



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

2 October 2022



A PASSING THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

WOW! A pigeon pair, no less...well... sort of...You may remember singing, with great gusto, that beautiful hymn; "As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after thee"?

These are the first two lines of the hymn. The prolific Jewish/Christian hymn/song writer Martin Nystrom wrote these words based on the first two verses of Psalm 42 – which you will also see on the next page.

Now, Psalm 42 is meant to be sung or said together with its mate Psalm 43, not Psalms of David, but a part of a collection of those authored by The Sons of Korah. They have been put together for our reflection when God seems just so far away! When in the pits of despair, we have a tendency to think that we, alone, are the only ones who have ever felt this way...No, no, no! Believers in every generation have had this desperate feeling, even today and I would suspect, tomorrow.

Let's take a closer look. Verses 1-4 are a feeling of complete dryness - emptiness with v5-7 asking why are you so downcast? v8-12 tell of feeling overwhelmed, with again the refrain of v13&14. Then, turning to Psalm 43, we find the same introductory four verses asking why are we/you so downcast?

I reckon that these two psalms could be the heart cry of anyone who has lived on this planet which was created by no less a person than our very own God! For we have all experienced deceit and unfaithfulness on a number of levels...whether in romance, business, friendship...you name it!

You see, these psalms cry out for us to be honest with God; not to be afraid to ask Him questions; to help us restore our faith; to learn from the bitter place in which we are and will come from.



When I have fallen into this state of sadness, forlornness, I remember reading in a book about pressure being applied to me (For, yes, I was feeling very sorry for myself!) Our much maligned friend, coal, when placed under extreme pressure for many centuries, produces a "girls' best friend" – a diamond. Without pressure being applied, something beautiful and precious would not be revealed. Then there is an oyster, all at peace minding its own business, when an annoying smidgen of grit creeps into its shell...so irritating is the grit's presence, that the oyster gives it a lovely smooth covering which, in time, its 'epiphany' will be a gorgeous pearl! So many things only come to their fruition after being placed under extreme pressure – hardship! God actually allows us to be placed under pressure, too, as part of our refining process in our Christian pilgrimage.

Next time you are feeling down, glum, out of sorts with God and everybody else, make sure you get to Church to worship with other believers, don't stay away – step number one. Two, speak – tell – God just exactly how you feel, for do you know what? It will be true music to His Heart, you have been taught, therefore, to be honest with God!

Praise the Lord!!! Hallelujah!!!

Psalm 42

1. As a deer longs for the running brooks:
so longs my soul for you, O God.
2. My soul is thirsty for God, thirsty for the living God:
when shall I come and see his face?
3. My tears have been my food day and night:
while they ask me all day long 'Where now is your God?'
4. As I pour out my soul by myself, I remember this:
how I went to the house of the Mighty One, into the temple of God,
5. To the shouts and songs of thanksgiving:
a multitude keeping high festival.
6. *Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul:
and why so unquiet within me?*
7. *O put your trust in God:
for I will praise him yet, who is my deliverer and my God.*
8. My soul is heavy within me:
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
from Mizar among the hills of Hermon.
9. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waters:
all your waves and breakers have gone over me.
10. Surely the Lord will grant his loving mercy in the day-time:
and in the night his song will be with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.
11. I will say to God, my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me:
why must I go like a mourner because the enemy oppresses me?'
12. Like a sword through my bones, my enemies have mocked me:
while they ask me all day long 'Where now is your God?'
13. *Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul:
and why so unquiet within me?*
14. *O put your trust in God:
for I will praise him yet, who is my deliverer and my God.*

Psalm 43

1. Give judgement for me, O God,
take up my cause against an ungodly people:
deliver me from deceitful and wicked men.
2. For you are God my refuge
why have you turned me away? :
why must I go like a mourner because the enemy oppresses me?
3. O send out your light and your truth, and let them lead me:
let them guide me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.
4. Then I shall go to the altar of God,
to God my joy and my delight:
and to the harp I shall sing your praises,
O God, my God.
5. *Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul:
and why so unquiet within me?*
6. *O put your trust in God:
for I will praise him yet, who is my deliverer and my God.*



Rev Tom is on holiday until
Monday 17 October

Please direct all questions and concerns to Anne Threlfo or Julie Fenwick, or speak with your Elder.



DIARY

Thursday 29 September

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

Sunday 2nd October – *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9.00am **Worship Service** – Leader and Preacher – David Chegidden

No Children's Corner School Holidays

Nominations close for Church Council Elections

Lamentations 1: 1-6, Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1: 1-14, Luke 17: 5-10

Monday 3 October

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 4 October

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

3.30pm Church Council meet on Zoom

Thursday 6 October

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

Saturday 8 October

11.00am Charlestown Friendship Circle – Botanical Gardens

Sunday 9th October – *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9.00am **Worship Service** – Leader - Anne Threlfo – P/ R Rev'd Dr. Bill Loader

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7, Psalm 66: 1-12, 2 Timothy 2: 8-15, Luke 17: 11-19

Tuesday 11 October

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

Wednesday 12 October

10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship – Picnic at Civic Park

Thursday 13 October

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

11.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Communion Service

1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Friday 14 October

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 15 October

8.00am Men's Breakfast

3.30pm Celebration at Hamilton Uniting Church

Sunday 16 October – *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9.00am Holy Communion Service – Worship Leader Margaret White

