

Vision Statement:

We see a Jesus-orientated church having a passion for the Gospel and compassion for the world expressed through dynamic worship, love in action, the empowering of the servant leaders and the growing of disciples.

Reverend Jonathan Button can be contacted at [j.button@bigpond.com](mailto:j.button@bigpond.com).

I am available in the event of emergencies at any time, but other than that would appreciate not receiving calls on Wednesdays, where possible, as this is my day off.

**Church Telephone Number: 8251 4298**

This Week's Roster

22nd March, 2020

Preacher: **Jonathan**  
Leader (am): **Kathryn**  
Leader (pm): \*\*\*\*\*  
Welcome: \*\*\*\*\*  
Duty Elder: **Andrew**  
Reader: **Mariska**  
Musician: **Brunetta**  
Stewards: \*\*\*\*\*  
Manager: **Jim**  
Crèche: \*\*\*\*\*  
Kidz Connect: \*\*\*\*\*  
Morning Tea: \*\*\*\*\*  
Audio: **Jim**  
Visual: **Alan**  
Cleaning: \*\*\*\*\*

Next Week's Roster

29th March, 2020

Preacher: **Jonathan**  
Leader (am): **Ceri**  
Leader (pm): \*\*\*\*\*  
Welcome: \*\*\*\*\*  
Duty Elder: **Andrew**  
Reader: **David M.**  
Musician: **Pat**  
Stewards: \*\*\*\*\*  
Manager: **Jim**  
Crèche: \*\*\*\*\*  
Kidz Connect: \*\*\*\*\*  
Morning Tea: \*\*\*\*\*  
Audio: **Jim**  
Visual: **Alan**  
Cleaning: \*\*\*\*\*

Have you considered E-giving?

Envelopes with an "E" on the front, prayer requests or thanks can be placed in the offering bags on a Sunday morning.

Our bank details are as follows:

BSB 805-007 Account Number: 00702729 Credit Union SA

Please speak to Chris Holroyd if you require more information.

# Golden Grove Gazette

Keeping in touch with the G.G.U.C. family

[www.goldengroveuniting.org.au](http://www.goldengroveuniting.org.au)

Sunday, 22nd March, 2020

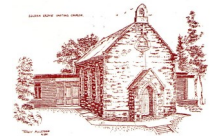
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preacher: **Jonathan**

Theme: **The Blind Can See**

Gospel Reading: **John 9: 1-12**

Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church

Reality Bites

The COVID-19 crisis is now impinging more and more on our daily lives, and life is becoming very unfamiliar to us. In a very free society, strange new "fences" are being put around us, and we are being forced to stay, or go, where and when we would not choose to. All of this, with fears of the unknown, is making us feel stresses we have not felt before, and anxiety levels grow.

Firstly, stress and anxiety are natural, normal and healthy responses; they make us pay attention to real problems, and respond in a timely way to deal with them. So, at a time like the moment, we should feel stress and anxiety – something would be wrong if we didn't!

Above all the love of God in Christ is holding and keeping us in whatever our situation. He will never let us go, and He promises to carry us through it (Ro 8:31-38). This means that, if we have faith in Christ, *we can relax* (have peace) *in the middle of our stress and anxiety* (Jn 16:33). This, the most powerful resource in the world will carry us through all things, and enable us to think and act clearly and effectively, *with hope* - I know, being a chronic anxious depressive!

It is the love of God in Christ that also empowers us to love one another. One of our Men's Breakfasters this week said that among the most needful things at the moment is that *we look after one another!* This is particularly powerful when we see so much of "everyone for him/herself".

*Peace* (in the midst of stress!) *in Christ, Jonathan.*

### **A Message from the Elders**

Today is known as "Laetare Sunday" in the Western liturgical calendar and marks the fourth Sunday in Lent, which occurs just past the halfway point between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

The Latin word "laetare" means "rejoice" and this Sunday is a day of celebration in the season of Lent. It's a day with a relaxed theme and signifies a break in the mostly solemn tone of the Lenten season.

Historically this Sunday was also known as "the Sunday of the Five Loaves", taken from the event at which Jesus fed five thousand men (not even counting the women and children) with just five loaves of bread and two fish.

Read each of the eyewitness accounts in Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:1-15.

In your personal prayers this week, thank God for sending Jesus to bring hope into our world and praise Him for His greatness, His mercy and never-ending love for us. God can accomplish what our human minds deem impossible.

Our church elders are: Jonathan, Andrew, Cath, Ray and Richardt.

### **Today's Hymns and Songs**

These are the days of Elijah (Songs of Fellowship 1047)

How shall I sing that majesty (Getty Hymn Book)

How great is our God (Praise and Worship 1020)

All glory be to Christ (Dustin Kensrue)

Let the weak say 'I am strong' (Praise and Worship 888)

There is a Redeemer (Praise and Worship 723)

### **A Timely and Relevant Talk from an Expert on the Immune System**

In response to popular demand, Ralph Walcott will be repeating his talk, that he gave at the last Women's Fellowship meeting, at the very next meeting of the same group. This will take place on Thursday, 2nd April, at 1.00 pm. All members of the congregation are invited to attend a session that promises to increase our understanding of a complex system and to help allay some of our current fears.

### **Dates for our Autumnal Diaries**

- **Church Council: Tuesday, 24th March: 7.00 pm**
- **Commissioning of Elders & Councillors: Sunday, 29th March**
- **Women's Fellowship: Thursday, 2nd April: 1.00 pm**
- **Working Bee: Saturday, 4th April: 8.00 am**
- **Clocks back an Hour before Bedtime on Saturday Night, 4th April**
- **Palm Sunday: Sunday, 5th April: 10.00 am**
- **Day of Prayer: Thursday, 9th April: 8.00 am to 6.00 pm**
- **Maundy Thursday: Thursday, 9th April: 7.30 pm**
- **Good Friday: Friday, 10th April: 9.00 am**
- **Easter Day Dawn Service: Sunday, 12th April: 7.00 am**
- **Easter Day Morning Service: Sunday, 12th April: 10.00 am**
- **Easter Day Evening Service: There will not be one.**
- **Jonathan's Annual Leave: 14th April to 21st April**

### **Alterations to our Church Programme**

As a result of the COVID-19 virus the following programmes have been suspended until further notice:

Bible Study Groups  
Estia Nursing Home  
Evening Worship

The Dinner Table  
KidzConnect & Crèche  
Mission & Wider Work Lunch

The following two programmes with finish next week. They are KYB and *mainly music*.

The Morning Service will continue in the Church Hall instead of the Sanctuary, within the limits prescribed by Government for indoor gatherings. The seating arrangement will be a matter of spreading out in accordance with the current guidelines of social distancing. There will be no morning tea afterwards.

Stewards will not collect the offering bags. Instead we shall place our envelopes in the retiring offering bowl. The gazettes will not be handed out, but will be left at the entrance to the hall for worshippers to collect. There will be no-one assigned to welcome us. However, there will be the regular elder on duty in attendance.

Handshaking has to be discontinued, and there will be no holding of hands during the benediction song.

The Congregation will be receiving a Ministerial letter next week outlining these changes in more detail.