




News Letter

26 May 2020

Our Church on-line

Naracoorte Uniting Church web site: <https://www.naracoorteuca.org.au/>

for the service on-line and for another great Kid's talk from Fiona Fulwood. This week "Who is Sitting on the Throne of your Life" - part 2

Or listen on your Phone or Tablet. Download the *Church Central*  app from the apps store and find Naracoorte Uniting Church.

Church Council Connect

As highlighted at the last Congregational Meeting the Church Council has been considering how to best engage with younger families and has decided to seek to appoint an Assistant Pastor with this ministry to families and young people as their primary focus. The job description can be found on our website (see above). We are keen to hear from about anyone we might approach to talk about this role.

The Synod has agreed to our request to share some of the monies received from the sale of Lucindale Manse. Accordingly, 25% of the sale proceeds from the manse (and in future the church building) has been set aside for capital works at Naracoorte Uniting. We have made an initial request to allocate the funds received to paying a significant part of the loan for the toilet upgrade.

Service this Sunday, May 24

Reading: **John 20: 19-23** *"The Holy Spirit According to John"*

Some Prayers of the people

- For an Assistant Pastor – we pray that God will call the right person for this role with the gifts and graces to connect well with people and with maturity of faith that places trust in Jesus Christ and commitment to his service.
- Gracious Father we continue to pray for those among us who are ill and that your healing hand will be upon Lyn Pitt, John Kester, Kay Hocking, Dean Williams, Sue Waite, and Denis Russell. Kay has returned to Flinders Hospital.
We pray for your grace, and for your peace that passes all our understanding.

Mid-week Bible Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3-14

New International Version

³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Unity and diversity in the body

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Increasingly we are a connected world. The indiscriminate spread of the coronavirus proves exactly that point. The pandemic shows us the limits and indeed the false illusion of individualism and demonstrates our dependence on, and interdependence with, others.

Paul writes to the Christians at Corinth to tell them that as a church they have been given the Holy Spirit – individually and together.

The Holy Spirit is something we share with all true Christians. It is the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, who creates Christian community. There can be in this world Christians in situations where it is impossible to come together with others to worship, share the faith and serve, but Christianity is not a private faith. Christianity is not a kind of world view or creed or “religion” that we adopt for our own private edification. Christianity is communion – with God and with each other through the Spirit.

In the first place it is God that calls us, we don’t kind of “adopt” God. And when God calls us, forgiven and reconciled to him, he calls us into his family of Christians, sharing his Spirit with him and importantly with each other.

Paul’s point is that in the diversity of the Spiritual gifts that God gives his church, we see and **experience** the fullness of the Spirit and his gifts – again not for our own edification but for the good of each other.

We pray this Pentecost for a massive outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his Church. We certainly need it! But in addition, we should all be exercising the gifts we have already been given. We have all at least been given forgiveness, faith and hope and love, that’s what Christ has done for us – and not just for ourselves but importantly for communion with each other and for engagement with this world.

“For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

Andrew

andrew.everson1@gmail.com

0417811773