



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”



roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

Our Wednesday Small Group met this week at this time in the church when Lent approaches Easter. We heard Joan Chittister's words "The liturgical year is not, for the most part, about a series of events ... but about the import, the impact of those defining events" (*The Liturgical year, the spiralling adventure of the spiritual life*) In some measure we 'know' what these events are. But: what is the impact of these defining events on us, personally, and as part of our Roseville Uniting Church community – and beyond? What, in our own words, is the meaning of this time for us?

There are many 'words' in the world around us. Rarely do we see the word 'Lent' in the market place, but in the anticipation of Easter, images and words abound: powerful in the impressions they carry, in the meaning that becomes fixed in our minds and so often in our instant reactions. In the advertising world, in headlines, in 'chants', one word, one image can have great power.

Were we to create an image of this time, what might it be?
Is there a word – are there words -for this time? What might they be?

We went beyond words. There is music: mighty performances sung again across the world. There are small choirs, hymns, songs – we know them well. But as we listen, as we sing through this time, what is the import, the impact for us – and for others? And beyond music, there are works of art – paintings, sculptures, frescoes; there are gardens – and there is 'food' to be taken, to be shared...

And still the question persists:

What is the import, the impact of Lent, of Easter for us – and by extension – for others?

We stopped for a moment and brought some of 'the others' along with us: some gathering in mighty cathedrals; so many trying to mark this time in shattered homes and communities, in countries devastated by war, in homes and lives threatened by the rising waters of climate change...

Writing in his book "*Wondrous Encounters, Scripture for Lent*" Richar Rohr found this to be "a most contemplative time, and yet the social implications of the Scriptures were also undeniable . Action and contemplation were a clear embrace, needing and loving one another" And so, we too, gather others within our embrace. UnitingWorld – evocatively named - calls us in and alongside...

"Lent is one of those elements of Christian practice that binds the Christian community to one another and to its beginnings ...we walk with the church throughout the world on this journey to renewal. We walk, too, with the One who has gone before us to bring us home again". (*Joan Chittister*)

Margot

Sunday March 15th

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

9.30am **Worship Service with Dan Reeve**
In person and online...

5.30pm **SOUL FOOD**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

1 Samuel 16: 1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41

Sunday March 22nd

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
In person and online...

10.45am **Service of Healing & Wholeness**

5.30pm **Worship Service**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Ezekial 37: 1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45

Sunday March 29th

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

PALM SUNDAY

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
In person and online...

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

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2: 5-11
Matthew 21: 1-11

Links

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

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

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)



WORKING BEE

SATURDAY 14th March

8.00—11.00am

Come for as long as you are able.

It's not too late to sign up...



QR Code for Lent Event

You can also use this link

<https://bit.ly/ruc26>

to donate via the team,



HOLY WEEK

The church will be open during the day for quiet reflection during Holy Week from Monday to Thursday (30th March—2nd April) and also on Monday evening. If you are able to help out please speak to Angela.

LINDARA MARKET



Saturday 21st March

8.00am—1.00pm

LINDFIELD UNITING CHURCH

All proceeds support families in crisis via Lindara Family Program based in Waitara.

Micah Women's Network

The Micah Women's Network brings together Christian women from across the Australian Church who have a heart for Biblical justice and long to see a more just world. The network is a point of connection, training and action, equipping women to be engaged in global justice advocacy through church mobilisation and high-level meetings with Australia's federal politicians both in local electorates and Canberra.

Find out more, sign up for the mailing list, or book tickets to the network dinner (March 27th) here:

<https://www.micahaustralia.org/take-action/micah-womens-network/>

From The Resource Centre at Lent

All Shall Be Well, ed. Michel Leach, is one of several books with short reflections, readings, prayers put together to accompany us through Lent and into Easter. Both classical and contemporary writers are included, the writer for each day taking a different theme: A Time to Heal, Bothering to Love, A God Who Provides, Catch Me in My Scurrying, A Sign of Life, Foot-Washing of a Different Sort, the Final Word.... Spending time with these people and their reflections will quieten, balance and enrich our Lenten Journey.

The Word in the Wilderness. A Poem a Day for Lent and Easter. Malcolm Guite, author, draws on a range of poets, and follows each poem with his own reflection. He believes that Lent is a time set aside to slow down, recover from distraction, to focus on the values of God's kingdom and on the value he has set on us and on our neighbours. Time set aside to read some of these poems and the author's reflections will help us as we do just this.

So, just try to set aside a time to visit our Resource Centre. So much awaits us.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, congratulations to Jan Reeve and Sureka Goringe who have both been nominated in the UCA President's List of Extraordinary Women of the Uniting Church for 2026.

Join us in Prayer ...

A prayer for disruption by M. K. W. Heicher:

Disturb me, Lord, when I am too well pleased with myself,
When my dreams have come true because I have dreamed too little,

When I arrived safely because I sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb me, Lord, when with the abundance of things I possess, I have lost my thirst for the waters of life;

Having fallen in love with life, I have ceased to dream of eternity

And in my efforts to build a new earth, I have allowed my vision of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb me, Lord, to dare more boldly,

To venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery;

Where losing sight of land, I shall find the stars.

I ask You to push back the horizons of my hopes;

And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

Amen.

The good news is...

15 th Feb	...all are invited
22 nd Feb	...so good it takes us by surprise
1 st March	...forgiveness comes first
8 th March	...the impossible is possible
15 th March	...protection and care for the vulnerable
22 nd March	...justice, mercy, and faithfulness
29 th March	...inspiration to act
5 th April	...alive in the world



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