



*We believe we are called by God to be an inclusive
Christian community, committed to justice,
learning, service and care.*



BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH
More than a Sunday Church...

Week of 3rd of May 2024

Service on Sunday 5th of May 2024

Services: 9.15am & 11 am

Message: John Candy

Worship Leader: Alison and Trevor Sutcliff

Reader: Stan White

Live Streamed

Lectionary readings – Sunday 5th of May Easter 6

**** Acts 10: 44-48 ** Ps 98 ** 1 Jn 5: 1-6 ** Jn 15: 9-17 ****

Next Services

Sunday 12th May (Easter 7)

Service 9.15am & 11am

Message: Rev. John Candy

Worship Leader: Chris Bray

Reader: Brian Pickering

Reflection

Something to think about.

The prayer scene in the Gethsemane Garden ends with Jesus' arrest. Immediately he knows that the cup will not pass from him, and we know that he is to make the ultimate sacrifice and give his life to serve God and accept the outcome of his human journey. Although examples of praying through the hard times are prevalent in scripture, there are none as revealing and instructive as Jesus in the garden. Jesus is perfect and truly innocent. He did not cause this painful situation, and yet Jesus has access to God's perfect plan and its outcome.

Our own difficulties are never so simple. As part of fallen creation unable to live out God's call and live the life that Jesus showed us was possible, we are not exempt from evil and difficulty in the way that the Son of God could have been. We can even, through looking at what was to be Jesus' most difficult moment, learn much about our own prayers in the difficult times of life.

As Jesus approaches this scary situation, he seeks God. Jesus does not spend more time teaching, doing miracles, or even resting physically for what is ahead. He wholeheartedly seeks God in his time of difficulty. We are called to do the same. Many times, we intend to pray, and even believe in prayer's power and necessity, but we do not take the time to do it.

Jesus is honest in his prayer. He prays that he will not have to go through what he is about to go through. We are called to do the same. As we call out to God, we should allow ourselves the freedom to speak our minds and our hearts. God knows our thoughts already, but there is comfort and power in speaking the truth as we pray, even if it reveals our own fears and weaknesses.

Jesus accepts that his will may not be God's. Even as Jesus pleads for his life, he realises that it may not be God's will for that to take place. As we seek God and pray wholeheartedly in mind and heart, we can acknowledge that our design may not be God's. God's plan for our lives may not be even close to our own plan, and yet we are called to accept God's love and mercy in whatever form it comes. In many ways, I think that Jesus' time in prayer prepares him for what comes next. As we seek God in all situations, we are better prepared to accept God's will for our lives.

Rev. John Candy

Holy Communion in May 2024

Due to Reconciliation Sunday on May 26th, 2024, there will be no Holy Communion on that day.

Instead, it will be on June 2nd, 2024. There will also be Holy Communion on Sunday 30th June 2024 as per normal.

Penny Harper

New (and 2nd) Supply Minister – Craig Mitchell

This week Craig Mitchell has been welcomed to the BUC as our second supply minister for the next short interim. It has been a great week getting to know him and for him to reconnect with so many familiar faces from 6 years ago.

Craig's in house times at the BUC will vary each week due to other commitments and so should you wish to see him, details each week will be at the back of the newsletter. Or you can contact Craig by email at worship@blackwooduc.org.au.

Alternately, you can phone the office to ascertain times when Craig will be available.

We hope that Craig feels well welcomed to the community.

Peta Workman

Messy Church

Messy Church for May has a request for boxes from tissue box size to shoebox size (no need for any bigger), and internal tubes of alfoil/glad wrap/paper towel by May 3rd.

The next Messy Church is on May 5, and will be focusing on the theme of "Mothers and Others" as we draw close to Mother's Day.

If they can be left in the church kitchen that would be fantastic.

Thanks!

Bonnie Mills

Blackwood Uniting Church

A centre for Community

a place for all
a place....
of love
of safety
of integrity
of compassion

to listen
to connect
to ask hard questions
to contemplate God

You are invited to explore many different expressions of Spirituality in a relaxed atmosphere

5 to 7pm

Beginning with drinks and nibbles

Hosted by the Blackwood Uniting Church Community

266 Main Rd, Blackwood S.A.
Phone: 08 82787699
Email: office@blackwooduc.org.au
www.blackwooduc.org.au
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/BlackwoodUnitingChurch>

Journeying...

