

Pilgrim News - Sunday 9th May 2021

At Pilgrim TODAY

8.00am	Rev Dr Greg Elsdon
9.30am	Rev Steve Thompson
11:00am	Rev Dr Greg Elsdon

The words of Jesus in the gospel of John 16:16-24 invite us to explore how sorrow and joy are often connected and of how pain can be the sign of immanent birth for the individual and the community and even for the age in which we live. "When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when the child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being in to the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

What a wonderful image for anyone celebrating Mother's Day – a woman in labour whose pain turns into joy. Mother's Day is the day in which we give thanks for those who bore labour pains so that we might live, and for some of us we are mindful of those who we gave birth to. But in the context of this reading it is not just a sweet romantic image of motherhood. Firstly as we know not all labour ends in a happy event – mother or child can be lost. And certainly in Jesus' time this was even more so than now.

Several of the Hebrew prophets, including Isaiah, use images of a woman in labour applied to the notion of the birth of a new age of salvation. And here in the gospel of John, Jesus is trying to explain to his disciples about his departure in a little while to die and then through his resurrection to herald in the age of salvation. And he is reassuring them that no matter how difficult it will be for him and for them for a little while that eventually there will be eternal joy. So the image of birth is not so much about the individual as it is about the immanent birthing of a new age of salvation for all of humanity. (*Rev Sue, published on Sandy's worship resources website*)

News of Pilgrims and Prayer Points

Uphold **Sylas Yarad** for the road ahead, he had a day in Sydney on Friday before catching plane home to USA on Saturday.

It was wonderful to welcome **Vikki Waller** back to Sunday services last week following her recent surgery.

We remember **Ian Gillespie** in our prayers. He has been in hospital this past week having tests.

Let's be conscious this week of Pilgrims and other friends who are no longer able to get around as they used to. Why not pick up the phone and contact someone that comes to mind.

Practical help

During the past year it has become obvious that it is useful for Pilgrim people to be able to access practical help from other Pilgrims. This might take many forms; shopping if someone can't get out, being a required responsible adult to be around the night following day surgery, **initial** help with legal/social work/age care and house/car issues, care for pets/dependents in an emergency, plus many more.

But how to make the connections is the dilemma. It has been suggested that we collect the names of people who are willing and able to offer help, and what type of help. We will need volunteers to maintain the list and people to be contacts when the need arises.

If you are interested in being on the list of helpers please let us know what type of help you can offer. There are details to be considered, including how we allocate tasks due to the widely dispersed nature of the congregation. However, the first step is to find out if Pilgrims are interested in joining this endeavour. Please contact Ruth Farrent or the Pilgrim office by email or letter if you wish to offer help.

History Month involving a Pilgrim

As part of History Month, the City of Adelaide is hosting an event at the Town Hall, with an incredible opportunity to hear about the journey to commission and install the new J W Walker & Sons Adelaide Town Hall Organ. This organ concert and history talk celebrates the 30 year anniversary since the magnificent organ was installed.

Peter Kelsall, Pilgrim's organist, will play the organ, with a program featuring works by J.S.Bach, Frank Chorale, George Thalben-Ball and Ralph Vaughan Williams. While Peter is playing, the audience will see inside the organ with a live recording of the inner mechanics of the instrument while enjoying the music being played.

The program will run for 75 minutes, of which 40 minutes will feature organ music in between the series of talks given by Andrew Baghurst about the history of the organ and its intricate and quality features. Andrew was the curator of the Adelaide Town Hall organ for a number of years and oversaw the installation of the instrument.

Hosted by the City of Adelaide, the event will be held on **Tuesday 11 May 2021 from 12.30pm to 1.45pm ACST at Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William St, Adelaide.**

This is a FREE event but you must register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/30th-anniversary-organ-concert-history-talk-tickets-143427119375>

Evensong – Saturday 8th May at 5.00pm

SA History Festival - May

Guide Tours

Brian P Ward and Brian J Ward are offering tours on Tuesdays at 11am and Thursdays at 2pm during the month of May. A couple of Pilgrims have already been a part of one of these. If you wish to learn more about the history of Pilgrim, please take advantage of one of these times during the next few weeks. You might be surprised by what you learn about the church you have been attending for a long period of time. Many thanks to both Brians for giving up their time each week to give people a chance to learn about the history of Pilgrim.

