

From Our Pastor: Jonathan Button

Jonathan 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

4th February, 2024

Next Week's Roster

11th February, 2024

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Jonathan**
Leader (pm): *********
Welcome: **Lila**
Manager: **Neil**
Reader: **Chris DeB.**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Morning Tea: **Trevor & Sandy**
Audio Desk (am): **Ralph**
Audio Desk (pm): *********
Camera : **Tim**
Computer (am): **James**
Computer (pm): *********
AV Editing: **Jonathan**

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Kathryn**
Leader (pm): **Jonathan**
Welcome: **Lucinda**
Manager: **Ray**
Reader: **Trevor**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Morning Tea: **Ken & Owen**
Audio Desk (am): **Ruan**
Audio Desk (pm): **Lucinda**
Camera : **Rykhardt**
Computer (am): **Rykhardt**
Computer (pm): **Rykhardt**
AV Editing: **Rykhardt**

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.

Please speak to Chris Holroyd if you require more information.

Please note: Payments can now be made by

Electronic Funds Transfer on a Sunday.

Golden Grove Gazette

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

www.goldengroveuniting.org.au

Sunday, 4th February, 2024

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Preacher:: **Jonathan**

Theme: **Journey:to the Cross: The Dance**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 1: 1-4 and 9-13**



Mission Statement: We are a Gospel-driven, connected, generous church family, mission-minded and outwardly focussed.

Let's Dance

We start a sermon series today – “Journey to the Cross”, and it’s all about *dancing*. We may wonder at that, but Jesus died on the cross precisely in order to usher us into a dance that will last forever.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit rejoice in each other (Mark 1:11); and they rejoice over us (Zephaniah 3:17). The Hebrew word translated as “rejoice” means “to spin around under the influence of violent emotions” – i.e., to *dance*.

The fact that God rejoices “over us” carries the sense of the Father, Son and Spirit embracing us with their dance so that we join in it with them. So, it’s not surprising that the Bible speaks about us dancing with joy before God (Jeremiah 31:12-13).

A dance of joy is the highest expression of true loving relationship; where its inner goodness wells up and bursts out with a flourish. That’s what we ultimately desire from all relationships, because that’s what we are created to have in the ultimate relationship – i.e., with God.

Breaking our relationship with God cut us off from that; Jesus Christ’s death on the cross is what gives it back to us.

So, grab hold of it, and dance like no-one is watching.

Grace and cheers, Jonathan

What is God like?

I believe it is possible to know what God is like. The Bible declares that God is Spirit, that He is not limited to body. He is not limited to shape. He is not limited to force. He is not limited to boundaries or bonds. He is absolutely immeasurable. Thousands of people are trying to limit God to certain spheres, and relegate Him to certain categories that are the product of their own speculation. There is no limit to God. There is no limit to His wisdom. There is no limit to His power. There is no limit to His love. There is no limit to His mercy. Men change, fashions change, conditions and circumstances change, but God never changes.

Reverend Billy Graham (1918-2018)

Shepherd

I have been in that bleak valley

When the last bit of joyfulness

Was sucked out of my spirit

By the ripping winds of desolation

In those times of extended anguish

The memory of green pastures

With you shepherding my way

Brought me strength to go on.

Shepherd, now, others in need

As they stumble on their dark road.

Sister Joyce Rupp (Born 1943)

ALL OF OUR DATES WITH FEBRUARY

- KYB: Monday, 5th February: 10.00 am to 11.30 am
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 8th February: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Youth 3:16: Friday, 9th February: from 5.00 pm (Water Balloon Trivia)
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 11th February: 10.00 am
- Commissioning of Elders and Councillors: during the Above Service
- Café Church: Sunday, 11th February: 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- KYB: Monday, 12th February: 10.00 am to 11.30 am
- Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday, 13th February
- Church Council: Tuesday, 13th February: 7.00 pm
- Ash Wednesday, 14th February: First Day in Lent
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 15th February: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Youth 3:16: Friday, 16th February: 6.15 pm to 8.15 pm (Nachos and Movie)
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 18th February: 10.00 am
- KYB: Monday, 19th February: 10.00 am to 11.30 am
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 19th February: 2.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 22nd February: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Youth 3:16: Friday, 23rd February: 6.15 pm to 8.15 pm (Sports Day)
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 25th February: 10.00 am
- Café Church: Sunday, 25th February: 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- KYB: Monday, 26th February: 10.00 am to 11.30 am
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 29th February: 8.00 am to 9.00 am

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“When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.”

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

“The Cross of Christ is the Jacob’s ladder by which we ascend into the Highest Heaven.”

Thomas Traherne (1637-1674)

“The Way of the Cross is the Way of the Light.” (Mediaeval Proverb)

