

MAY 2020 | ISSUE 5

THE WALKERVILLE WRITE-UP

The official Covid-19 congregational news
edition of Walkerville Uniting Church



REFLECTION ON FAMILIES

"Families" can mean many things. They can be our own families, a Church family, or families that have invited us in and included us in their lives.

It doesn't necessarily mean a father, mother, brother or sister, but no matter what the relationship, we need to love and to value them.

Sometimes in the 'busyness' of our lives we get caught up in the frantic pace of work, play, friends etc., and lose sight of the simple, beautiful times that we can share as a family.

These times can be filled with the blessings of children's laughter and playing, as well as loving together.

I need sometimes to take stock and see if the face I show at home is the same face that I show the world - one of patience and tolerance.

I should never forget that the people I know so well and with whom I spend most of my time, deserve the same consideration that I feel I need.

Dear Lord, teach me to plan quiet times to be with my family, times to listen to each other and count our blessings as we experience your love and your peace.

Show me how to slow down and try not to crowd so much into my life as well as the lives of my family.

Posted May 12, 2020 in [Faith](#)



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

- **Sunday 17th May** service online
- **Sunday 17th May msg@5** online
- **Wednesday 20th May Prayer group 11.15am in Hall 1** (big hall) Meeting in person and via Zoom (contact David for info)
- **Thursday Playgroup online**
- **Friday 22nd May Craft group 10am in Hall 2** (carpeted hall)

If you subscribe to 'The Word for Today', please collect your copy from the foyer during business hours.

SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS

Have you experienced an act of kindness during this time of isolation and distancing? Maybe someone delivered your groceries for you, or you were able to help a neighbour out? We'd love to hear about it. Send any anecdotes to the office.



msg@5 AT HOME

The craft team have been busily getting activities together, to pack into bags for our msg@5 families to celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost is the time we celebrate the church birthday - we certainly have a gifted team who have generously shared their gifts with our wider church community. It will be a different celebration, but the Holy Spirit is with us all, even when we're apart.

msg@5 videos will include a science experiment with Chris, a celebration story with Merilee and worship songs with Kylie



OUR SPACED OUT PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 13th May - the first small church gathering post-covid! Also joined by members via zoom, truly a unique time together!



COFFEE, CRAFT & CHAT IN COMMUNITY

The Coffee, Craft and Chat in Community group will resume on Friday 22nd May at 10.00 in the Small Hall. Doors open from 9.30 am.

All welcome (numbers can't exceed 10!) Come to learn a craft, sit and chat, help at the ironing board... byo coffee or tea!

RSVP or more info call Helen on 0407 830 640

MOTHERS DAY VIDEO

If you missed the gorgeous

Mother's Day video Kylie

produced, here it is

<https://youtu.be/SEteGoAYo9U>



JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU

We come now to the third part of the 'High Priestly Prayer' of Jesus in John 17: 20-26.

Here Jesus switches from praying for his disciples to praying for, "those who will believe in me through their message..." (v20). What that means is that Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord of lords and very God of very God has prayed for you. This is where you are personally mentioned in the Bible. You and I are numbered among "those who believe" through the message preached by the apostles. So, this prayer might be worth taking seriously and its content may be worth our most earnest consideration; especially given the prospect that Jesus knows how to pray and that he gets his prayers positively answered. So then, what does he pray?

Firstly, he prays that that we will know and experience the oneness that exists between the Father and himself (v21-23). In other words that we would have a share in the substance of eternal life (see John 17: 3). He then prays a most astonishing thing saying, "Then the world will know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (v 23). This same prayer is underscored, a little later, when Jesus goes on to pray, "that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." (v26). Was Jesus really saying that we will be loved in the same manner and to the same degree that he is loved? That he himself would be in us sharing his knowledge of, and oneness with the Father to us? So it would seem!

This is why I repeatedly say that the most important relationship you have is not your relationship with God, but rather, the most important relationship you have is the relationship Jesus has with the Father. That is the intention of this High Priestly Prayer; that we should relate to the Father as true children; sharing in the inheritance of the elder brother Jesus; and enjoying fellowship with them in the Holy Spirit.

However, we tend to overlook and dismiss this prayer with flippant incredulity. Why? The answer is quite simple: it seems too good to be true. But if Jesus and the Bible are anything to go by, then just maybe we should take these words at face value and let them affect us and change us.

