

**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**

**25th October, 2020**

Preacher: **Jonathan**  
Leader (am): **Jonathan**  
Leader (pm): **Jonathan**  
Marshal (Church): **Neil**  
Marshal (Hall): **Chris H.**  
Reader: **Chris DeB.**  
Musician: **Pat**  
Stewards: **Council**  
Manager: **Council**  
Crèche: **Lucinda**  
Kidz Connect: **Tina**  
Morning Tea: **\*\*\*\*\***  
Audio Desk: **Rykhardt & Ruan**  
Camera Operator: **Ralph**  
Computer: **Ruan & James**  
Overflow Overseer: **Tim**  
Cleaning: **Council**

**Next Week's Roster**

**1st November, 2020**

Preacher: **Jonathan**  
Leader (am): **Kathryn**  
Leader (pm): **\*\*\*\*\***  
Marshal (Church): **Ray**  
Marshal (Hall): **Coral**  
Reader: **Barbara**  
Musician: **Heather**  
Stewards: **Council**  
Manager: **Council**  
Crèche: **Trevor**  
Kidz Connect: **Sandy**  
Morning Tea: **\*\*\*\*\***  
Audio Desk: **Ralph**  
Camera Operator: **Rykhardt**  
Computer: **James**  
Overflow Overseer: **Ruan**  
Cleaning: **Council**

**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, 25th October, 2020

Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: **Jonathan**

Theme: **Law and Love**

New Testament Reading: **Matthew 22: 34-40**

**Mission Statement: To draw people**

**to our Lord Jesus Christ**

**and nurture them through our church**



**Ravish God**

We are to "love God, with all of our heart and mind and soul and strength" (Mt 22:37). This means that we will give the best and most of our time, energies and affections to God our Father, to Jesus Christ His Son and to the Holy Spirit. This is the greatest commandment of God. Unless we do this we are law-breakers.

Yet *who of us do this?*....

The correct answer is *not one of us*. For all of our Christian faith and obedience, at one point or another, we all 'pull back' from this true love of God, and actually devote our time, energies and affections *to other things before God*. This is not that we don't love God. As Christian preacher and poet, John Donne, truly cried to God, "*yet dearly I love you*". The problem was that, as he added, "*but I am betroth'd unto your enemy*"!

We do not have true love and affection for God, because we have greater love and affection for other things, which come between us and God, and are therefore His enemies!

This doesn't mean that we are not saved or forgiven. These gifts are entirely ours by grace from Christ through simple faith and repentance.

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But this is only the beginning of God leading us to fulfil His commandments of love.

John Donne recognised that in order for this to change we need God's love to "batter our heart", its force to "break, blow, burn", in order to "o'erthrow" our false loves, and "divorce" and "untie" us from them. God does this because He loves us so powerfully; it is the action of His *jealous love* to win us over to true love for Him (Ex 34:14).

Only when God loves us in this way – "ravishes" us, as John Donne has it - will we love Him truly, fully – *ravish Him in response*.

As we take God's command to love Him seriously, and seek Him in prayer, we can trust Him to 'batter down' our false loves, liberate us from them, and 'fan' our love for Him into a 'flame'.

*Grace and peace, Jonathan*

**Batter my heart, three-person'd God**

**Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you**

As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;  
That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend  
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.  
I, like an usurp'd town to another due,  
Labour to admit you, but oh, to no end;  
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,  
But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.  
Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd fain,  
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;  
Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,  
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,  
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,  
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

*John Donne (1572-1631)*

*Dean of Saint Paul's (1621-1631)*

**SPRING HAS WELL AND TRULY SPRUNG**

- **Sunday Morning Worship: 25th October: 10.00 am**
- **Sunday Evening Café Church: 25th October: 6.00 pm**
- **Monday Morning KYB: 26th October: 10.00 am**
- **Friday Morning *mainly music*: 30th October: 9.30 am**
- **Sunday Morning Worship: 1st November: 10.00 am**
- **Monday Morning KYB: 2nd November: 10.00 am**
- **Women's Fellowship: Thursday, 5th November: 1.30 pm**
- **Friday Morning *mainly music*: Friday, 6th November: 9.30 am**
- **Working Bee: Saturday, 7th November: 8.00 am**
- **Pastoral Carers Meeting: Tuesday, 10th November: 7.00 pm (Church)**
- **Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, 24th November: 7.00 pm (Church)**

