

Newsletter

20th December 2020

Sunday's Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Stuart Martyn will be bringing us the message

Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for family and friends this Christmas that they have a blessed and joyful time and for safe travel as the holidays begin
- Pray for the people dealing with floods and gales on the East coast, their safety and health.
- Pray for families & students as the school year finishes & they await results & prepare for their future.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for our government as they make decisions for our nation and deal with the effect of covid-19 on our economy and trade restrictions.
- Continue to pray for the mission groups who help so many people in need, The Barbabas Fund, Compassion, Open Doors.
- Please continue to pray for John & Dorothy Kester.

Notices



This will be the last newsletter for 2020 as we go into recess until 2021. Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

Christmas Service: a Christmas Church service will be held Christmas morning at 9.30am

Hampers, A big thank you to those of you who contributed in any way towards the Christmas hampers. Your generosity was greatly appreciated. Jill

Tithe a Tin Pray a packet Thank you for your support for this worthy cause. Along with the Naracoorte Community Care Network who provide supermarket vouchers we provide for people in difficulties who are very grateful for your help.

Christmas Luncheon Friday 25th Dec. at the Senior Citizens Rooms Sandstone Ave. 12-3pm

Lunch is open to anyone who would like company, those alone or “Darby & Joan” homeless or in need.

Due to Covid19 restrictions a maximum number 50 people. Bookings essential RSVP to Norma Davis (0427041916) by 23rd December. A \$5 deposit will secure your place.

Midweek Bible Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-16

God's promise to David

7 After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, ‘Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.’

³ Nathan replied to the king, ‘Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.’

⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ ‘Go and tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD says: are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

⁸ ‘Now then, tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people shall not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time, I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² when your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.”’

Our God is not defined by place or time and yet he promises to reside in a place where he can be found. To Christians that place is Jesus.

God tells David, through the prophet Nathan, that throughout his life God has been always with him and before that God was always with his people, wherever they travelled, to guide and protect and to provide. God was before and behind his people in the pillar of fire and the pillar of smoke and he met with Moses and the leaders in the tent of meeting. God didn't need a fixed temple. God travelled with his people.

And rather than David building God a house, God promises to build David a house. It's a play on words. The Hebrew word means house or temple or dynasty. And when God promises to build a house for his own Name what he is promising is more than a temple where his presence, his Shekinah, will dwell, and it's more than just a family dynasty, although it is those things as well – at least for time. But the house that God promises will endure forever. The promise is fulfilled in Jesus, the descendant of David. In him we see the fullness of God and we meet him through the Holy Spirit in all aspects of our lives, inside and outside of place and time.

Jesus is the final successor to the throne of David his throne endures forever.

The bible tells us that the Church itself is God's temple. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3: 16
“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's **temple** and that God's Spirit lives among you?”

The implications are immense. The Church of course is not a building, or even an institution. The Church is a spiritual reality. The Church is God's temple, a temple not built by humankind, not build by ourselves, but built by God. It is God's kingdom. It will endure forever.

As relationship built by the Holy Spirit, it is the only association that will endure after the end of this age.

Andrew