Archive Display

This year, Pilgrim Uniting Church will delve into its archives to display historic items from the beginning of its foundation in 1867 as Stow Memorial Congregational Church. Among the many valued items on display will be Rev TQ Stow's Bible.

Community Connections

Reconciliation breakfast: MORE THAN A WORD. RECONCILIATION TAKES ACTION

Reconciliation Week's theme for 2021, *More than a word. Reconciliation takes action.* Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians. At the heart of this journey are relationships between First peoples and the broader Australian community.

Thursday, May 27th, 6:30 am-9:00 am, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide, 5000

Individual tickets are priced at \$80. Register: <https://reconciliationsa.org.au>

UCA Historical Society

Meredith Lake will be guest of the Uniting Church Historical Society **at 2.00pm on the 16th May, St John's Anglican Church, Halifax Street, Adelaide.** Meredith will share her extensive research on the Bible in Australia. "Under the Skin - the Contested History of the Bible in Australia".

Please bring a Bible, perhaps one with an historic inscription, or a chequered past, or anything that makes it special for you. Afternoon tea provided. Gold coin donation.

Working bee at the Church

Many thanks to several of the ladies who have spent time this week cleaning up the shelves in the Hall Kitchen, it is much tidier and cleaner and now we have an idea of what is needed to replenish our stocks.

Appreciation to those who have gone through and polished the pews. They will continue to need some work, so if you have a spare hour or so every now and then, or even those who are on Open Church and would like to use a bit of elbow grease, please see Julie in the Office and she will direct you to the polish and some cloths.

Unfortunately there have been no offers of cleaning off the pigeon poo. There is no climbing involved. Please speak with Di Russell if you would like to help out.

Car Parking in Pilgrim Grounds

Recently you may have noticed that the Adelaide City Council has redone the garden beds around Pilgrim. Many hours were spent on removing the old garden beds, replenishing some of the 'tired' looking plants with new ones and mulching.

When parking in Pilgrim grounds, especially alongside the East Porch entrance, could you **please refrain from driving into the garden beds**. This damages the plants and watering system, and as we have had this work done free through the City Council we should look after it as much as possible.

Your consideration with parking in the area would be appreciated.

The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts: Winter Retreat

18-19 June, Nunyara: A time for creative community, writers, visual and performing artists. Be tucked away in the Adelaide Hills to practise your craft and to be inspired. Reconnect with your inner artist and be spiritually nurtured in this retreat. You have the option of going for the full overnight retreat, starting Friday evening, or the day only retreat from 9-5 on Saturday. **Sean Gilbert** and **Sharonne Price** will be leading the retreat. Speaker bios, program and registration information on cmla.org.au.

SUNDAY MAY 16TH – 11.15AM

A unique experience has been arranged for the Pilgrim church to join with members of the East Turkestan Uyghur community to learn about their struggles, faith and culture and to enjoy traditional Uyghur Cuisine.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE LUNCH.

3RD FLOOR u City Building, 43 Franklin St – starting 11.30am

1PM TANGRITAH RESTAURANT, Around the corner in Gouger St

\$30 per person – bookings essential. RSVP Libby Hogarth 0407 112 501 or libby@migrationoptions.com.au

Lectionary Readings & Rosters – 16th May 2021

Easter 7

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1
1 John 5: 9-13	John 17: 6-19
8.00am	Rev Sandy Boyce
9.30am	Rev Dr Greg Elsdon/Judith Raftery/Dr Meredith Lake
11.00am	Rev Sandy Boyce

8.00am		Ling and Rhonda Williams
9.30am	Welcomers:	Ruth & Reg Brown
	Coffee:	Diana & Greg Bassani & Judy Bunney
	AV Desk:	Rose Milton-Head
11.00am	Welcomers:	Jenny & Dean Drilling & Barbara Francis
	Bible Reader:	June Ward

Mid-Week Service

Thursday @ 12.15pm

— a time of worship, of gentle reflection, and caring community.