### Philippines Sponsorship

*During the disruptions of the past quarter, and particularly the absence of the physical Philippines jars, I was concerned that our “anonymous sponsors” may not be able to cover the needs of Febie and Jonel.*

*However, I should have had more faith: sufficient money was donated for both children!*

*Thank you again to our generous sponsors, those both known and unknown.*

*Incidentally, if you wish to compromise your identity a little, give me your e-mail address and I'll ask Luciano to include you in his mailing list ((fortnightly pictures of your donations at work).*

*(Gordon Cooksey)*

### Steptoe and His Son Have Not Retired

Yes, after a hiatus of several weeks, the famous pair (Ray and Neil) have returned to business. While they continue to roam the streets in pursuit of likely suspects, we are also able to help by surrendering our pre-loved metals. Much thanks to the workers and the contributors.



### A Message from the Elders

One of our fundamental beliefs as Christians is that we are made righteous by faith (Romans 1:16-17) and therefore it is not the sum of our good deeds, but rather faith in Christ that ensures our salvation.

Genesis 15:1-21 contains a good example of this kind of faith, where God spoke to Abram in a vision; telling an old man that he would be the father of many descendants. Abram believed God (verse 6) and God counted Abram righteous because of his faith.

The Holy Spirit gives different spiritual gifts to each believer, to empower us to serve God in different ways and to build up His church by sharing our gifts and helping others. There are nine Gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, of which the third is listed as the gift of Great Faith.

The Gift of Faith is different from the faith we have in God for salvation. The Gift of Faith is trusting God completely, surrendering our own logical reasoning and submitting to His will. Read Genesis 22: 1-19.

Abraham reasoned that the numerous descendants promised in the vision from God was through his only beloved son, Isaac. From a human perspective, it was logical and made sense. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham was confronted with something that did not make sense to him.

In the end Abraham chose to trust and have faith in God and God intervened, saving Isaac. God wanted Abraham to surrender his own will, by letting God be the Master of his destiny.

Trust God to provide for your needs and surrender to Him. Deuteronomy 31:8: "The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

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

A Message from Joy: To the church family: I very much appreciated your prayers, cards and phone calls of enquiry, both during my 7 weeks in hospital and since my return home. Although I still have a way to go, I am much improved now. Praise the Lord. Many heartfelt thanks and may God bless you all. Joy Brown

## Church Council Elections for 2021

The election for Elders and Councillors for the year 2021 will be held immediately following morning worship on Sunday, 6th December, 2020.

Members who are thinking of nominating are asked to prayerfully consider their nomination and also to speak with Jonathan, who will outline expectations and responsibilities.

The meeting will be solely for the purpose of electing the Church Council for 2021. The AGM will be held early in 2021, when reports will be received.

The sequence of events will be as follows:

**25/10/2020:** Nomination forms available. These forms will list the names of Elders and Councillors who are willing to accept re-nomination, as well as make provision for new nominations.

**08/ 11/2020:** Nominations close at 12 noon.

**15/ 11/2020:** Names of nominees published in the Golden Grove Gazette.

**06/ 12/2020:** Election of Elders and Church Councillors.

In conformity with Uniting Church regulations, only full members and members in-association may nominate, be nominated and vote.

Proxy voting is not permitted. A member must be present in order to vote.

A list of those eligible to vote will be issued before the election.



Please inform me of any inaccuracies immediately. If you are not sure of your voting status, please speak to me so that we can make sure.

The new Church Council will take office on 1st January, 2021.

Neil Larcombe (Chairperson)

## Women's Fellowship

After our meeting on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October, it was decided that Women's Fellowship would meet in the Church Hall to watch a movie on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00pm. Ladies, if you wish to eat when watching the movie, would you please bring your own nibbles? Ladies, please remember social distancing, and if there are any questions, please contact Eileen.



*"Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away." (Psalm 90: 10)*

It was a sobering experience to hear that Brad Ebert was considered to be an AFL veteran. To think that I was his father's class teacher when Craig was in year 8, and again in year 12! To think that I was also his English teacher for three years (years 8, 11 and 12)! And Craig is now a grandfather!

*"Even to your old age and grey hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." (Isaiah 46:4)*