

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.

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

5th April, 2020

Preacher: **Dominic Hopps**
Leader (am): **Jonathan**
Leader (pm): *****
Welcome: *****
Duty Elder: *****
Reader: **Barbara**
Musician: **Heather**
Stewards: *****
Manager: *****
Crèche: *****
Kidz Connect: *****
Morning Tea: *****
Audio: **Alan**
Visual: **Alan**
Cleaning: *****

Next Week's Roster

12th April, 2020

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

Sunday, 5th April, 2020

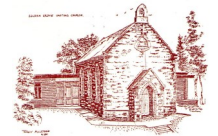
Palm Sunday

Preacher: **Dominic Hopps**

Theme: **Triumphal Entry**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 19: 28-40**

Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church

Lament

Biblical Scholar, NT Wright, has reminded us at this time that Christianity doesn't just give us "nice, neat answers" to all of life's catastrophes. A major theme in the Bible, particularly in the Psalms – the Bible's prayer book – is one of *lament*. That is, a crying out to God in our suffering that seems to remain unanswered. That's a hard place to be!

We don't get a "neat answer", but we do get a God who takes the world's lament on His own lips – "*My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?*" (Mt 27:46) It's not a matter of us in pain, and God quarantined from this, comfortable, at the far end of heaven. In His Son, Jesus Christ, God Himself enters into our illness, suffering and lament, and that of the world.

Why?... *because that's how much He loves us!* Ultimately God did this to heal us, and turn our sorrow into rejoicing, but only by Him entering into our suffering do we know what His love really is. In our lament we discover that this love is the one thing that truly satisfies us, now, and which lasts forever! (1Cor 13:13). The love of God the Father is what sustained Jesus Christ the Son through His unanswered suffering; it is that same love that will hold and keep us through ours.

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The way that we live out and experience this love of God is by *being with those who are suffering, and loving and helping them*. That includes our world that is in the grip of a pandemic! That's not easy in this time of social distancing! But it is possible, through the many wonderful ways that we can stay in personal contact via technology, by assisting people to find practical help, and foremostly by prayer.

Grace on Christ, Jonathan.

A Message from the Elders

Today is known as Palm Sunday and marks the start of Holy week, which is the final (and most important) week in Lent.

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus entering into Jerusalem, where He was welcomed and cheered on by the crowds as the "King who comes in the name of the Lord". Read the account in Luke 19:28-40.

During the penultimate week of Lent, we enter the Holy Triduum (a three day period) which represents the Passion, Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The three day period starts on the evening of Maundy Thursday, where we commemorate the events of the Last Supper (Read Luke 22:7-30) and also the events described in John 13:1-38, where Jesus washed His disciples' feet and gave them a new commandment to love each other (verse 34).

On Good Friday we remember the dramatic events following Jesus' betrayal and arrest. Read Matthew 26:47-68. We remember how that morning, our sinless Saviour was falsely accused, severely beaten, utterly humiliated and nailed to a cross beside two criminals at Calvary. Read Luke 23:1-43. We remember how He suffered for hours and, when it was accomplished, gave up His Spirit. Read Matthew 27:45-56.

That same Friday night, Jesus' body was removed from the cross, wrapped in linen cloth, laid down in a tomb and the entrance sealed with a heavy stone. This was done that night as the next day was the Sabbath (Holy Saturday). Read Mark 15:42-47 and John 19:31-42.

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Spend time this week reading the abovementioned texts from the Bible, so that you may fully grasp the great cost of your salvation. This is not a debt you can ever repay with good deeds, kind words or with an attempt at living a righteous life. It is a debt that was paid for you, willingly and lovingly, by Jesus Christ. He did this so that you may live a new life and be made right with God in order to have a face to face relationship with our Heavenly Father.

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

A Prayer for Connection

Dear God,

Being alone is hard. We were created for community, not confinement.

But we're grateful that no matter how alone we may feel, You never leave or forsake us. And, we're grateful for technology that helps us stay in touch with each other.

Today, please remind us that this time of social distancing and isolation will not last forever.

Give us the strength to endure this difficult season, and deepen our connection with You and Your people.

Empower us with an extra dose of Your love, peace, hope and joy, because we need it. Remind us of Your promises, and please heal our land.

In Jesus' Name, Amen. (from 'YouVersion')

Please Note

All church activities are currently in a state of flux. In order to keep well informed, please refer to Jonathan's pastoral letter and to our church website. You will be able to keep up, and join in, with the regular Sunday morning services, thanks to the miraculous wonders of technological wizardry, spearheaded by Alan Howard-Jones. Please do not forget that all the services are live streamed on our website and that the Gazette (no hard copy for the time being) is to found there as well.