



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”

roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

THE DISTURBING CASE OF CHARLIE KIRK

You will almost certainly have seen the news this week of the assassination of Charlie Kirk in Utah. You’ve probably also seen a lot of commentary around his life and death. So I’m hesitant to write about it, as I have no special knowledge to add to the conversation. But at the same time, it doesn’t seem possible to simply ignore it. So what follows are very much my personal reflections, and in particular, three reasons why I find the events of the week so disturbing.

The first is the way that this killing lays bare the extent to which violence has been normalised in the American political system. Not so much the killing of Charlie Kirk himself, or even that it is just one more in a string of acts of violence against politicians and political influencers, but for the violence of the language used in the aftermath. At a time when restraint is desperately needed, we saw instead the language of war, revenge, “taking out” those who stand on the other side of the political aisle.

Which connects into the second thing I’ve been disturbed by this week – the comparisons being made with the Reichstag fire, the arson attack in 1933 that was used by the Nazi party to suspend civil liberties and pursue the mass arrest of political opponents, including elected members of the Reichstag. Much of the rhetoric coming out of the US administration this week has been disturbingly similar, with plans laid out to dismantle left of centre organizations, including media groups and not-for-profit foundations, without offering any evidence that they are in any way involved in illegal activities – just that they support views opposed to the administration. At the same time, research showing the majority of political violence in the US comes from the far-right has been removed from government websites.

But perhaps most disturbing of all for me has been to see Charlie Kirk lauded as a hero, and in particular, as a devout Christian. Even in Australia we’ve seen calls for him to be honoured by state parliaments, and vigils in his memory. Now I have no idea of Charlie Kirk’s personal faith – that’s totally a matter between him and God. And no degree of disagreement justifies his murder. But his public statements seem almost universally opposed to my understanding of the gospel. He declared that “Black women do not have brain processing power to be taken seriously”, that doctors who provide medical treatment for trans kids should be subjected to a “Nuremberg-style trial”, that the civil rights laws in the USA were a mistake and should be repealed, and that gun deaths were worth the cost to retain the God-given right to bear arms.

Charlie Kirk may have been a Christian – as I say, that’s a matter for him and God. But by the evidence of his own words he was racist, misogynistic, transphobic, and a defender of violence against people of colour and people of other faiths. Surely we can find better examples of the way of Jesus to hold up for honour?

Chris

Sunday September 21st

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

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

Organist: Sean Weatherley

Five Minutes of Faith—Fred Cook

5.30pm **Worship Service with Sureka Goringe-
Faith and Climate Action**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Jeremiah 8: 18—9: 1
Psalm 79: 1-9
1 Timothy 2: 1-7
Luke 16: 1-13

What’s on this week

Tue Kids Playtime 10.00—11.30am

Wed Social Games 1.00—3.00pm

Fri Christian Meditation 2.30pm

PYES 6.30-9.00pm

Sunday September 28th

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

9.30am **Worship Service with Rev. Aeryun Lee**
Organist: Jillian Cranney

In person and online...

10.45am **Healing & Wholeness Service**

5.30pm **Boomerang Bags**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6: 6-19
Luke 16: 19-31

Seasons of Creation @ 5TW

Sunday 14th : Celebration of Creation
Sunday 21st : Faith and Climate Action
Sunday 28th : Hands on activity



Boomerang Bags is about connecting communities, making bags, diverting waste, starting conversations, fostering sustainable behaviour, and having a bit of fun!

Come and be part of this global movement at the 5.30 service on Sunday 28th September-

Join us in Prayer ...

God, be with those who explore in the cause of understanding;

whose search takes them far from what is familiar and comfortable and leads them into danger and terrifying loneliness

Let us try to understand their sometimes strange and difficult ways; their confronting or unusual language;

the uncommon life of their emotions,

for they have been affected and shaped and changed by their struggle at the frontiers of a wild darkness,

just as we may be affected and shaped and changed by the insights they bring back to us.

Bless them with strength and peace.

Amen

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Uniting Churches Family Picnic



*This fantastic gathering of local
Uniting Churches is back for the
third year!*

*Great company,
silly games (mostly optional),
and the rubber chickens.*

Put the date in your diary:

*October 12th
after morning service
Pymble Ladies College*

*If you would like a lift or are able to
car pool talk to Cath*



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