

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

12th September, 2021

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Kathryn**
Leader (pm): **Jonathan**
Marshal (Church): **Tim**
Marshal (Hall): **Rykhardt**
Reader: **Kathryn**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Stewards: *********
Manager: *********
Kidz Connect: *********
Morning Tea: **Trevor, Sandy & Barrie**
Audio Desk: **Rykhardt & Ralph**
Camera Operator: **Ruan**
Computer Operator: **Lucinda & James**
Overflow Overseer: **John**
Cleaning: **Cleaner**

Next Week's Roster

19th September, 2021

Preacher: **James**
Leader (am): **TBA**
Leaders (pm): **Renée & James**
Marshal (Church): **Andrew**
Marshal (Hall): **Cath**
Reader: **Tina**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Stewards: *********
Manager: *********
Kidz Connect: *********
Morning Tea: **Bob, Faye & Owen**
Audio Desk: **Rykhardt**
Camera Operator: **Lucinda**
Computer Operator: **Ruan & Rykhardt**
Overflow Overseer: **Ralph**
Cleaning: *********



Prayer Chain

If you require prayers to be put on the Prayer Chain, can you please contact Ray Holroyd on his mobile only, at **0468 681 497**. Please do not leave messages on the land line until further notice.



Most Important: Could all members of the Prayer Chain, please remember, if they cannot get hold of the next person on the list, they need to make sure they keep passing on the message until someone answers? Thank you, Ray.

Golden Grove Gazette

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

www.goldengroveuniting.org.au

Sunday, 12th September, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: **Jonathan**

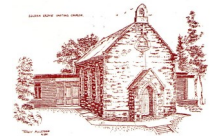
Theme: **The Works of Faith**

New Testament Reading: **James 2: 14-26**

Mission Statement: To draw people

to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church



Low Is the New High

"We're at a low ebb", I've heard said about many things because of the effects of the COVID pandemic - hospitality, tourism, retail, just to name a few... *and church life*. Many of us wonder when, or even if, things will return to the former 'highs' we once knew as 'normal'! There's no telling.

James says that, because of a faith in Jesus Christ, a person in a low situation actually has something to boast about. This is because they are raised up! (James 1:9) Those who know that they are low, in their circumstances (like a pandemic), or before God (that they are weak sinners), know that Jesus Christ lifts them up - i.e., saves them from their sin, and gives them a place in God's family and kingdom forever.

Yet, remarkably, James also says that, because of the same faith in Jesus Christ, a person in a high position can boast about being brought low! (James 1:10) This is because, if they are 'on a roll' in their circumstances, or seem to be spiritually and morally strong, they know that 'just around the corner', or 'just under the surface', they are as weak and sinful as the lowest person, and can 'come a cropper' at any minute.

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Therefore, Jesus Christ gives them just as much extreme grace as anybody else!

So... those who are down, are up; and those who think they are up, are actually down, too, which means that they are also up!

Grace upon grace, Jonathan.

A Message from the Elders

To be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power we must put on the whole Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-20). In total there are six pieces that every Christian needs to stand firm, and this week we put on the shoes of readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace (verse 15).

Good shoes provide protection when traversing rough terrain and a steady grip on slippery slopes, allowing the wearer to have confidence in their footing, always remaining upright and capable. Without good shoes walking great distances become problematic, as one would become distracted by the painful blisters forming on one's feet, instead of focussing on the beauty of the journey.

As Christians we need to govern our lives by a solid belief and grounding hope in the Gospel of Peace, always being ready and eager to share the Good News with whomever God brings across our path; sharing a Peace that the world cannot give (John 14:27), a reconciling Peace between God and mankind, made possible by what Jesus did for all of us (Romans 5:1-11).

By being confident in this Peace we can advance sure footed and undistracted, being able to walk great distances with God, knowing that whatever troubles we suffer now will be nowhere close to the glory that awaits us when Jesus returns (Romans 8:18-25). Let us walk this road together, encouraging each other and reminding one another of the hope and peace we have in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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

OUR SEPTEMBER DIARY DATES

- Sunday Morning Worship: 12th September: 10.00 am
- Café Church: Sunday, 12th September: 6.00 pm
- KYB: Monday, 13th September: 10.30 am to 11.30 am
- Thursday Morning Prayers: 16th September: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- *mainly music*: Friday, 17th September: 9.30 am to 11.30 am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 19th September: 10.00 am
- Café Youth: Sunday, 19th September: 6.30 pm
- KYB: Monday, 20th September: 10.30 am to 11.30 am
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 20th September: 2.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: 23rd September: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- End of Term Three: Friday, 24th September
- Sunday Morning Worship: 26th September: 10.00 am
- Café Church: Sunday, 26th September: 6.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: 30th September: 8.00 am to 9.00 am

OUR OCTOBER WARNINGS

- Commencement of Daylight Saving: Sunday, 3rd October
- Labour Day Public Holiday: Monday, 4th October
- Women's Fellowship: Thursday, 7th October
- Beginning of Term Three: Monday, 11th October
- Deadline for Submission of Samaritan's Purse Boxes: 19th October

A Prayer for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace, we hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan. Be living bread to those who are hungry each day. Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic. Be their true home to all who have been displaced. Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views. Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow. Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace. Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care. Strengthen our hearts to stretch out in solidarity with your suffering people and hold us all in your unfailing love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love In order to bring life in all its fullness. Amen.

(Ramani Leathard)