Church Council Elections

Jeremiah 31: 27-34, Psalm 119: 97-104, 2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5, Luke 18: 1-8

Monday 17 October

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 18 October

9.30am – 11.00am Grandparents, Carers, Kids at Garden Suburb

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

Thursday 19 October

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

- * Nancye Rozek
- * Anne Ferguson
- * Jan Russell
- * Lillian in rehab
- * Lesley Clulow and Family
- * Enid Hancock's Family
- * Catherine Roser's Family
- * Ron Lees family
- * Thursday 13 October Margaret Mensforth's Funeral at St Luke's Belmont at 1pm
- * Brian Doherty
- * Jean Cowley
- * Tony and Nan
- * Mert and Pam
- * Avril Hill
- * Judith and family
- * Margaret Asplund
- * Margaret Drinkwater
- * Ashley and Lorraine
- * Vicki
- * John Cooper
- * Marion and Ron
- * Jean Townsend
- * Wilma Birch
- * Eileen
- * Enid Power
- * Ken MacDonald
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max
- * Shirley
- * Olivia
- * Kelly
- * Dianne

Congregational Prayer Points

- Contacts made through Morning Teas in the Community
- Preparations for Neos
- Holiday Kids on 27th September
- Project Reconnect
- GCK group
- Worship Services
- Arrangements for lease of Whitebridge property
- Pray for a restorative time for Tom and Kathy as they holiday for 4 weeks.
- Cathy Beeton
- Pray that God will raise up a support group for Tom as he prepares for the new ministry next year
- Pray for the Worship Committee
- Pray for the Hunter Alliance event on 28 September
- Pray for the Men's Breakfast on 15th October

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Wilfreda's orphanage
- British Commonwealth as we mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II
- Pray for King Charles III as he takes up the reins of responsibility and for all the members of the Royal Family
- Operation Hope – Northern Iraq Project
- Work of Wayside Chapel and the ministry of Jon Owens

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power



Church Council Elections – **Sunday 16 October 2022**

Positions Vacant

Chairperson *Incumbent – Anne Threlfo*

Radical Hospitality *Incumbent – David Chegwidan (David will not be re-nominating)*

Passionate Worship *Incumbent – Margaret White*

Intentional Faith Development *Incumbent – Ken Young (Ken will not be re-nominating)*

Please place completed nomination forms in the box in the foyer at Charlestown.

Nominations close on Sunday 2 October, and will be published in the Contact editions of 9 October and 16 October.

The election will take place following the worship service on Sunday 16 October.

Faiths4ClimateJustice 2022 in Newcastle

A Cry from the People of the Pacific

Multi-faith Service

Thursday 13 October 2022 10–11am

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
16 Tighes Terrace, Tighes Hill



The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) invites you to attend this Multi-faith Service, one of many being held on this day across Australia, in solidarity with Pacific and First Nations peoples.

An open letter to the Prime Minister will be available to sign, calling for climate justice. The event is part of the global **Faiths 4 Climate Justice**, organised by GreenFaith International, which is promoting the proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The service will commence in the Community Garden, then move to the church for readings, prayers, meditation, music and chanting from a range of religious traditions, in support of climate justice for all.

For more information please: doug.isabel35@gmail.com or 0431 935 097

We welcome people of all faiths or none!



Blind Luck, Coincidence, A Miracle?

Our Speaker will be **Dr David Durrheim**, Lake Macquarie Ambassador for 2022 and Hunter New England Health Public Health Controller during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Early one morning in October 2014, David set out alone for a cross-country run in Green Point Reserve. He suffered a catastrophic heart attack and was found some time later, cold, blue, pulseless....clinically dead.

David reviews the circumstances and medical records to answer the question: "Was this: Blind luck, Coincidence, A Miracle?"

at Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St

**8am Saturday 15th
October**

Cost \$12 RSVP: Paul Russell
pmraus74@gmail.com, or 0411 236 047
or sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Please advise of any special dietary requirements

By Wednesday 12th October 2022

Please do not attend if you are unwell or have been to a Covid-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days.




For transport
contact

Sue Warren on
0427 737 793

*Charlestown Friendship
Circle will go to the
Botanical Gardens on
8th October*

*Leaving the Church at 11.00am
Bring a picnic lunch or purchase
something at the Café.*



The Uniting Church in Australia - The Hunter Presbytery 

DAY OUT

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH FAMILIES + ADULTS

CELEBRATION

TWO INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS FOR EVERYONE

Saturday 15th October 2022

DAY OUT

9am-3pm

Venue coming soon

Bec Westphal m: 0432733423

e: cyw@newlambton.unitingchurch.org.au

To register for DAY OUT:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/day-out-and-presbytery-celebration-tickets-422211695547>

CELEBRATION

3pm Refreshments 3.30pm Celebration

Hamilton Uniting Church 152 Beaumont St, Hamilton

Celebration to be live streamed

Rob Hanks m: 0407401833

e: robhanks@bigpond.net.au

Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Will leave the Charlestown Church at 10am on Wednesday 12 October for a picnic in Civic Park.



All Welcome

Bring a picnic lunch with you

**For transport contact Sue Warren on
0427 737 793**

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

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

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

Administration:

P: 4943 4019
E: 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>