The main reason we ignore these words, however, is that we think this does not apply to us. Mostly when I draw attention to this passage most people say something like, "But I'm so unworthy and unlovable," That much is certain, but that's not the point upon which this truth pivots. This relationship is not controlled by us nor can we forge our way into it. We cannot earn it or make it happen; we can only receive it as a gift. We can only let God love whoever he decides to love, and in the manner in which he chooses to love them and, according to this prayer, he wants "those who will believe in me through their message" to experience this kind of love.

The Apostle Paul reiterates the truth of these words when he writes in his second epistle to the Thessalonians, "God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2: 13-14). Salvation is not just a matter of being forgiven of sin and diverted from the path of death—as wonderful and necessary as those things are—its ultimate goal is that we would share in the glory of Christ. And what is that glory? According to Jesus it is to be at one with God the Father in the way that Jesus the Son is at one with the Father (John 17: 22).

I already thought the Good News was good, but the goodness of the good in the Good News is much good-er than my good-est imagination could have invented.

that they may be

In faith

one even as we are
one

David Kowalick

STEP 1 REOPENING PLACES OF WORSHIP

On Friday 8th May the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, launched the Australian Governments three step plan to a COVID-safe country.

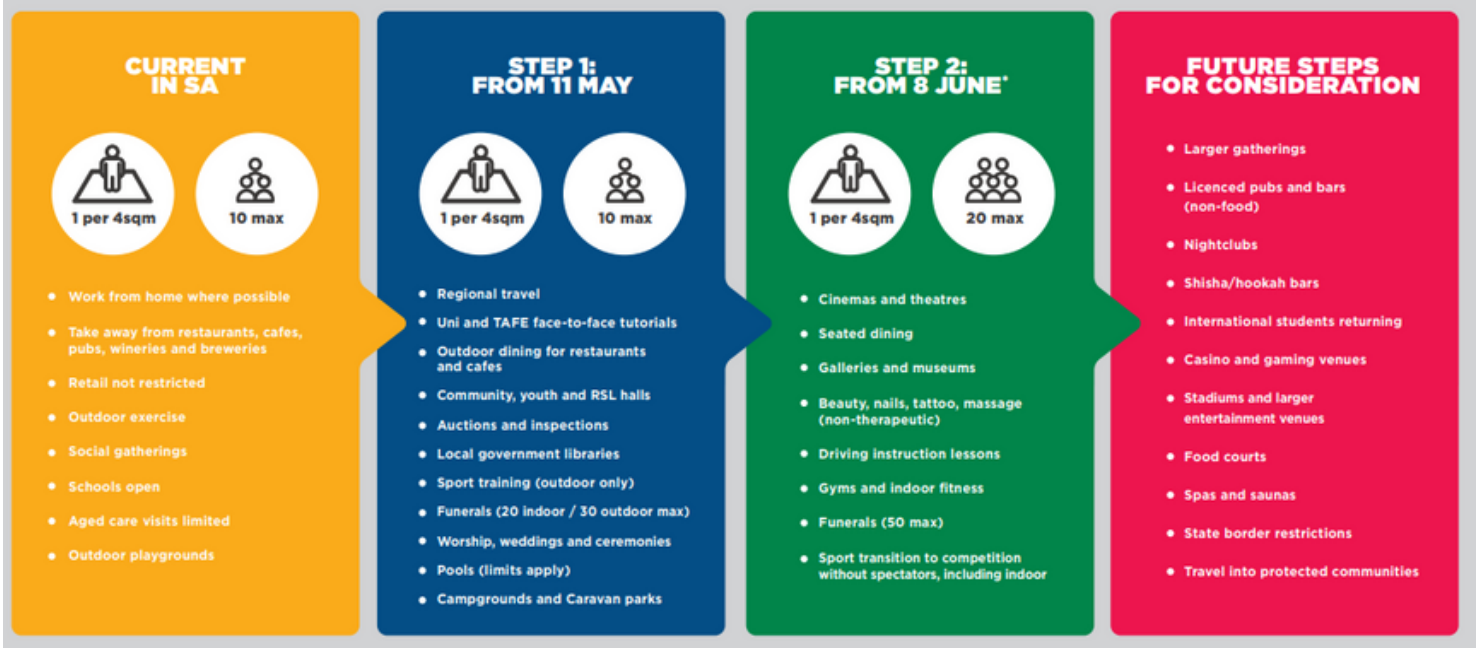
South Australia's Premier, Steven Marshall held a press conference on the same day to address the decisions of the National Cabinet and how they will impact South Australian communities. He then released the roadmap for lifting restrictions, Step 1 of which commenced 11 May 2020.

