



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 16A, 2026 September 13

Theme: “How often should I forgive?”

Exodus 14:19-31 “the waters forming a wall... the LORD saved Israel that day.” (29,30)

Psalms 114 “Tremble at the presence of the LORD,...who turns the rock into a pool of water.” (v.7,8)

Romans 14:1-12 “so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (v.8)

Matthew 18: 21-35 “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?” (v.21)

Today’s Gospel reading follows last Sunday’s Matthew 18:15-20 where Jesus told how to resolve, or reconcile conflict between two members and finally saying we should continue to bind things on earth for Jesus is among us. However we often jump into the conclusion that Jesus said you can judge others as a gentile or a tax collector.

Today’s story continues, this time with Peter asking “how often should I forgive, seven times?” From Peter’s mind, he showed much generous extending seven times of forgiveness, but Jesus deals with it is not seven times, but seventy seven times. In Jewish culture, seven means spiritual completion or perfection. Doubling seven means much stronger expression of Divine completion that literally telling we should forgive eternally. However, this doesn’t seem to be normal from our human understanding and relationship. How can we forgive always?

Exodus 14 tells us Moses dividing the water and God saving Israel guiding through a dry road to escape Egypt. In this reading we learn it is the Lord who saved and created a wall the water. Psalm 114 also reminds people what God has done, and says we should remember and “tremble at the presence of the Lord.” (v.7)

Romans tells us “whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s” (v.8)

Here comes the ultimate logic why we should forgive seventy seven times for we belong to God. When God forgives, we have no place to complain and not to forgive. This is why Jesus brings out the parable comparing the one who owed 10,000 Talents which means in modern currency about A\$10 billion in minimum salary or A\$20 Billion in average salary for it is about 200,000 years of annual income. (1 talent is about 6,000 days of income, about 20 years)

Literally impossible for anyone to repay that the King forgave him the debt. But he forced the other slave who had 100 denarii which is about 100 days of income.

We are not in a position to forgive others when we have forgiven by God with much larger debt.

Questions

1. What makes us difficult to forgive others’ sin against me?
2. What does it mean by we are the Lord’s in Romans 14?

Next week: Pentecost 17A, 2026 September 20

Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16



Worship Services Today

Wangaratta 9.30am

Rev. Hoon You

Greta Moyhu 10am

Wendie Wilkie

Wangaratta 5pm

Heather McKean

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

📍 **OPEN** 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

“Walking the Bible” continues the second session on Wed. 16th September at 3pm. The recording of previous sessions and resources are available to download from a shared folder. The links are now working! Please note that it requires an Apple ID to access iCloud.

https://www.icloud.com/icloudrive/o63I3E6kI9oKY1gBvk5xpSoog#WB_Study_Resource_1

https://www.icloud.com/icloudrive/oacsXqfUQU9yFMelyispKALGQ#WB_Study_Resource_2

Goods needed at Loaves & Fishes Christians Caring are:

- Milo
- Tinned fruit and tinned vegies
- Toilet paper

A friendly reminder to all who use the church complex. Please check that ALL doors are locked, and heating and cooling are switched off before you leave. Help remind each other if you are not the last to leave!

A call out and appeal to anyone who has any information about our church time capsule? The location is known, but not its burial date and if there was a proposed exhumation date. If anyone has any recollections or information please contact Jim McKean.

SALT meeting on 21st September

Our Aged Care worker Wendy Toppin is speaking on End of Life plan. There will be time to ask questions and for discussion. All are welcome. We meet at 6p.m. in our Church hall for a meal together. If you want to come later to hear Wendy, she will start her presentation at 7p.m. and you are welcome to join us for sweets and cuppa to follow.

If you don't usually come to SALT and want to attend, give Myra a call.

A scarf has been left at Illoura, perhaps from the Singing group. It can be collected from the front .office

Wangaratta Cluster Calendar

Monday 14 September
Mainly Music

Tuesday 15 September
Property & Finance - 4pm

Tuesday 15 September
Church Council - 5.30pm

Wednesday 16 September
St John's Service - 11am

Wednesday 16 September
Social Justice Committee - 4.30pm

Thursday 17 September
Illoura Service - 11am

Monday 21 September
SALT - Rowan Street - 6pm

Saturday 26 September
Church Knitting Group - 9am

Rosters for Sunday Worship

Wangaratta 9.30am	13 September	20 September	27 September
Worship Leader	Rev. Hoon You	Rev. Hoon You	Rev. Hoon You
Musician	L Johnson	H Miles	J & H van Riet
Vestery	C Thomson	E Dinning & J Johnson	R Steele
Welcome & Offering	K Martin	D & K Fleet	S Bishop
Bible Reader	C Thomson	S don Leonard	R York
Morning Tea	S Bishop & I Grant	M Stephens & S Carter	M Clayden & J Ambrosio
5pm	H McKean RSL Dinner	Wendie Wilkie	Rev. Hoon You
Eldorado 10am	No Service	Rev. Hoon You HC	No Service
Greta/Mohyu 10am	Wendie Wilkie	No Service	F Smith & R Maxwell

*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!