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 17A, 2026 September 20
Theme: "I choose with what belongs to me."
Exodus 16:2-15 "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."(v.15)
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 "Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.(v.4)
Philippians 1:21-30 "Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,"(v.27)
Matthew 20:1-16 "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?"(v.15)

Last week, we read Romans 14:8 "whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."
I believe this is the key to understand why Jesus said we should seventy-seven times for we belong to the same Lord who loves us to death. This week's reading also shows us the same key to understand what Jesus really meant when he said "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."(Matt. 20:16)
The parable Jesus used was the equal amount of wage to the labourers who worked different amount of hours. The vineyard owner, however pays the same amount to everyone no matter how many hours they worked. From human understanding and based on common sense, it is clearly not fare, especially in Australia where "a fare go" is an important mind set. Now Jesus explains why it is still a fare because the owner can choose with what he owns, in other word, in God's perspective, everyone belongs to God, not just the religious but also the sinners. The moment we start to compare with human standards, we start to argue who is the first and who is the last. However as soon as we see things from God's perspective, things can be seen totally differently.
Exodus 16 tells us when Israel people were complaining with hunger, God has given the manna to eat, but not allowing accumulation of the manna, or accumulation of the capital, but only daily collection so that they had to rely on God everyday, instead of relying on their own wealth or power. Israel people had to learn to trust God only for 40 years of wilderness journey. From God's perspective, becoming the first nor the last is not important for God will provide no matter how fast or late we are.
Psalm 105 also recollecting what God has done during the exodus in the wilderness and encourage to "Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually."(v.4) What we often misunderstand and making a wrong judgement is when we argue among ourselves who is stronger and who have more capital, instead of seeking God's presence continually.
Paul wore to Philippians to live life "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." (v.15) Instead of judging others with our own religious laws or human standards for who's better or who's righteous. Simply what God wants us is to live faithfully whether we are suffering or we are successful. We belong to God.

Q. 1. Is God really not interested in whether we succeed in this world or not? Why does our church still teach the prosperity theology?
2. What helps you when you think that we already belong to the Lord?



Next week: Pentecost 18A, 2026 August 27
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Worship Services Today

Wangaratta 9.30am
Rev. Hoon You

Eldorado 2.00pm
Rev. Hoon You

Wangaratta 5pm
Wendie Wilkie

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

Church Council News

The meeting started with devotions by Helen James on the Lords Prayer.

- Rev. Denise Naish and Heather Edwards representing NE Presbytery Pastoral Care Committee, attending the meeting as part of Rev. Hoon You's 4 year review. Both Heather and Denise already held a separate interview with Rev. Hoon. Discussions with Church Council were open and frank.
- Rev. Denise and Heather Edwards will be attending the 9.30am Service on 27th September and willto talk to some congregation members.
- Treasurer's report was accepted and passed.
- Rev. Hoon gave his report in which he asked for approval for Jonathan Beel, son of Sheryl and Gary and sister of Samantha, to be baptised on 11 October 2026. Approval was given.
- Rev. Hoon will take leave from 29th September to 6th October.
- All other reports were received and accepted.

Bill Gerritsen - Chairman

Other News

Walking the Bible continues this Wednesday with session 4, Poetry and Prophets in Old Testament. Session 3 story resources are https://www.icloud.com/iclouddrive/096LEAsSO1kKciDWTuHYjUvLw#WB_Study_Resource_3

Friends of Lacluta's AGM - Tuesday 22nd September at 5.30pm Uniting Church meeting room. The Wangaratta Uniting Church supports FOL's work in many ways

Please use the small booklet "Try praying" and if you have any feedback or a story to share, email Hoon hoonyou@gmail.com

Wangaratta Friends of La Cluta Open Gardens fundraiser will be held on Sunday 18th October. Three beautiful gardens will be open for details see flyer on the table in the foyer

Wangaratta Cluster Calendar

Monday 21 September
SALT - Rowan Street - 6pm

Saturday 26 September
Church Knitting Group - 9am

Wednesday 7 October
Singing Group at Illoura - 10.30am

Wednesday 7 October
PALS - 2pm



Rosters for Sunday Worship

Wangaratta 9.30am	20 September	27 September	4 October
Worship Leader	Rev. Hoon You	Rev. Hoon You	Colin Thomson HC
Musician	J & H van Riet	H Miles	R McLay
Vestery	E Dinning	R Steele	H James
Welcome & Offering	D & K Fleet	S Bishop	A Twitt
Bible Reader	S don Leonard	R York	H Twitt *
Morning Tea	M Stephens & S Carter	M Clayden & J Ambrosio	P Ritchie & J Croucher
5pm	Wendie Wilkie	Rev. Hoon You	Glen Miles
Eldorado 10am	Rev. Hoon You HC - 2pm	*No Service*	Lesley Johnson
Greta/Mohyu 10am	*No Service*	F Smith & R Maxwell	*No Service*

**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!