

Newsletter

3rd November 2020

Sunday's Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,14-25.

Pastor Andrew will speak about "Covenant"

Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for the Barnabas Fund and Open Doors as they work to support Christians around the world, often in very difficult circumstances.
- Pray for the upcoming AGM and election of elders and those who are considering serving our congregation in this way.
- Please uphold Lindsey Kirkham in your prayers at this time
- Please continue to pray for John & Dorothy Kester
- Pray for the Christmas message as it is presented in the schools, may it sow seeds in the hearts of those who hear it. Pray for the presenters of this message that God will lead them and bless them.
- Praying for Lil and Dave Barnett and family as Dave works in Ernabella with the translators working on "Judges"

Notices

Advance notice. AGM 22nd November @ 2pm.

Reports to be given to/or emailed to Carol Lawrie @ KL3@people.net.au by Sunday 8th November.

Church Council meeting 20/10/20 @ 4pm

Elder's to meet earlier @ 3pm

Reminders

Election forms are at the back of the church or the office and are to be handed back by the 8th November

2021 Roster January- March

Please prayerfully consider using your gifts to serve God and to bless others through our Sunday morning worship services. It might be helping with morning tea, creche, flowers, singing, prayer, Bible reading, data projection, sound system, playing a musical instrument or helping with children's ministry. Please let Oriel know if you would like to be included. Could anyone who is already part of our services, please advise Oriel of any dates in January, February, or March when you will not be available.

Searching

Pastor Andrew has lost track of his book entitled "Red Alert". Please check your bookcases to help find it!

Midweek Bible Reading 1 John 2:28- 3:3

²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears, we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The phrase “children of God” is an important one. It comes from Jesus himself who calls God “my Father” and indeed asks us to pray: “**Our Father** in Heaven...”

Repeatedly Jesus refers to God as “your Father” - see (for example) Matthew chapters 5 and 6.

In Mathew 5:9 he declares that: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called **children of God.**” And in Mathew 5:44-45 he says:

⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be **children of your Father in heaven.**

The term “Father” as applied to God doesn’t imply that God has a male gender, but that God is the source of all that there is.

The fact that God is our Father implies and affirms several key things about our relationship with God.

Firstly, it affirms that that God is the source of our being. We didn’t invent ourselves. We derive all that we are from God. That is, it is a relationship initiated by God out of love, through freely given grace.

Secondly, it affirms that God, being a good Father, has fatherly love and concern for us.

Thirdly, it suggests that a full, positive relationship with God the Father will require us to positively respond to his love and grace with love and obedience – living out our “sonship” in an authentic way.

When, again as an act of love and grace, God calls us and makes us his children (“adopts” us as Paul says in, for example, Romans 8:15) then there will be a family likeness between our heavenly Father and his adopted children. The likeness grows as God’s Spirit works in us. The evidence that we have been born anew, this time from God, that is this time being made “children of God”, the things we do are increasingly good and right - “righteous” like God.

In the reading above John suggests that the family likeness will not necessarily be something that the world will appreciate. In fact, the more we show the family traits and the more we live as children of God, the less the world will understand us and like what they see. He notes that the world didn’t understand God’s eternal son Jesus, why should it appreciate us!

And, while God in his grace right now declares us forgiven and restored, makes us his children, we all to some extent remain part of this world that has not been fully transformed by the light of Jesus Christ. Just

as the world doesn't know the perfection of Christ, we can't perfectly know the end point of God's transformation of us. This will only be known when Christ returns and the whole cosmos is renewed.

At that time, we will clearly see the end point, and it will be like Jesus himself.

In the meantime, hope itself is transformative. Knowing the sure and certain hope through placing our faith in Jesus is itself the key to Godly transformation.

Ps. Andrew