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 23A, 2026 Nov 1 (Reformation Day - 31 Oct)

Theme: "Among you is the living God."

Joshua 3:7-17 "By this you shall know that among you is the living God."(v.10)

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 "Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love."(v.8)

1 Thel. 2:9-13 "when you received the word of God…you accepted it as God's word.(v.13)

Matthew 23:1-12 "do whatever they teach…but do not do as they do."(v.3)

Matthew's gospel continues show Jesus teaching Pharisees and Scribes which is part of higher power group within Pharisees who values the authority of the Scripture and Moses' laws. Jesus directly points out, "do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach."(23:3) fro verse 4, Jesus details what they are doing and valuing in their religious practices which is showing off and boasting their reputation as religious leaders. Instead, Jesus tells that we are all brothers and sisters,(v.8) in equal worth before God. However we, as a human being, often values much highly our position and reputation within the community, wanting to be honoured, respected and become other's teacher (rabbi, v.8) If we realise we are standing before God(Coram Deo) this worldly authority and superiority instantly becomes nothing in comparison and become easy to acknowledge we are all brothers and sisters.

When Joshua taking over the leadership from Moses, Joshua begins to exaltation to the Lord (3:7) and said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God. By this you shall know that among you is the living God" (v.9-10) However, if we forget the presence of God and forget to put intentional energy and effort to be closer to God, we also can be a human religious leaders who prefer to boast among people, not standing before God's presence and forget who God is, our Living God.

Psalm 107 is a strong reminder for us about what God had done. "O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so."(v.1-2) then follows list of what God has done to the Israelites who were redeemed by God from Egypt. The problem is sometimes, we forget all God has done and instead of drawing near to the words of the Lord, we follow our own wisdom that comes from our own experiences or intellect.

Paul wanted Christians in Thessalonica also remember what they received, the gospel of God and pleases that they lead a life worthy of God as God called us. Paul also give thanks to God for the early christians received the word of God and accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is God's word which is also at work in us believers.

Is our God a living God? How can we be so sure our God is not just a religious system, but a living God among us?



Artwork by Cerezo Barredo, permission granted for the use of worship
(irmãos in portuguese means brothers)

Next week: Pentecost 24A, 2026 Nov 8
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Worship Services Today

Wangaratta 9.30am
Rev. Hoon You HC

Wangaratta 5pm
Glen Miles

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

We give thanks to God for Helen Haines MP' condition is stable now. Many thanks to those who joined in prayer and let us continue to pray for her fast recovery and for her family.

Eldorado worship dates in November have been changed as follows:
Worship will be Sunday 8th Nov at 10am by Lesley Johnson instead of 1 Nov; and
Sunday 22nd Nov at 2pm by Rev Hoon You, instead of 15th Nov

Wangaratta Ministers gathering will be on 5th November at 8am at the Uniting Church.

Synod of VisTas will gather online on Sat 7th Nov to elect Assembly Rep. by zoom 11am-12:30pm

Annual Meeting of Loaves and Fishes
Thursday 12th November at 1pm at the Wesleyan Church. All welcome.

Rosters for November, December and January have been emailed to volunteers. Some printed copies are available on the table (in the vestry this weekend). Please advise of any swaps or changes to Gigi or Christina.

With Love to the World should be here next week. If you do not already receive a copy and would like to, please contact Christina in the office. Cost is $7 each or $28 for the year (4 x issues per year).

Wangaratta Cluster Calendar

Wednesday 4 November
Singing Group at Illoura - 10.30am

Wednesday 4 November
PALS - 2pm

Saturday 7 November
Wangaratta Ministers meeting 8am

Wednesday 11 November
Rangeview Service - 11am

Monday 16 November
SALT - KVLC - 6pm

Tuesday 17 November
Pastoral Care Meeting - 4pm

Tuesday 17 November
Church Council Meeting - 5.30pm

Wednesday 18 November
St Johns Service - 10am

Thursday 19 November
Illoura Service - 10.30am

Rosters for Sunday Worship

Wangaratta 9.30am	1 November	8 November	15 November
Worship Leader	Rev Hoon You HC	F Smith & R Maxwell	Rev. Hoon You
Musician	R McLay	H Miles	L Johnson
Vestry	G Blanch	R Maxwell	H James
Welcome & Offering	E Lovett & W Toppin	E Lovett	R & D Chapman
Bible Reader	F Smith *	J Kerr	Ken Craig
Morning Tea	D & K Fleet	L & K Craig	J & G Kerr
5pm	Glen Miles	H McKean	W Wilkie HC
Eldorado 10am	*No Service*	Lesley Johnson HC	*No Service*
Greta/Mohyu 10am	*No Service*	Rev. Hoon You HC	*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!