



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'

Lectionary Readings for Pentecost 14A, 2026 Aug 30

Theme: "Get behind me."

Exodus 3:1-15 "Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people," (v.10)

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b "Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually." (v.4)

Romans 12:9-21 "Rejoice in hope; be patient in afflictions, persevere in prayer." (v.12)

Matthew 16:21-28 "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me," (v.23)

Peter's story continues from last Sunday's reading where Peter confessed Jesus as Messiah and Lord, and Jesus said I will build my church. The strange thing was that Jesus sternly ordered not to tell his identity as Messiah to others. I believe the real reason is appearing in this Sunday's reading.

According to Matthew 16:21-28, we see Peter behaving rather arrogant and self righteous. When Jesus openly said that he must undergo great suffering and handed over to the elders and Scribes, Peter says, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." To this, Jesus responded, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." (v.23)

"Get behind me," because like Peter we put our minds usually on human things. Since John the Baptist was killed in Matt 14, Jesus withdrew himself to deserted place (14:13), feeding 5000 and walking on the water which happened most likely further away from central Israel and Jerusalem.

Now in ch.15, Then Pharisees and scribes came to challenge Jesus and Jesus even travel further to the district of Tyre and Sidon, far north west coastal region. Then in ch. 16, the Pharisees and Sadducees came again to test and travels to the district of Caesarea Philippi, which is also located in far north.

Jesus was literally avoiding conflict with core leaders of Jewish groups, but from ch.17 after the Transfiguration, Jesus travels to Jerusalem, where he will be arrested, by those scheming Jewish leaders. Here indeed Jesus didn't want to provide any reason to Jews to accuse Jesus falsely and furthermore, didn't want to give people a wrong idea about the role of Messiah which is a spiritual as well as political Savior of Israel. We now understand why Peter said, "God forbid it...this must never happen to you." Messiah expectation was what Jesus wanted to avoid along with emphasising the importance of setting our mind on divine things. Exodus 3 tells us that despite of Moses' decline, God is sending him back to Pharaoh according to divine will. "Get behind me," but often we put our own agenda ahead. As Psalm 105 says, "Seek the Lord and his strength." Instead of rely on our own ability nor experience, we should seek the Lord and get behind the Lord.

Romans 12 also tell us to "persevere in prayer," even in a difficult situation and "rejoice in hope," for it is not our mind but divine mind that will guide us. "Get behind the Lord."

Questions:

1. When have you go forward like Peter, limiting or self-judging God's will?
2. How does 'persevere in prayer' helps us?

Next week: Pentecost 15A, 2026 September 6.

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20



Worship Services Today

Wangaratta 9.30am

Rev. Hoon You

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*

News

Bible Study “Walking the Bible” will begin at 3pm on 2nd September for 6 sessions. This study will summarise the whole Bible and help us to understand the Scripture so that we can journey our life with guidance of the Word of God.

“Hopeful Lament” - NE Presbytery Retreat with Dr Julian Hamilton - Thursday 3rd September 2026, 10am -3pm (lunch provided) @ Euroa Uniting Church - See flyers on table in Foyer.

Messy Church - a Training Day for Congregations interested in starting a Messy Church, will be held in our Church Hall on Saturday 5 September, from 10am to 2pm. All welcome.

What is Messy Church? Messy Church is church for families who may not find other forms of church appealing and who don't yet belong to a church. It is typically held once a month, includes hands-on creative experiences, a celebration and a meal. It does not prioritise either the needs of children or adults, but intentionally welcomes and provides for all ages.

Spring Concert – Sunday 6th September

The Wangaratta Concert Band will present their Spring Concert in the Church Hall at 2pm on Sunday 6th September. This afternoon of wonderful music is free and includes free afternoon tea.

Movie “We are not powerless” will be shown on Saturday 19 September at 1:30pm at the Swanpool Cinema (see the below for details)



**WE
ARE NOT
POWERLESS**

**How a refugee
community
changed the lives
of thousands**

**Sat, 19 September.
1:30pm
Swanpool Cinema**
2386 Midland Hwy, Swanpool

Hosted by Mansfield RAR
(Rural Australia for Refugees)



Wangaratta Cluster Calendar

Monday 31 August
Mainly Music

Wednesday 2 September
Singing Group at Illoura - 10.30am

Wednesday 2 September
PALS - 2pm

Wednesday 2 September
Bible Study “Walking the Bible”

Saturday 5 September
“Messy Church” Training in
Church Hall - 10am to 2pm

Wednesday 9 September
Rangeview Service - 11am

Tuesday 15 September
Property & Finance - 4pm

Tuesday 15 September
Church Council - 5.30pm

Wednesday 16 September
St John's Service - 11am

Thursday 17 September
Illoura Service - 11am

Rosters for Sunday Worship

Wangaratta 9.30am	30 August	6 September	13 September
Worship Leader	Rev. Hoon You	Rev. Hoon You HC	Rev. Hoon You
Musician	Band	R McLay	L Johnson
Vestry	L Hammond	A Turnbull	C Thomson
Welcome and Offering	B Sheppard & J Poole	K Martin	K Martin
Bible Reader	J Kerr	E Dinning	C Thomson
Morning Tea	D & K Fleet	R & D Steele	S Bishop & I Grant
5 pm	No Service	G Miles	Heather McKean RSL Dinner
Eldorado 10am	No Service	C Thomson	No Service
Greta/Moyhu 10am	No Service	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!