

Newsletter August 22nd, 2021

Sunday's Readings: Hebrews 10:19-25

Family Service

Andrew Everson will be bringing us the Word this week

Some Prayers of the people

- Please pray for Afghanistan, for the people who are afraid of what the change of government will mean for their lives. Pray for their safety and future.
- Please pray for Victoria as they go into a stricter lock down, for the effect this will have on their mental wellbeing and economic state. Pray for our country and the areas that are still having outbreaks. Also pray that those who make the decisions will be wise and compassionate.
- Give thanks that we are blessed by living in a safe area and are well.
- Please continue to pray for Rosalie Hinch as she copes with health issues and is undergoing tests, pray for improved health and recovery.
- Please continue to pray for our Pastor Andrew as he undergoes tests this week.

Notices

Baptism: On Sunday we will celebrate the baptism of Katie Louise Cooke and Holy Anne Cooke. Give thanks for these children and pray that as they grow God will always be with them.

Congratulations to John Carter on winning the Limestone Coast Landscape award for his photo of Sunset over Mullinger swamp, well done.

Thank you to those who share the produce of their garden, it is very much appreciated.

Church Service: Due to Covid 19 the guidelines for Sunday are as follows.

- Masks must be worn
- 1/2m² distancing applies (**101** persons in the church so we may not need the hall, although that will be available)
- Singing allowed with masks on.
- No Morning Tea
- Sunday school and Youth Alpha is on!

Youth Alpha Course: Due to the Covid19 restrictions the fundraiser lunch for the youth cannot go ahead, but if you are willing, any donation for this would be gratefully accepted. Contact Robbie Williams for details. Thank you.

Pastoral Care Fundraiser Early Notice BBQ to be held in September

Tarooki: Please join us to celebrate 61 years of camping in Robe. Onsite at 55 Main St. Robe on Sunday November 14th, 2021, at 10.30am for a Thanksgiving Service followed by a catered lunch. RSVP to tarooki@uvsa.org.au or 0429157270 by November 1st.

Update: There are forms at the back of the church to update any changes of details or for new members to fill in for name tags and to receive our newsletter by email.

Share: If you have any news you wish to share, please let us know so we may celebrate or pray with you and offer support for you.

Midweek Bible reading:

Ephesians 6:10-20

The armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the

breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

"...be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power"

Where does our strength come from? Is it something we generate by a series of disciplined religious practices? If we think that, then we are missing the main point that Paul is making. Paul is saying that our strength is the Lord – "be strong in the Lord".

Rather than trying to feel strong by anything we do, Paul is saying that God's amour itself is strong enough for us. The pieces of God's amour given to us are God's truth, God's righteousness, God's peace, the salvation that comes from God, and knowledge of God's word which is incisive.

Paul points out that living life well is a spiritual battle and that we will lose this battle against the most malignant force in the universe if we just rely on our own truth and righteousness, or on our own peace. Our own strength is just not enough. We are to stand, even after having done everything, because we stand in God.

We stand in God's amour. We simply place our faith in him. His truth and righteousness and the salvation Christ bought for us, protect us. We stand ready to share his gospel and to use God's word as the only offensive weapon that we are given.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

And then there is prayer. To continue Paul's battlefield analogy, in any battle communications with the field commander are essential. We don't see the whole picture, but God does. Paul tells us that we can and should pray about anything at any time – "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests"; praying "in the Spirit" because if we are Christians then we have been given the Spirit who knows us intimately and knows God's will perfectly. Communications "in the Spirit" are crystal clear, even if our words are hesitant and even confused.

Paul asks that we pray for God's people, because we are all in this battle together. Pray for help for God's people and for fearless courage to speak the gospel, at the right time and place, using exactly the right words.

Andrew