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 21A, 2026 Oct 18

Theme: "Things that are God's"

Exodus 33:12-23 "Consider, too, that this nation is your people."(v.13)

Psalm 99 "Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!"(v.3)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 "how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,"(v.9)

Matthew 22:15-22 "Give... to God the things that are God's."(v.21)

Jesus continues to teach (or argue) with Pharisees and the leaders of Israel since he entered Jerusalem in ch. 21. Because of his action of cleansing the temple in ch.21, Jesus directly upset religious leaders in Jerusalem and they are plotting to entrap Jesus.(v.15) One of the critical issues for Israel people was their relationship with the Roman Empire. Though the Empire basically allowed local religion and governing body of Sanhedrin general population in Jerusalem didn't have a good attitude toward the occupying army from the Empire. One of the reason why they hated tax collectors in Jesus' days. Such a sensitive issue of tax are clearly a trick question that will drive Jesus away from the public support or upset Roman Empire.

Here comes the wise answer from Jesus, "Show me the coin used for the tax." And answered, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

We may have many identities or titles we hold, such as citizens of a nation, member of a family, resident of a local city. However among those identities, we should not forget that "We are people of God (Somos Povo de Deus)" as in the illustration.

We belong to God and this God is with us. However this simple truth are often hidden in plain sight and much ignored. As a result many people turned to the idols or rely on stone tablets instead of believing the presence of God among us or devaluing ourselves according to secular Empire's value system, as a colonised subject to the Empire, instead of praising great name of God.(Psalm 99:3)

Moses also requested to the Lord in Exodus 33, "Please show me your glory,"(v.18) right after the Lord said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." In verse 14. Despite of Moses' unfaithfulness and demands, the Lord still promises to show Moses saying, "I will make all my goodness pass before you...you shall see my back."(v.23)

1 Thessalonians 1 tells us how Christians in Thessalonica turned to God from idols, serving a living and true God.(v.9) We also remember our identity as the people of God (Povo de Deus) and we belong to God.



Question: What makes us think we are not important people of God?

Next week: Pentecost 22A, 2026 Oct 25
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Worship Services Today

Wangaratta 9.30am
Rev. Hoon You

Eldorado 2.00pm
Rev. Hoon You

Wangaratta 5pm
Wendie Wilkie HC

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. If you haven't already, please complete a survey and give to directly to Denise and Heather at 9.30am worship.

Wangaratta Friends of La Cluta Open Gardens fundraiser is on today. Three beautiful gardens are open to visit. For details see the flyer on the table in the foyer.

The Worship Planning Group will meet at approx. 11.30am today (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.

Walking the Bible.
Session 6 Bible Study resource link:
https://www.icloud.com/iclouddrive/059kKV1ctPZN9ekcoHclPs3WA#WB_Study_Resource_6

North East Vic Presbytery All Age Family Camp will be held on 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 Cluster Calendar

Monday 19 October
Mainly Music

Tuesday 20 October
Pastoral Care Meeting - 4pm

Tuesday 20 October
Church Council Meeting - 5.30pm

Wednesday 21 October
Social Justice Committee Meeting - 4pm

Wednesday 21 October
St Johns Worship - 11am



Rosters for Sunday Worship

Wangaratta 9.30am	18 October	25 October	1 November
Worship Leader	Rev. Hoon You	Rev. Hoon You	TBC
Musician	H Miles	H Miles	TBC
Vestery	E Dinning	E Dinning	TBC
Welcome & Offering	B Sheppard & J Poole	P Ritchie & E Yelland	TBC
Bible Reader	C Thomson	T Wickham	TBC
Morning Tea	J Johnson & ???	R & D Chapman	TBC
5pm	W Wilkie HC	J Emmett	TBC
Eldorado 10am	Rev. Hoon You	No Service	TBC
Greta/Mohyu 10am	*No Service*	Greta/Moyhu with C Thomson	TBC

**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!