Step 1 of the recovery package tells us that public worship and other larger services are not permitted but allows for and encourages the ongoing recording and live streaming for these events.

What does this mean for UCA congregations and other ministries in SA?

- A maximum of 10 people are able to be onsite at any one time.
- Congregations must limit the number of people onsite to 1 person per 4 square metres.
- The observing and encouragement of physical distancing to maintain at least 1.5 metres between people is essential.
- Facilitating good hygiene, including offering hand sanitiser at entrances and exits
- Frequently clean and disinfect benches, fixtures and other heavy duty locations.
- Congregations are required to keep records of attendance, including names and contact details, with people signing in and out of the building. This will assist the church to trace and contact people if required.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROADMAP FOR EASING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



PRAYER POINTS

Published on the UC e-News.

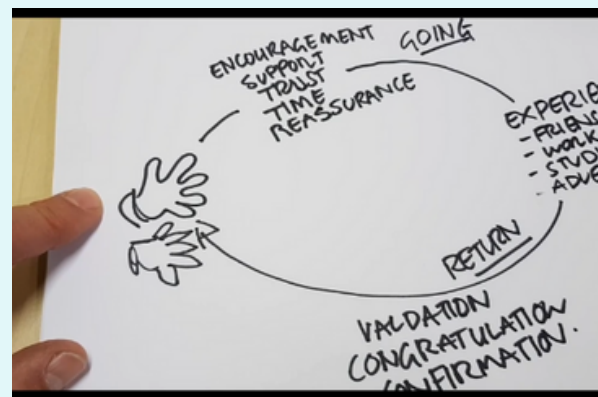
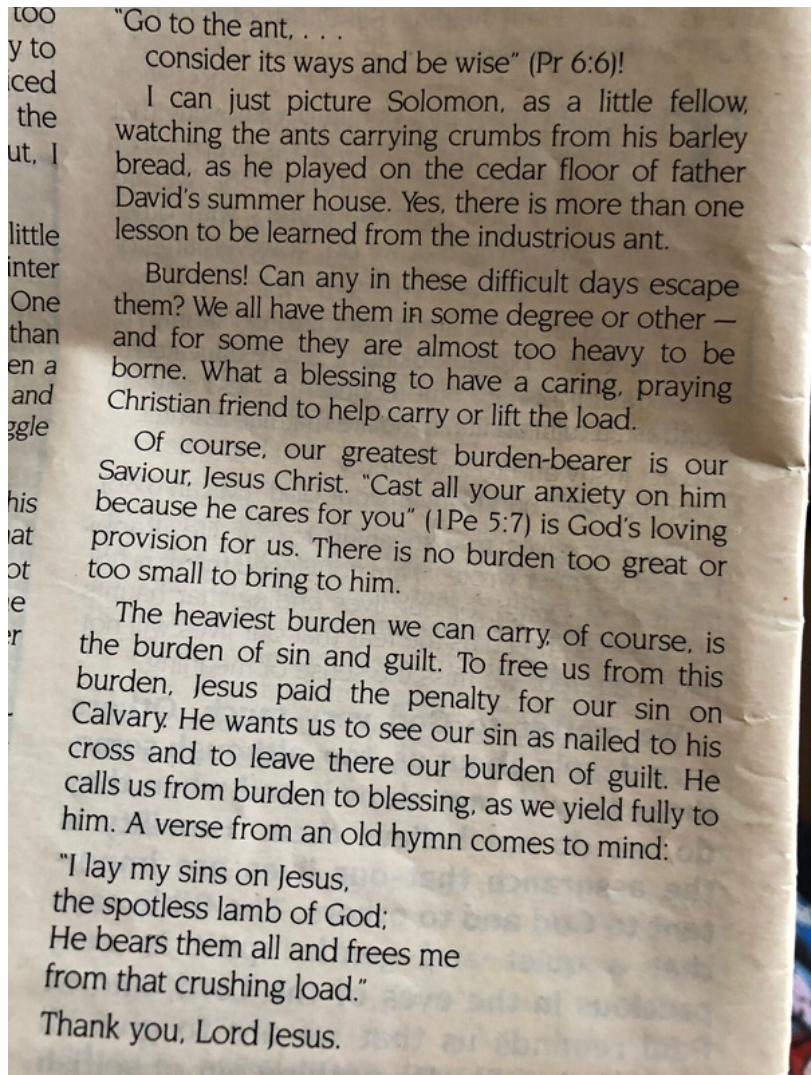
This week we pray for:

- All those taking action for the whole creation over the next few weeks in Climate Action initiatives and any other ways they are able.