...with Asylum

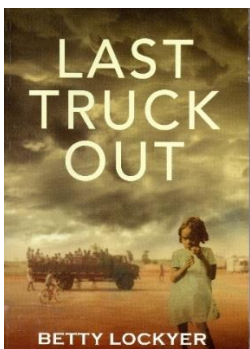
19th May 2024

Hear the personal story of an Asylum Seeker

Have the legal complexities explained by **Tricia Rushton**

Q & A opportunities as we consider "How to journey with asylum seekers today?"

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH LIBRARY



"Killing for country: a family story" by David Marr.

"Learning to dance in the darkness: wrestling with God in the darkest of times" by Stewart Bogle.

"Last truck out" by Betty Lockyer.

Joy Belling

The **SA Wellspring Community**
invites you to join us on an excursion to the
Adelaide BOTANIC Garden
on the **Saturday 11th May**

We plan to gather at the ***Friends' Gate*** entrance at **10.00am**.
This is located on Plane Tree Drive. Parking is also available along this road which
is one way with the entrance off Hackney Rd.
Cars can also be parked off Hackney Rd along from the Wine Centre
***Please note there is a fee for parking.**

From there we will walk to the ***Garden of Health***. This lovely area promotes the
connection between plants, people and wellbeing. It has two sections:

The Garden of Healing & The Garden of Contemplation

There are plenty of benches & we will spend time there learning about the various
plants, their cultural origins & potential for healing. We will take time for reflection,
sharing & worship. There is a kiosk close by for lunch. If the day is wet there are a
number of pavilions with different themes we could visit instead. Please feel free to
invite your friends.

RSVP Tuesday May 7th to
Lynona Hawkins, SA state contact for Wellspring
lynona@bigpond.com; 0438 021 263; 8278 3870

The **Wellspring Community** is an Australia-wide inclusive Christian Community.
We are an ecumenical community seeking to offer hospitality of the heart and inclusion to
people of all cultures, faith traditions and LGBTQIA+ identities.

Our areas of concern are:
Peace & Social Justice
Spirituality & Worship
First Nations Justice
Sustainability
Ecumenical & Interfaith matters
Hospitality & Healing

We are inspired by the Celtic spirituality of the Iona Community in Scotland.

Lynona Hawkins

The Poet and the Penman

The Poet and the Penman by Ashleigh Lower is yours for a donation of \$10 or
more.

All proceeds support the work of the Blackwood Circle of Friends.

Ashleigh Lower

BLACKWOOD RECONCILIATION WALK 2024

HOSTED BY BLACKWOOD RECONCILIATION GROUP

*Join Aboriginal
Leaders on
National Sorry Day
for a short walk
and community
picnic with music,
speeches, food
and family friendly
activities.*

**SUNDAY MAY 26
11:30AM - 4PM**

Meet at 11:30: Gladstone Rd carpark, next to Blackwood RSL & walk to Colebrook Reconciliation Park for official opening.



Scan
for
details



Image: Grieving mother, Colebrook Reconciliation Park, SA

Reconciliation Sunday 26 May 10.00am Combined Service

Guest Singer - Storyteller Vonda Last

We're delighted to have Vonda Last as our guest singer and speaker for our combined worship service on Sunday 26 May.

'This song, this story of our lives began
when first sun rose and touched the sky,
and voices joined and sang as one,
its rhythm sure and strong...'

Vonda is a proud Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara (Western Desert) singer-songwriter, born in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, now living on Kurna (Adelaide) land. She has over 40 years' experience as a songwriter and performer.

Music is a powerful medium and Vonda uses her musicality as an expression of her culture and what her family, their stories, her home and country mean to her. Her original songs are honest and melodic with a strong sense of the Australian landscape and way of life. Central to her work in community music has been the revival of Indigenous languages and maintenance through composition of contemporary music.

Growing up in a family with a pastor/missionary father, Vonda was singing in Sunday School and church from an early age, and her faith remains an important part of her life.

Vonda has performed in many music events and cultural gatherings, as well as the SA Australian of the Year Awards. In 2021 she performed in First Nations Voices, voted the Adelaide Fringe Bank SA Best Music Award and her sold-out show Grandmothers Songs at the Adelaide Festival Centre in 2020. Her song 'For Love of Country' is regularly sung by South Australian Primary Schools in the lead up to ANZAC Day and performed at every Adelaide Dawn Service since 2015. Vonda released her EP Home/Ngurra in 2022. In 2023 she performed with members of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in the First Voices Showcase in Naarm (Melbourne).

