

## Newsletter August 15th, 2021

### Sunday's Readings: John 4:1-42

Andrew Evans will bring us the word this week

### Some Prayers of the people

- Please continue to pray for the work the Barnabas Fund do. In Nigeria Christians are being hunted and killed. In Nigeria's Northern and Middle Belt states they continue to be targeted with violence like this. And it is escalating. Kidnappings of Christians are also on the rise, often children and young people snatched from their schools and colleges, most recently about 120 taken in one night from Bethel Baptist High School, Kaduna State.
- Please continue to pray for our families, friends, and country as we battle outbreaks of Covid19. Also pray that those who make the decisions will be wise and compassionate.
- Please pray for Rosalie Hinch as she copes with health issues and is undergoing tests, pray for improved health and recovery.
- Please continue to pray for our Pastor Andrew as he still unwell, pray for ongoing recovery.
- Also please pray for Oriel Martyn who will be having a procedure and tests in Adelaide soon

### Notices

**Church Service:** Due to Covid 19 the guidelines for Sunday are as follows.

- Masks must be worn
- 1/2m<sup>2</sup> distancing applies (**101** persons in the church so we may not need the hall, although that will be available)
- No Singing except by the worship team
- No Morning Tea
- Sunday school and Youth Alpha is on!

**Tarooki:** Please join us to celebrate 61 years of camping in Robe. Onsite at 55 Main St. Robe on Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10.30am for a Thanksgiving Service followed by a catered lunch. RSVP to [tarooki@uvsa.org.au](mailto:tarooki@uvsa.org.au) or 0429157270 by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Congratulations** to John and Kerry Probert on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last week.

**Congratulations** to Trevor and Rosalie Hinch who will celebrate 68 years of marriage this Saturday blessing to both of them.

**Update:** There are forms at the back of the church to update any changes of details or for new members to fill in for name tags and to receive our newsletter by email.

If you have any news you wish to share, please let us know so we may celebrate or pray and offer support for you.

### **Midweek Bible reading:**

#### **Ephesians 5:15-20**

New Century Version

<sup>15</sup> So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but live wisely. <sup>16</sup> Use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times. <sup>17</sup> So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do. <sup>18</sup> Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, how do we live wisely?

I have just completed a course in Computer Systems Security for the Synod. Church websites and church information technology systems are always under attack from organisations and individuals who hate our Lord, and hate our message, and would like to shut us down or discredit us. So, living wisely in this context means not being sucked in by such things as phishing attacks (phone calls, emails or texts that try to get your personal data), and avoiding software or USB drives that are suspect etc. It also requires us to keep the anti-virus software protection on the computers we use up to date.

Living wisely counters the evil that the world would like to do to us, with the good things that the Lord has provided for our defence. Living wisely recognises that, when Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day, the cycle of sin and death was broken and defeated

forever. As Christians we live on a redeemed earth and in a world where Jesus Christ has been given all authority and all power.

The only sin then is refusing to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. Nothing else can harm us! And nothing else can save us other than declaring Jesus Christ as Lord.

Living wisely means giving thanks for the good things that God has given us. As verse 20 above says: "Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".

And there are always practical things that are a part of living wisely in this world, God's world, a world that in part still fails to give 100% allegiance to Christ. We are to: "Use every chance you have for doing good" and why? Because that exercises the reason, the wisdom, and the authority that Jesus gives us to oppose evil. And within our own lives, we are to live wisely – don't get drunk (for example) but be "filled with the Spirit". Be filled with the Holy Spirit not some other kind!

How are we to "be filled with the Spirit"? The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is God's gift to us. We don't draw God's Spirit into ourselves. God freely gives us his Spirit. And if we are Christ's, we already have God's Spirit so what does "be filled with the Spirit" mean?

I think that the best way to understand this is that we must not dilute or marginalise the Spirit's influence within us. Leave the Spirit to fill us up without giving anything else a chance to fill a power vacuum in our hearts. In our innermost being revel in the love and the joy that being in Christ and having Christ in us gives us – that's where the joy that makes us want to sing comes from (even with masks on, and in the face of all kinds of trouble).

And importantly this is not just a self-focused activity. We are to support each other in this. "Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord". That is actually what a Church service is about – telling each other how good God is and maintaining our hearts at the Spirit "full" level.

"So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do".

Andrew