

Monthly update

The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Congregation, Highton

March 2022



In life events sometimes unfold in surprising ways.

On February 20th the Sunday morning worship included some new attendees who had only recently arrived in Australia and who were relatives of the Alkawri family. One of them was Father Tematiuse, a priest with the Assyrian Orthodox Church.

He asked if he, his wife and daughter could sing a prayer at the end of the worship service. I, of course, agreed. I then asked him if he would mind saying the words of blessing to conclude the service. He indicated that he was happy to do this.

So we listened at the end of the service as we heard words of praise in languages that we were not familiar with, but which linked us to ancient churches in Iraq.

After the service I had morning tea with Father Tematiuse and he explained that the song and his words were offered in the Chaldean language, which he indicated was the same as Aramaic. Aramaic was the language of Jesus!

For a few moments in that service we heard people speaking the same language as Jesus. In a sense thanks to these faithful people we were brought closer to Jesus.

What a surprise! What a blessing. Now that was something to give thanks to God for.

Paul Stephens, Minister in placement

Image: Instagram <https://istanbul.com/blog/virgin-mary-assyrian-church/>

Office administrator: Robyn Hodge.

Office open hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30am–12:30pm

Readings for the Month

	<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
Mar 20, 2022 Lent 3	Is 55:1-9	Ps 63:1-8	1 Cor 10:1-13	Lk 13:1-9
Mar 27 Lent 4	Jos 5:9-12	Ps 32	2 Cor 5:16-21	Lk 15:1-3,11b-32
Apr 3 Lent 5	Is 43:16-21	Ps 126	Phil 3:4b-14	Jn 12:1-8
Apr 10 Passion Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Lk 22:14-23:56

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday April 14th 1.30 pm. Mid-week service. (Includes Holy Communion).

Good Friday April 15th 9.30 am. Reflective Service ... Tenebrae

Easter Sunday April 17th 9.30 am. Celebration of the Resurrection (Includes Holy Communion.)

Look out for details of intergenerational/Messy Church events.

Diary

Tues 22/3	8.30 - 9.30	Prayers by the River (near Barwon Valley Fun Park)
	10.00 - 12.00	Church Sanctuary and Office open
Wed 23/3	8 - 8.15am	Weekly Prayer time on Zoom
	2.00 - 3.30	Coffee & Chat @ Brioche 175 West Fyans St.
Thurs 24/3	2 - 3pm	Midweek worship
Fri 25/3	10.00 - 12.00	Church Sanctuary and Office open
	12.00 - 2.30	Sewing Group
Sun 27/3 - 4/4		Lent Event - 7 days of solidarity

St Luke's Church Council Key Points

Meeting held 16 Mar 2022.

Members discussed:

- Processes involved in reviewing status of Church properties.
- Options for filling membership positions in Parish Council
- PDs for Community Worker and Admin Support roles
- Progressing Salt & Light initiative
- Reports from mission groups

Congregation News



Join the Assembly Resourcing Unit and the Being a Multicultural Church Circle for the first webinar of 2022. Our panel will explore the experience of grief in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic from their own perspectives, faith lives and cultural contexts. The webinar will take place on **Thursday 24 March, 7:30-9pm** AEDT. Panellists: Rev Sharon Hollis; Rev Cyrus Kung. Theological Listener: Rev Mary Pearson Moderator: Ps Milise 'Ofa' Foiakau

Pastoral Connections

Last Thursday morning a "small but mighty" group met with Rev Paul in the sanctuary to Pray for Peace in Ukraine. Everyone had a chance to share what was on their hearts. We concluded by praying also for those in our congregation who had contacted us for prayer.

It was quite a powerful and moving experience to pray together in a group and we plan to hold another in the coming months- stay tuned so you can become involved too.

Barbara Murphy

Midweek Pancakes

At last, after having to settle for individually packaged, take home pancakes in 2021, (because of the pandemic restrictions,) 2022 provided an opportunity for those 30 people who attended our March service to enjoy pancakes and fellowship following our service.

Many toppings were offered, for example jam, maple syrup, honey, lemon/sugar, butter and sprinkles. However, despite having a high profile place on the table no one asked for sprinkles. 😊

A special thank you to those who stayed and shared with an amount of **\$160.00** being raised to support the work of Uniting, in Geelong.

Our services are held on the second Thursday of the Month, commencing at **1.30pm** and are followed by fellowship as we share homemade biscuits, provided by the ladies of St. Luke's

We would look forward to welcoming you to our April 14th Easter service which will also feature communion.

Prayer Requests (from Wednesday Prayer Time)

Praise and Thanksgiving.

- 1) Praise God for each new day and the rhythms of nature.
- 2) We are thankful and mindful of the outreach work that is done by so many behind the scenes, for the caring being done via text and email to those who are feeling lonely, those separated from family, and for our recently arrived families who continue to adjust and resettle.
- 3) Praise God that we have happy occasions to celebrate such as birthdays, education achievements and baptisms.

General Prayers.

- 1) Our prayers are always with all of those we know of and support who are unwell, having treatment, recovering from operations or making hard decisions.
- 2) Pray for the Church Council meeting taking place tonight. We uphold and support our St. Luke's leaders as they plan for Easter services and plans for the future.
- 3) Prayer for peace in the world. For those citizens living in war-torn countries, especially Ukraine and the anxiety of separated families. Pray especially for the children and older people who have no easy way of escape. We pray that they will find relief through the love and kindness of others.
- 4) Please pray for the mental health of farmers and small business owners as they struggle to clean up after the floods that have caused such destruction and heart ache. We praise God for the practical help that has already been offered.
- 5) We pray for non-English speaking families who do not understand the changing laws and restrictions that flow from the Government leaders regarding lockdowns, mask wearing and restricted family contact.
- 6) Prayers were shared this morning for students and teachers during these final 3 weeks of school term before the Easter break, that they will have the endurance to cope and disrupted learning/teaching due to ongoing Omicron absences.

Pam Seller

Environment Group