This will be a special opportunity to reflect on the history of this land and its First peoples through music, language and story, and to be challenged to consider how we can walk together in truth, seeking justice and reconciliation. The service will be led by Dr Craig Mitchell and Penny Harper.

The service will be followed by the Annual Reconciliation walk to Colebrook Park.



Catherine Hutchesson MP

Member for Waite

Building a resilient community

Your Blackwood
Hills Specialist



Peter Alexandrou
0412 833 501
petera@harrisre.com.au
208 Main Road, Blackwood SA 5051

HARRIS

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R.U.A. LICENSE

Mitcham and Hills Wellness Education Session

Calling 000

**TUESDAY 14TH MAY | 5PM FOR 5:30PM START
BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH (ROUNDAABOUT)**



Come along and hear from representatives who take 000 calls. They will let us know when you should call an ambulance, what you should say and what information you can provide to ensure you get the best treatment and assistance. We will also be joined by representatives from the South Australian Ambulance Service. Trained paramedics who will talk through what happens when an ambulance is called, what will they ask for when they arrive, what you or your loved one can have ready to help with fastest communication and care, and then what medical assistance they may need to administer when they arrive to help you.

RSVPs essential

PHONE: 8278 5844

EMAIL: waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

Proudly supported by
Catherine Hutchesson MP, Member for Waite
Sponsored by Green Dispensary Pharmacy &
Peter Alexandrou - Harris Real Estate, Blackwood

Supply Ministers Contact

While we welcome our two supply ministers (from April and May, respectively), you may want to make note of their email addresses while they are with us at BUC:

minister@blackwooduc.org.au – Rev John Candy

worship@blackwooduc.org.au – Craig Mitchell

In case you're wondering, the email address for data entry is still buc.worship@gmail.com and I'm sure will be put to much use by John and Craig.

Karen Collins

Portrait of Tony

I always like to share things that all of our multitude of groups do at the BUC, from playgroup to mainly music, messy church to the bike shed.

This week I would like to share something particularly poignant from the beautiful Jackie O in our community classes art class, tutored by the inimitable Doug Thomson.

Jackie has recently completed the most exquisite portrait of Tony in graphite pencil in art class and I am grateful that she has agreed to share it with us. What a heartfelt tribute to a special man whom we all miss.



Peta Workman

The Bike Shed Does it Again

Once again, The boys in the bike shed have joined up with our local MP and charity groups to create the Pitstop Café, a sausage sizzle/fix it workshop at the Mitcham train station on Sunday 28th of April.

As always, the event was a great success, endeavouring to support the young community in being active whilst being mindful of their own and others safety on the roads.

Thanks once again to all of those who showed up to help on the day.



Peta Workman

Wait

There is an old proverb...

If you have two loaves of bread, sell one and buy a candle.

As the match is brought to the wick, hush hovers;

The people sense it is more than flame,

This arc in the void,

Softening the edges of their pain.

Lit, it will satisfy more deeply than bread;

Sacred, like discovery,

It is a language needing no interpreter,

Each hearing unique.

This glimmer will not warm the hand

But sanctifies, suffusing beauty,

Sparkling the eye.

It is enough.

Ashleigh

Word for the Week

"Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds, and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue."



Buddha

Looking ahead in 2024

Sunday	5 th May	Messy Church
Sunday	19 th May	Congregational meeting (CS)
Sunday	19 th May	Journeying
Sunday	26 th May	Reconciliation Service & Walk (CS)

<p><u>John Candy weekly office hours</u> Monday 9am – 5.30pm Tuesday 10am or 12pm – 5.30pm Friday 9am – 2pm minister@blackwooduc.org.au</p>	<p>Church Office 8278 7699 Interim Minister Rev. John Candy 0411 267 639</p>
<p><u>Craig Mitchell weekly office hours</u> Monday 7th – 10am – 1pm Tuesday 8th - 10am – 1pm Wednesday 9th - 10am – 1pm worship@blackwooduc.org.au</p>	<p>Peta Workman Office & Community Program Coordinator Tuesday to Friday 9:00am – 2:30pm office@blackwooduc.org.au</p>
	<p>Messy Church Coordinator Bonnie MacLaine-Mills 0405 455 567 bonniemaclainemills@gmail.com</p>
	<p>BUC website www.blackwooduc.org.au</p>
	<p>GIVING back to God http://blackwooduc.org.au/giving/</p>