

Parkdale Church of Christ

News & Views



Game over?

Julia Gillard's elevation to the Prime Ministership is a stark reminder that politics is no game, and the end can come suddenly no matter who you are. Once upon a time it was the King who chose ministers; now it is the party machine. Neither can be expected to be patient if things are going badly.

There is an exception to this, however: in the Kingdom of Heaven, we are chosen by Jesus, our Lord and King, and the choice will not be undone. He chooses us, we respond with a choice of our own, to submit, and our lives are changed forever. It is possible for us to forget, and turn away; but we will not be dumped by our Lord, and He will not forget us. The better we are at listening to Him, the more responsibility He will give us in His Kingdom.*

So now we focus for a while on Julia Gillard, and try to determine whether we will vote for her in the looming Federal election. But we know she won't last for ever, unlike Jesus, our King, so it makes sense for us to get to know Jesus rather better. If we do this, we can be more effective in making His Kingdom visibly real on Earth, today – empowered by the Holy Spirit, commissioned by Jesus our King, and loved by God our Father.

- Steve

* Note that I like to use capitals for 'He' and 'Him' for God as well as for Jesus, indicating that God isn't an ordinary 'he' or 'him', that is, God is not a human male, but rather something entirely different, for whom any discussion about using 'He' or 'She' is completely irrelevant. Our language lacks the right word; 'He' and 'Him' are in line with the tradition, because they work for Jesus – who certainly *is* male. We are created in the image of God - both male and female (Gen 1:27) - but that doesn't mean we are the same as God, who is, after all, three-in-one.

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TODAY: Steve is speaking this morning and leading evening worship at 7:00pm.

NEXT SUNDAY: Steve will be preaching again and on the next two Sundays, including the Sunday on which the Jackson family fly out in the evening for the wedding of Andrea and Andrew.

We have noted that the Royal Family never all fly on the same plane and pray for a safe flight for the Jackson family.

The evening service will be held this Sunday and next and will then break for two weeks.

DURING THE WEEK:

Monday: No **Play Group** due to the school holidays.

Wednesday: **Friendship Centre** in the Arthur Scott Hall from 10:30am to 3:00pm with lunch at 12:15pm. Arthur's Table is on holiday until August 4th.

Thursday: **Coffee and Chat** from 10:00am to 12noon or slightly later sometimes if the conversation is so interesting.

Friday: No **Play Group** due to the school holidays.

PRE SCHOOLERS ' ART CLASSES: We have been asked by Andrea Cusack about hiring the hall out on a Tuesday or Thursday morning for Art classes for pre-school children and have agreed. These classes are already running in Beaumaris. Now that she has a venue, Andrea will advertise to see if she can get enough children to make a viable group. For Board members, this request came in only a few days ago. Andrea has insurance which she will extend to cover a new venue, and she has our Licence Agreement, setting out the terms of using the hall, to study.

TEMPLE DAY: We traditionally take this offering on the last Sunday in August, in this case, 28th August. Taking the Old Testament concept of bringing gifts for the Temple we dedicate this offering to renovations and improvements to our buildings. This year we have the Arthur Scott Hall in our sights for rejuvenation.

OCTOBER EVENTS:

Steve has completed the application form to advertise our events in the Kingston Seniors' Festival publicity and Lyle is going to organise an Agent's board at the front of the church.

The main intention with each of these events is to get more people to notice us. We plan to run the following events:

- A **Band Concert** with the Derryairs and other musicians at 2:00pm on October 10th, followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. Admission a gold coin.
- **Favourite Old Hymns** at 2:00pm on October 17th, also followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. The programme will be pre arranged, not by request. Admission free.
- **Antique Valuations** with Irene and her colleagues from 2:00pm on October 24th, with help-yourself tea, coffee and biscuits. Admission a gold coin.

Sounds great. Let's pray for the publicity and a good turn up to each event!

[Cartoon omitted from Internet version for copyright reasons]

Words of Inspiration

The demand is liberation; the emphasis is connectedness; the corrective is suffering; the power is imagination; and the vocation is [...] the repair of the world.

Maria Harris, in her book
Proclaim Jubilee: A Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century

May we, by the power of your Spirit, truly fast as you desire: loosing the bonds of injustice, letting the oppressed go free, and breaking every yoke; sharing our bread with the hungry, bringing the homeless poor into our houses; covering the naked and satisfying the needs of the afflicted. Let it be, for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

Adapted from Isaiah 58.

