



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus

roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

LIVING IN A COMPLEX WORLD

The week I've been reflecting on the complexities of the modern world – in particular, the ethical complexities that we face in trying to work out how we ought to be as people of Jesus in the public sphere.

So much of Jesus' teaching, after all, seems to focus our attention in on the smaller scale, the way that we treat one another in community, the way we respond when other people are in need, or excluded, or difficult to live with, or hurt us. Now that teaching isn't easy, but it's there - we know what we are challenged to aspire to. But when it comes to the public sphere, things get murky very quickly.

On Sunday, I was one of the many thousands who walked across the Harbour Bridge in a show of support for the people of Gaza who find themselves, and their children, starving, deprived of medical care, in constant danger from a conflict most of them had no part in.

Most of those walking, I think, came for similar reasons. But we shared the bridge with those who support violence against Israel; and of course, those of have been victims of Hamas see the situation through different eyes (although I did note that the Jewish Council of Australia supported the march, describing Israel's actions as genocide...).

Then Wednesday marked the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, the first use of atomic weapons against a civilian population – an action named by many as a war crime, but claimed by others to have saved lives by shortening the war.

I was reflecting on the moral complexity of the decisions that face us when I, with three of my local colleagues, met with Nicolette Boele, to share with her some of the work the Uniting Church does in the community, and the issues which we, as a Church and as members of Churches, care passionately about. She in turn spoke about her passions, and reflected ruefully on the complexity of the political sphere.

And that meeting, brought me, in a way, full circle. For Jesus' teaching shows us how to live as individuals, one with another; and in the end, the people making the big decisions of state are also still people. Nicolette Boele, Anthony Albanese, Susan Ley, Penny Wong, Chris Minns, despite their titles and responsibilities, are still people; the children in Gaza and the Israeli hostages, are people; the residents of Hiroshima were people.

It's an obvious insight, I know, and it doesn't make the questions any easier to answer. But for me, at least, it reminded me that the image of God's shalom that Jesus pointed us towards is peace on every scale, for each individual's heart to the great affairs of state.

Chris

Sunday August 10th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Sean Weatherley

In person and online...

10.45am **Second Cuppa**

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe and Stuart Powell**

In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 1: 1-10-20
Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16
Luke 12: 32-40

What's on this week

Tue	Kids Playtime 10.00—11.30am
Wed	Wednesday Small Group 10.00am Social Games 1.00—3.00pm
Thur	Young Adults Dinner 7.00pm
Fri	PYES 6.30-9.00pm
Sat	eSoc Potluck Supper, Games 6.00pm

Sunday August 17th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**

In person and online...

Organist: Sean Weatherly

5.30pm **Worship Service**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 5: 1-7
Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11: 29—12: 2
Luke 12: 49-56

Links

[Service live \(or replay\) streaming](#)

[Zoom \(for meetings\)](#)

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)

Note that this is tomorrow: Saturday 9th August

We cry out for Gaza

An interfaith gathering with prayers for peace and justice in Palestine

With guest speaker Rev. Charissa Suli
President of the Uniting Church in Australia

5:30pm Saturday 9th August
Pitt St Uniting Church
264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW



Join us in Prayer ...

- **God's wonderful creation:** In the midst of our worries and concerns, take a moment to remember the wonder of God that we see around us. Give thanks for whatever moves you most.
- **Israel-Gaza Conflict:** As this continues to be an issue that people feel strongly about, let's pray for the welfare of those most at risk. Pray for our Federal Government to make wise decisions. Pray that people in Australia will see past their own fears to contribute towards peaceful solutions.
- **Our church leaders:** Let's give great thanks for our ministry team, our Church Council, and our Elders. As they give time, energy, prayer, and emotion to issues that affect us all, pray that they may be encouraged and that we will see God's reign increase in significant ways as a result.
- **The Cottage:** As arrangements for the Cottage are changing, please give thanks for this resource and pray that we can use it wisely to further our mission here at RUC.

Stuart

eSoc Saturday 16th August

6.00pm

Pot luck supper and games night at Rob and Maz's place, 58 Abingdon Road Roseville..

Bring along a dish to share, and afterwards we will enjoy some games together.



All welcome! Kindly reply to Maz by 14th July
marionjberry@gmail.com or 0432 115 744

From the office.....

I will be working remotely for the next 2 weeks. I can be contacted at any time via email or my mobile—

0490 467 114
Cath

Soul Food is back!

Sunday August 31st

From 5:30pm

Everyone welcome – and bring a friend!



Roseville Ministry Contacts

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