- Health workers and other essential service providers who continue to provide vital care and support to the most vulnerable.
- Churches in the Northern Territory including congregations in our UCA Northern Synod who will be preparing for the possibility of face-to-face Sunday worship with physical distancing and hygiene measures from 17 May.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COUCH

'Go to the ant...' devotional contribution from Helen B (below).



ZOOM HUMOUR



Zoom Meeting



Who is loving David's illustrations in sermons?
This still is from last week's message. If you have missed any of the services, children's conversation, Godly play, playgroup or msg@5 recordings - they're all online!
Find them via [the website](#).

on a Zoom meeting for the first time...

<https://youtu.be/pFTJFULpbOU>



PLEASE SEND US YOUR STORIES AND PHOTOS FOR THE WRITE UP....



TO EVERY THING THERE IS A SEASON...

To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3: 1 (King James translation).

There are far more than the four weather seasons to our year... think flu season, hay fever season, football season, cricket season, not to mention the liturgical seasons of the church – Lent, Advent. The Kurna aboriginal people of the Adelaide Plains also had four variable weather seasons, based on the winds which can act as seasonal indicators. So, there is more to the cycle of our year than merely autumn, winter, spring and summer.

I think even the most practical ones amongst us secretly harbour a desire for deciduous trees in order to watch the changing seasons. Many years ago, we lived in Aldgate in the Adelaide Hills and were able to enjoy the stunning autumn leaves of the area made all the more brilliant by the crisp chill of the evenings. When we first moved into the Walkerville Council area almost 40 years ago our relatively small garden surprisingly contained two fiddlewood trees, a white cedar, a huge willow, two liquidambars and a glorious ginkgo tree. We no longer have a garden, but our two street trees are gleditsias which, during autumn, send their seedpods clattering down in the slightest breeze.

Winter for me as a child was netball and football. Following my father's example, I devotedly followed South Adelaide Football Club and got extremely dirty climbing over the back seats of the Adelaide Oval in jodhpurs (this was pre-denim). Winter is the season of home-made soups and casseroles and, for me, invariably a rainy birthday party.

I have seen it written that, during this COVID-19 time, many of us are enjoying the television shows such as *Grand Designs* and *Escape to the Country* ... where it is always springtime. Sunday afternoon drives were a tradition of my childhood, especially in spring – when my father would wash the car and mum would prepare the thermos and afternoon tea – and we would drive along the beach foreshore, head for the hills, or check out the houses and gardens of one of the leafy suburbs. Spring was the season of picking

almond blossom on my way home from school and helping my father plant favourite annuals – zinnias, primulas, cinerarias.

But summer of course was always a special time – Christmas, long school holidays and endless days of Sheffield Shield and Test cricket. The apricots, peaches and nectarines invariably ripened just when we wanted to head to Victor Harbor for a week of two of swimming, visiting Granite Island and exploring rockpools at Encounter Bay. An abiding memory is of gritty sand caught in the screw top jar of sunscreen made by the local pharmacist.

I think it must be very boring to live in a climate where you only experience two seasons of changing weather. But, in closing, I'd like to refer you to Shakespeare's opening soliloquy from Richard III, written in 1594, and yet often applied to evolving times throughout history...

The Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III, famously played by Laurence Olivier, declares:

*Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York;*

The 'winter of discontent' is often quoted in reference to political and social unrest (whatever the season of the year) and the 'glorious summer' refers to society embarking on a new era, in which people can get on with the pleasures of life. Of course, Shakespeare's play goes on to describe the malevolent political scheming of Richard III, but the quote is fixed in our cultural mind and often used to describe the end of bleak times and the sunshine of a new era.

And if Shakespeare isn't your style in describing the current transformation of our society, perhaps go back to the folk-singing trio of the 60s, Peter, Paul and Mary, who not only sang *To every thing there is a season* but also *The times they are a changin'*.

Sue Farrant

*To every
thing there
is a season,
and a time
for every
purpose
under heaven*