



TOGETHER IN FAITH

We extend a warm welcome to everyone to worship today

'We are God's people: unconditionally loved by God. Following our calling, we seek to reflect God's love everywhere, in all that we are and in all that we do'

Bible reading focus for 22 February

Matthew 4: 1-11: the temptations in the wilderness.

Every year the Gospel for the first Sunday in Lent narrates the story of Jesus' time in the wilderness, immediately after his baptism. What can this story mean for us in living our Christian life? What are contemporary temptations we have to deal with?

Let us listen to the Bible story first.

Today's Bible reading focuses on the experience of Jesus's temptations in the wilderness. After his baptism this was another pivotal moment in his life that determined the rest of his life and ministry. The wilderness was the location of testing for Israel – remember the Exodus story in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy? Look up Exodus 16 and 17. God provided food for his people, manna in the morning, quail in the evening. Later the people complained again, this time for lack of water. And God provided again, through Moses striking a rock, and water poured forth!

In the story of Jesus, the devil plays on this deep-rooted human way of testing God. Jesus however, refuses to take the bait of the devil – 'if you are the Son of God'. Instead, he refers to scriptural wisdom, found in the book of Deuteronomy. Three times he is ethically tested. Three times he rejects the devil's temptations, including three fundamental principles: God is the source and determiner of all life; Testing God denies the sovereignty of God; God alone is worthy of worship.

Jesus has learned and heeded the lessons from Israel's desert failures, and the direction of his ministry is set.

How well have we travelled in the Christian way? What have been the temptations that you and I have struggled with in trying to live as Jesus would have us live?

Let us use Lent in encouraging each other to reflect on these questions.

John van Riet

Worship Services Today

Wangaratta 9.30am

John van Riet

Greta/Mohyu 10.00am

Frank Smith & Ruth Maxwell

Wangaratta 5pm

Helen van Riet

Minister

Rev. Hoon You

✉ hoonyou@gmail.com

☎ 0403 369 781

Sunday to Thursday

Cluster Office

Christina Pizzini
Administration Officer

10 Rowan Street, Wangaratta

☎ 03 5721 6555

🏠 **Tuesday and Thursday**
9.30am to 4pm

✉ wangaratta@victas.uca.org.au

Online Giving

The Uniting Church Parish of Wangaratta

BSB: 083 945

Account No: 5160 84153

*Short Notices for the weekly
bulletin can be emailed to
Christina by 4pm Wednesday*

Church Council News

The Church council was saddened by the news of Elizabeth Hilderbrand’s passing. We pass on our condolences to the Hilderbrand family.

We welcomed back Lesley Johnson after her illness.

Church Council has offered the roll of “Pastoral Care Worker” to Ms Wendy Toppin of Wangaratta. Wendy will be working closely with the Pastoral Care committee and Rev Hoon You.

The worship planning committee gathered in January to plan for services in February, March and April. The roster is now available.

Church Council approved that the Bequest provide \$50,000 the Moderator’s Emergency Relief fund and that these funds go to fire effected areas.

The Property and Finance committee have formulated a plan to address some of the major maintenance work. Some of the items are; painting the spire, replacing the church roof, possible installation of battery storage, prayer garden/mandala, cut back vine, replace carpet. If you can think of something else let us know.

The last service in the old Eldorado Church is progressing along well. If you are able to help please talk to Lesley Johnson or Colin Thomson.

Rev Hoon You also gave the Committee a report on the running of the Christmas day lunch. A big thank you to Rev Hoon and Dion Wong.

AGM will be held on 29th March 2026. Please ensure that all reports are emailed to Gigi or Christina by the 8th March.

- *Bill Gerritsen, Chairmen Church Council.*

Other News

Loaves and Fishes Christians Caring is getting ready to start again operating from the Salvation Army in Greta Road.

Groceries are now needed to stock the shelves.

On 19th March we will have our Annual meeting here at our Church Starts at 1pm. Please show your support by attending. Myra would be pleased to hear from anyone who could help by supplying a small plate of food for afternoon tea.

Wangaratta Cluster Calendar

Saturday 28 February
Church Knitters - 9am

Wednesday 4 March
Singing Group at Illoura - 10.30am

Wednesday 4 March
PALS - 2pm

Wednesday 2 March
Rangeview Service 11am

Sunday 15 March
Last Service in Eldorado Church Building - 2pm

Monday 16 March
SALT - 6pm in Church Hall

Wednesday 18 March
St John's Service - 11am

Wednesday 18 March
Social Justice Committee - 4pm

Thursday 19 March
Illoura Service - 11am

Rosters for Sunday Worship

Wangaratta 9.30am	22 February Lent 1	1 March Lent 2	8 March Lent 3
Worship Leader	John van Riet	Rev. Hoon You HC	Rev. Hoon You
Musician	Helen van Riet	R McClay	Lesley Johnson
Vestry	C Thomson	E Dinning	E Dinning
Welcome and Offering	A Turnbull	M Clayden	R York
Bible Reader	K Neate	R Barnard *	K Craig
Morning Tea	L Bertuch & J Johnson	R Ritchie & V Watson	R & D Steele
5 pm	Helen van Riet	Glen Miles	Heather McKean
Eldorado	No Service	Colin Thomson	No Service
Greta/Moyhu 10am	F Smith & R Maxwell	No Service	Wendie Wilkie

*Also helps with Vestry for HC

If you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty, please arrange to swap with someone else. A heartfelt thanks to you all - our priceless volunteers!