



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”

roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

WHEN I CONSIDER THE HEAVENS

You can probably blame Stuart Powell for showing me some of the photos that he had taken, because in the last few months I've been developing an interest in astrophotography. My birthday present was a digital telescope capable of finding and tracking points of light in the sky invisible to the naked eye, and, over the course of minutes, or even hours, capturing enough light to reveal nebulae, star clusters, and even galaxies.

The images themselves can be rewarding – but the real addiction lies in watching that image slowly emerge (anyone who has printed their own photos in a darkroom will understand), and from knowing that this image is being crafted from photons that have travelled unimaginable distances to fall upon a lens just a few centimetres across.

The author of Psalm 8, looking at skies free of light pollution, wrote

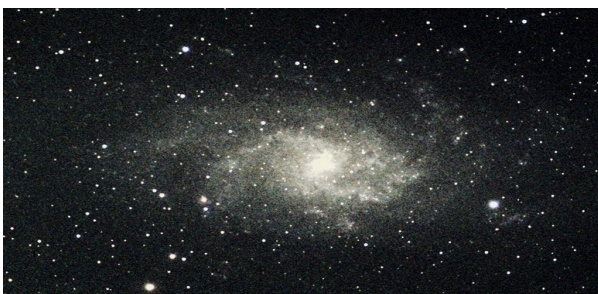
*When I consider your heavens
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

He or she saw the magnificence of the heavenly bodies and wondered how a God who created all of that could also be interested in humanity, and indeed, in individual human lives. When I look at an image of a distant star, nebula, or galaxy, I share that wonder, and I also find a hint towards an answer.

The image below is of the Triangulum Galaxy. The light from this galaxy has travelled for 2.73 million years before falling upon my little telescope. During that time the galaxy will have produced the unimaginably large number of 10^{80} photons, most of which are still travelling through the immense reaches of space, with only an infinitesimal few of them ever being observed by anyone or anything.

And I look at those numbers, and at that image, and what I see is the incredible extravagance of God; that there is so much of creation that will never be seen by anyone. We might even call it wasteful – but that word only has meaning if a resource is limited.

In the “wastefulness” of creation, I see the work of a God who is not resource constrained, who has an unlimited capacity to create, an unlimited capacity to know us, an unlimited ability to pay attention, an unlimited capacity to love.



Sunday August 31st

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

9.30am **Worship Service with Rev. Keith Garner**
In person and online...

5.30pm **SOUL FOOD**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Jeremiah 2: 4-13
Psalm 81: 1, 10-16
Hebrews 3: 1-8, 15-16
Luke 4: 1, 7-14

What's on this week

Tue Kids Playtime 10.00—11.30am

Wed Book Club 10.15am

Social Games 1.00—3.00pm

Elders' Forum 7.30pm

Fri Christian Meditation 2.30pm

PYES 6.30-9.00pm

Sunday September 7th

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

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion
with Chris Goringe
Organist: Robert Bevan**
In person and online...

5.30pm **Worship Service with Holy Communion
and Confirmation with Chris Goringe
and Stuart Powell**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Jeremiah 18: 1—11
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1—21
Luke 14: 25-33

Links

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

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

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)



Church Family News

Please remember the Northern family in your prayers, following the death of Mark's mother.

BOOK CLUB

Wednesday 3rd September 10.15am

"Small Things Like These"

Claire Keegan

Circle of Friends

Come and join us for a relaxed morning tea.

Everyone is welcome!

18th September

10am – 11:30am

Join us in Prayer ...

We live in times where throughout the world there is a polarisation in beliefs, cultures and points of view that only serves to alienate one another and breed hate where previously there was none. The world it seems has become split into tribes and cabals that are intent on the destruction of one another.

Help us Lord to have a new vision of our world. A vision that your love would make it.

One where there is peace and respect for people of different cultures, beliefs and points of view.

A world where its peoples look not to dominate each other but instead seek to reconcile their differences so that the common good prevails and unites us rather than divides us. A world where we can agree to disagree but remain friends through the common humanity that we share. A world that is guided by your love.

We pray for your inspiration and courage to build this vision, in our families and communities,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Michael

A taste of meditation

You are warmly invited to a simple lunch at 1.00pm on Friday 12th September after which you are invited to stay for our regular Christian Meditation gathering from 2.30 – 3.30pm

Roseville Uniting Church, 7a Lord Street, Roseville



Roseville Ministry Contacts

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