So tell the earth to shake
With marching feet
Of messengers of peace
Proclaim my law of love
To every nation
Every race.

Thomas Merton, from his poem "Earthquake"

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55:13

For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Ephesians 6:12-14

With good reason we cannot be indifferent to anyone who lacks the necessities of life. As our knowledge and love of God grows, so does our concern to respond as fully as we can to Jesus in what Mother Teresa of Calcutta calls "his most distressing disguise."

Mary Evelyn Jegen, SND, from her book
How You Can Be a Peacemaker

Tension is God's gift to us, a gift that sometimes will not permit us to escape its presence. I believe that our creative energies are activated by just that kind of upsetting tension. It is in responding to this gnawing discomfort that we have the possibility of giving shape to dreams that are at once faithful to who we are and who we can become.

Paula Ripple, from her book *Growing Strong at Broken Places*

Prayer is no panacea, no substitute for action. It is, rather, like a beam thrown from a flashlight before us into the darkness. It is in this light that we who grope, stumble, and climb, discover where we stand, what surrounds us, and the course which we should choose.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, from his book *Man's Quest for God*



Please pray for...

- For the next two months the church almost divides into two groups, those who are on holidays and those who are keeping things going. Pray for the holiday makers, that they will be kept safe, have a great time, and come back full of enthusiasm for all that we plan to do. For those who are at home pray that you will be given new vitality and strength.
- Pray for our Temple Day offering. It will cost a large sum to make the hall more bright and clean looking. Whatever we do with the floor will cost a lot.
- Pray for our October programmes. We agreed on the concert at the AGM, but with information from the City of Kingston we have taken the opportunity to widen the programme. Please plan to support these events.
- Give thanks that Betty Gaspero was at church last week and pray for her continued improvement. Also give thanks that Coralie now has her plaster off and is flexing the muscles in her hand. Paul did not come home from hospital as we thought, but remained in Como and underwent surgery. He is now recovering. If you plan to visit it would be wise to check with the hospital first in case he has been discharged. Ursula was not up to visiting the hospital every day. Pray for her and give thanks for the care that both she and Paul receive. The news of young Danny continues to be not good. Pray for him and his mother Hannah, and for his Father who also is involved in Danny's well being.
- As this newsletter is prepared the oil leak off America's coast is again gushing forth barrels of oil per day. Pray that efforts to seal off the leak will be successful very soon. Pray for the people and animals whose lives are so badly affected by this disaster.
- Pray for the people of Britain and other European countries forced into extreme financial measures to

shore up their failing economies. Pray for the individuals who suffer under the stringent measure planned.

- Pray for Australia as we go on with a new Prime Minister. Pray for Julia Gillard, that she will exercise integrity, be open to listen to points of view and open in her communication with her team and with others involved in the issues she has to deal with.

Lord, hear our prayers. Amen

[Cartoon omitted from Internet version for copyright reasons]

Order of Service – 27th June, 2010

Welcome – Steve Jackson
Worship in song – Barbara Pitts
Announcements
Reading 1: 2 Ki 2:1-2, 6-14–Hedley Hartrick
Worship in Song
Lord's Table – Wendy Scott
Church Prayers – Steve Jackson
Worship in Song
Reading 2: Luke 9:51-62 – Bob Scott
Sermon – Steve Jackson
Final song
Benediction

Door: Robb Cunnington

Creche:
Coralie Scott
Sunday School:
On holiday

Serving next week (4th July, 10:15am)

Organ/keyboard – n/a
Piano – Barbara Pitts
Worship Leader – Nicole East
Announcements – Lyle Yates
Lord's Table – Jess Oakes
Reading 1: 2 Kings 5:1-14 – Leonie Hargreaves
Reading 2: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 - tba
Helpers – Andrew Hargreaves, Hedley Hartrick
Church Prayers – Lyle Yates

Sermon – Steve Jackson
Children's talk – n/a
Flowers – Coralie Scott
Door – Lois Woodward
Hall Cleaners – tba
Foyer Cleaner – J. Maxwell
Crèche – Jess Oakes (?)
Sunday School – holidays
Evening music – n/a

Service times: Sunday mornings 10:15am; 1st Sunday evening of month 7pm



We love our faith, we live our faith

Readings during the week

Sunday: Matthew 27:45-56
Monday: Matthew 27:57-66
Tuesday: Matthew 28:1-15
Wednesday: Matthew 28:16-20
Thursday: Titus 1:1-16
Friday: Titus 2:1-15
Saturday: Titus 3:1-15

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