



News Letter

5 May 2020

Our Church on-line

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

A special thanks to Eugene for reading and for Steve, Scott, Ben and Oriel for playing and for Simone for singing in last Sunday's service.

And another great Kid's talk from Kid's Talker Fiona Fulwood.

Service this Sunday, 10 May; Reading: **Luke 6: 27-49**

Trevor Barnett will be bringing us the message

Prayers of the people

Please get prayer requests to me by **Thursday** so I can include them in the service.

- We pray that a good course out of this pandemic crisis can be navigated by countries across the world. We pray for your leading through the Holy Spirit inspiring good leadership, a commitment to truth, and courage to make decisions.
- We continue to pray for communities in developing nations facing multiple challenges from sickness, failure of seasons, economic hardship and conflict. We pray that the church will be a force for good in these circumstances and we pray that richer nations and peoples will, in spite of home concerns, be generous in supplying resources to assist.
- We give thanks that Kay Hocking is now out of hospital and at home. We pray for her continued recovery.

Church Financial Support

Please note that the Church's banking details are as follows:

Naracoorte Uniting Parish Fund Account
BSB 015670,
Account Number 412320756

Mid-week reading

John 14:1-14 New International Version

Jesus comforts his disciples

14 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am

going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Jesus the way to the Father

⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

⁶ Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

⁹ Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.'

Jesus tells his disciples that they know where Jesus is going, and they know the way. They know it. But they don't really know that they know it!

Both Thomas and Philip ask for some clarification.

Thomas says that they don't know the destination so how can they know the way.

Thomas' question is a little hard to understand because Jesus has told his disciples where he is going – to the Father in whose house there are many rooms which Jesus will make ready. And they know the way there because they know and trust Jesus. Jesus is the way and they know Jesus.

Thomas needs it spelt out. So, Jesus tells him clearly:

'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'.

Jesus is the way, because he is both the *truth* about God, and the *life* of God. Jesus *truthfully* reveals God to us, and Jesus gives us *life*, from God.

"'Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal *life* and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to *life*.'" (John 5:24)

Philip, understands that Jesus is stating his oneness with God, but he asks to see God the Father and Jesus says in effect – you have seen me and so you have seen God. It is a

brehtaking claim. Jesus is calling for belief and trust. He points to his miracles as reasons to believe – not just because they show miraculous (Godly) power but because as signs they point to what Jesus is about: the saving kingdom of God. Look at how water becomes wine, how bread is multiplied among many, how people are healed, even like Lazarus, brought back from the dead. Jesus’s kingdom is about life, healing, freedom.

And we, his disciples, will also do kingdom advancing things like the signs that Jesus has done. In fact, the kingdom advancing work that will happen after Jesus’ death, resurrection and return to the Father, will be greater than before. Why would that be?

Not because Jesus has got out of the way and allowed his followers “room to move, as it were. But because Jesus’ death and resurrection will have fundamentally changed the state of the world. This side of the return of Jesus to the Father the world has been reconciled to God and the hope of eternal life made real. Sin and death have been defeated.

And if the Church, the body of Christ, continues to witness faithfully to God, to say and do all things to God’s glory, and in his name, then of course God will answer “yes” to our work for his kingdom – so “that the Son may bring glory to the Father”.

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