

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.

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This Week's Roster

17th January, 2021

Preacher: **Ceri**
Leader (am): **Ceri**
Leader (pm): *****
Marshal (Church): **Chris H.**
Marshal (Hall): **Andrew**
Reader: **Chris H.**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Stewards: *****
Manager: *****
Crèche: **Vacation**
Kidz Connect: **Vacation**
Morning Tea: *****
Audio Desk: **Ruan**
Camera Operator: **Ralph**
Computer: **Lucinda**
Overflow Overseer: **Tim**
Cleaning: *****

Next Week's Roster

24th January, 2021

Preacher: **Ross**
Leader (am): **Ceri**
Leader (pm): **Ross**
Marshal (Church): **Cath**
Marshal (Hall): **Chris H.**
Reader: **Barrie**
Musician: **Pat**
Stewards: *****
Manager: *****
Crèche: **Vacation**
Kidz Connect: **Vacation**
Morning Tea: *****
Audio Desk: **Rykhardt & Ralph**
Camera Operator: **Ruan (Tim)**
Computer: **Ralph & James**
Overflow Overseer: **Lucinda**
Cleaning: *****

Golden Grove Gazette

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

www.goldengroveuniting.org.au

Sunday, 17th January, 2021

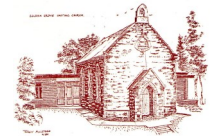
Second Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: **Ceri Jones**

Theme: **Talking to our God**

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 6: 4-14**

Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church

Yes, to us, but, more importantly, in us

Having just finished reading through the prophet Isaiah at the end of last week, I turned back to the New Testament to be re-acquainted with Paul's letters to the churches.

Like for many of you, Paul's letters have been constant companions. Always challenging, the letters continue to inspire and inform my thinking and preaching.

Yesterday, I began reading the letter to the Galatians. And, right away I came across some words that surprised and lifted me. In the first couple of chapters, Paul is reminding us that the only measure of God's acceptance of us is faith. Paul argues that religious observances and practices mean nothing when it comes to preaching the Gospel and inviting others to live by faith in Jesus, and, by extension, nobody should be required to immerse themselves in observances, practices, special celebrations and festivals. In fact, focussing on these things will likely draw us away from the core of God's intentions for us.

So, what were the surprising words?

It is just one word. I was expecting to read *was pleased to reveal his Son to me*. Instead, I read *was pleased to reveal his Son*

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But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I might preach him among the Gentiles...(1:15-16)

It is just one word. I was expecting to read *was pleased to reveal his Son **to** me*. Instead, I read *was pleased to reveal his Son **in** me*. That one tiny word profoundly changes my understanding of what God promises us as individuals and his church as his body. Yes, we can't begin this Christian life unless Jesus is first revealed to us as Lord and Saviour, but God's profound intention is that, when people see us and engage with us, they will see Jesus and engage with Him.

Simply put, the promises to reveal God's Son **in** us is the core ingredient of our witness of God's love and salvation in Christ to the world around us.

Grace and blessings, Reverend Ross

A Message from the Elders

How can we recognise the Holy Spirit in our lives if we don't know His ways? How can we say we love Jesus if we don't know Him personally? How can we tell others about our Father when we don't know who it is that we should be talking about?

Reading the Bible not only expands our knowledge of God and the Gospel message, but, more importantly, reading the Bible allows us to develop our personal relationship with God. It is through His Word that God speaks to our hearts, offering true guidance and answers to the things we have been praying about.

The church is the Body of Christ and a body that has many parts (Romans 12:5). Each part contributes to the whole, and only functions harmoniously when connected to the rest of the body. Similarly we grow best in our faith when doing so by connecting with others of the same Body. We will struggle to grow spiritually when we try to go it alone.

Studying the Bible with others is a good way in which to exchange understanding and to mature in the faith.

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OUR JANUARY DIARY DATES

- **Sunday Morning Worship: 17th January: 10.00 am**
- **First Estia Worship Service: Monday, 18th January: 2.00 pm**
- **Sunday Morning Worship: 24th January: 10.00 am**
- **Café Church: Sunday, 24th January: 6.00 pm**
- **First Men's Bible Study: Thursday, 28th January: 6.30 pm (in Hall)**
- **Sunday Morning Worship: 31st January: 10.00 am**

If you're not already part of a Bible Study group, consider joining one of the Bible study groups at our church:

Women's Bible Study (KYB) - Mondays at 10.00 am - Contact Joan Checkley or Chris Holroyd,
Women's Evening Bible Study - Thursdays at 7.00 pm - Contact Kathryn Button,
Men's Morning Bible Study - Tuesdays at 10.30 am - Contact Andrew MacTier,
Men's Evening Bible Study - Thursdays at 6.30 pm - Contact Jonathan Button or Rykhardt Wilkinson,
Salisbury East Bible Study - Wednesdays at 7.00 pm - Contact Ted Jones or Trevor Walker,
Golden Grove Bible Study - Every Second Wednesday at 7.00 pm - Contact David Mapp.

Our church elders are: Ross, Cath, Ceri, Ray and Rykhardt.

Philippines News

Many thanks to Jenni and Norman McArdle, who have agreed to be the new sponsors for Jacob Gabatilla; he and his parents will be very grateful to them.

Thank you also to the person who recently made a sizeable donation to the Philippines scheme; this will also be accepted gracefully by Luciano and his family to further their work in Davao City.

Gordon Cooksey

A Message from David Bickerton

David is collecting used plastic bottle tops from soft drink bottles, milk bottles and fruit juice bottles, to name some examples. These are able to be reused and melted down by a manufacturer of wheel chairs. If you are able to assist, please speak to David. Thank you very much.