



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’

Today’s reading seems to be a bit like the game “Connections” - trying to find what different objects have in common? For example, what does an oil slick, a duck, a boat, and an iceberg have in common? They all float.

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-46 presents us with the following objects that all have something important in common: A mustard seed, a little bit of yeast, a treasure in a field, a pearl of great value, and a fishing net. What do these objects have in common? And we know the answer because it is all though the reading: They are all used by Jesus to describe the kingdom of heaven.

The reading begins with two humble images of the kingdom of heaven, mustard seeds and yeast. Both seem insignificant and unimportant and you don’t even know they are there. But in time, the mustard bush grows and provides resting places - the yeast gives life to the bread.

Then Jesus also offers two images of how valuable the kingdom of heaven truly is. It is the treasure in the field or a single pearl, both of which turn life upside down – irrespective whether someone is diligently searching for it or whether someone just stumbles upon it.

Bill Loader, in the current *Love to the World* writes that these parables from Matthew are all about having faith in hope.

He writes - Can you believe in hope? Can you believe a tiny seed can become a tree? Can you believe and trust what will happen with the seed and with the yeast. Can you believe and trust that treasure will be found. Can you believe in hope because you trust in love. Faith in hope entrusts the future to God, the God who loves, whatever that may mean.

So, be the yeast in this world’s flour. Scatter the seeds of love and joy and peace. And even if they seem too small to do much good, trust in God. Trust that these little seeds will grow, and one day provide shelter. Trust that the yeast will improve the bread. Trust that the treasure will be found - because the kingdom of heaven works like that.

PRAYER

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. Be with us so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you, knowing that you are always watching over us. Hope-giving God, help us embrace hope and be bearers of hope to others. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Worship Services Today

Wangaratta 9.30am
Glen Miles

Wangaratta 5.00pm
John Emmett

Greta/Moyhu 10.00pm
Greta Congregation

Minister

Rev. Hoon You

✉ hoonyou@gmail.com

☎ 0403 369 781

Sunday to Thursday

Pastoral Care Worker

Wendy Toppin

✉ ToppinW@ramsayhealth.com.au

☎ 0407 165 973

Leave a message

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

We received a quote to upgrade the disabled bathroom to comply with regulations.

Rev Hoon You has requested three days of annual leave in August that was approved 25th to 27th.

Capital works are still in the planning stage; we are still looking for suggestions forms which are available on table in foyer.

If you have a Working With Children Card or you need to have one, please make sure that it is up to date. Ask if you are not sure if you need one or not.

The Eldorado Church buildings and grounds will be auctioned on Friday 31st July.

The books on the table in the foyer are for you to take! These books are made available from people's personal libraries who no longer need them due to downsizing or moving. (there will be more books coming soon)

Church Council elections. Nominations forms will be available from Sunday 9th August and close 23rd August with elections taking place on the 30th August. This date is also a cluster service.

Bill Gerritsen CC Chairmen

Other News

The new worship plan and rosters are available on the foyer table today, any swaps or changes contact Gigi or Christina

Loaves and Fishes Grab a Grocery

When: Saturday 8th August

Where: Coles Wangaratta

Helpers needed!

Ring 0490 509 167 between 10am and 12 noon any weekday to register your interest.

The Eldorado church building will be auctioned on Friday 31st July. Please pray for the process.

Please use the Prayer cards on the table and also use the "Try Praying" booklet to pray and search for God.

Wangaratta Cluster Calendar

Monday 27 July
Mainly Music

Wednesday 5 August
Singing group at Illoura - 10.30am

Wednesday 5 August
PALS - 2pm

Wednesday 12 August
Rangeview Service - 11am



NEV Presbytery meeting Image: "Mixed Ecology in congregational setting"

Rosters for Sunday Worship

Wangaratta 9.30am	26 July Pentecost 9	2 August	9 August
Worship Leader	Glen Miles	Rev. Hoon You HC	Rev. Hoon You
Musician	L Johnson	R McLay	L Johnson
Vestry	H Twitt	R Maxwell	G Blanch
Welcome and Offering	A Twitt & A Turnbull	E Lovett	E Lovett
Bible Reader	W Toppin	R Steele *	F Smith
Morning Tea	R & D Chapman	L & K Craig	G & J Kerr
5 pm	John Emmett	Glen Miles	S don Leonard
Eldorado 10am	No Service	Lesley Johnson	No Service
Greta/Moyhu 10am	Greta Congregation	No Service	H & J van Riet

*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!