# 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 20A, 2026 Oct 11**

Theme: "The Lord is near."

*Exodus 32:1-14* "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us;"(v.1)

*Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23* "They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,"(v.21)

*Philippians 4:1-9* "The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything,"(v.5-6)

*Matthew 22:1-14*"'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy."(v.8)

Today's readings all talk about that we do not realise God's presence or turn a deaf ear to him, ending with worries and fear of this world without experiencing God's presence around us.

Let's follow lectionary readings from the Old Testament reading.

In Exodus, the people of Israel demanding to Aron to make gods for them when Moses was on the Mt Sinai, receiving commandments. It took longer than their expectation, but while they don't see their leader Moses, the people started to grow doubt and worried so asked the messenger Aron to build a visible assurance to rely on. Of course what Aron built wasn't the image of God itself, but merely a footstool of gods according to Egyptian culture, but none the less, they didn't see God's presence and made an object that replaced God, and worshipped in festival. At the end, Moses pleaded on behalf of the people to change God's mind to cancel the disaster, but as we know Israel people complained to Moses and Aron time after time whenever they are facing troubles, forgetting God is still with them and guiding them.

Psalm 106 encourages that we should not forget God, our saviour who has done great things in Egypt. God's steadfast love endures forever (v.1) and we should be happy to observe justice and do righteousness at all times (v.3) Only when we remember what God has done and is still with us, we can observe justice and do righteousness.

Philippians 4 also mentions, "The Lord is near" and we should not worry nor anxious.(v.6) This was Paul's message to Philippians when he was in the prison, far away, asking the Christians in Philippi to stand firm in the Lord and be joyful instead of dividing. Paul asks in verse 2, "I urge Euodia and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord." Leading to the most famous verse 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Once again this is only possible when we recognise God is near us and with us.

Matthew's story tells us a parable with more urgent warning of 'throw into the outer darkness to weeping and gnashing of teeth."(v.13) if we don't recognise and respond correctly.

It was the wedding banquet when the invited didn't consider it valuable or serious, ended up declining the invitation. Even some f the messengers were mistreated and even killed. (v.6) Their responses were total disrespect and enraged the king saying, "...those invited were not worthy...go and invite everyone."(v.9) The problem was, even they were gathered from the street in short notice, the king still expected a recognition or a respect of wearing a wedding robe. We may think this is a too much expectation, but if it is my King, my Lord, would's it be the least attitude for us to have?



Questions:

1. What would you wear if you are invited a royal banquet?
2. Is God really near you or you feel the distance most of time? How can we reduce the distance?

Next week: Pentecost 21A, 2026 Oct 18
Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99, 1
Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

## Worship Services Today

**Wangaratta** 9.30am
Rev. Hoon You

**Greta/Moyhu** 10.00am
John van Riet

**Wangaratta** 5pm
Heather McKean (RSL Dinner)

## 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

**As part of the Wangaratta Parish Consultation 2026,** A short survey has been prepared so all congregational members can participate in the process. The survey (copies on the table in the foyer) should be completed by all members and returned to the church office by Sunday 18th October. All responses will help guide the reflection and discernment of the Presbytery Pastoral relations committee, Denise and Heather.

**North East Vic Presbytery All Age Family Camp** will be held Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th October at the King River Camp in Cheshunt. Everyone is welcome to come along and be together in a beautiful location for faith sharing and community gathering.
Contact Tanya Walker 0429 394 045
tanya.walker@victas.uca.org.au

**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

**Walking the Bible - Final session** of the Walking the Bible study will be on Wednesday 14th of Oct. 3pm in the meeting room.
Session 5 study resources can be found here: https://www.icloud.com/iclouddrive/0a9Ib7eMPgT0C_oBUW4PV26hA#WB_Study_Resource_5

**The Sweet Sorrows - Stories, Songs...**
Tuesday, 20 October at 7pm. From Wexford, Ireland to Glenrowan Australia. You are invited to share the Craic' at 12 Glenrowan/Moyhu Road, Glenrowan. Donation $20. Bring a plate of supper to share. Contact : Di Duursma 0419 530 455

**The Worship Planning Group** will meet at approx. 11.30 am on Sunday 18TH October (after morning tea & consultation conversations) in the Meeting Room. The purpose is to review worship over the last 3 months, to provide resources & support to our worship leaders, and to plan the worship leadership rosters for November, December & January.

## Wangaratta Cluster Calendar

**Monday 12 October**
Mainly Music

**Tuesday 13th October**
The Church Council Executive Meeting - 3pm

**Tuesday 13 October**
Property & Finance Meeting

**Wednesday 14 October**
Rangeview Service HC - 11am

**Sunday 18 October**
Worship Planning Group - 11.30am

**Sunday 18 October**
SALT Picnic - 12.30pm

**Tuesday 20 October**
Pastoral Care Meeting - 4pm

**Tuesday 20 October**
Church Council Meeting - 5.30pm

**Wednesday 21 October**
Social Justice Committee Meeting - 4pm

## Rosters for Sunday Worship

| Wangaratta 9.30am | 11 October | 18 October | 25 October |
|---|---|---|---|
| Worship Leader | Rev. Hoon You | Rev. Hoon You | Rev. Hoon You |
| Musician | L Johnson | H Miles | H Miles |
| Vestery | A Turnbull | E Dinning | E Dinning |
| Welcome & Offering | A & H Twitt | B Sheppard & J Poole | P Ritchie & E Yelland |
| Bible Reader | A Turnbull | C Thomson | T Wickham |
| Morning Tea | H Twitt & H Wickham | J Johnson & ??? | R & D Chapman |
| | | | |
| **5pm** | H McKean (RSL Dinner) | W Wilkie HC | J Emmett |
| **Eldorado 10am** | *No Service* | Rev. Hoon You | No Service |
| **Greta/Mohyu 10am** | John van Riet | *No Service* | Greta/Moyhu with C Thomson |

**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!