SESSIONS

MEET * SHARE * LISTEN * LEARN * ACT *

Attend the local Charlestown event **FREE** on Wednesday 4 September at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/38vtaypb>

Glenrock Anglican Church
34 Hexham St, Kahibah NSW
Bring a plate

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart
M: 0427 625 502
E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Administration:

P: 4943 4019
E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au
24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290
PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton
M: 0409 445 933
E: Cath4858@gmail.com
Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

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>
Worship Services: <https://tinyurl.com/CHaGS-YouTube-Link>