



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”

 roseville.unitingchurch.org.au  @530worship  @rosevilleuniting

I am currently enrolled in an 8 week Uniting Church course called Living Our Faith – Exploring the New Testament. At the same time, I have been listening to a lectionary based podcast, which has just finished a period of looking at a selection of stories from ancient Israel, beginning with Samuel and ending with Solomon, with a lot of David in between. Which led me to another podcast called The Bloody Bible, which goes into stories of crime and violence in the Bible. So, quite a big scope for my brain to take in! One of the things I am finding most interesting is the exposure to different ways of reading the scriptures and considering how interpretations have changed over time, often in significant ways, not only as a result of scholarly research, but also because of people reading the text through the experiences of those who may not necessarily be the ones highlighted.

David is a case in point. A shepherd boy, the youngest in his family, giant killer, beloved of Jonathan, successful warrior, wonderful musician and psalmist, the Lord’s chosen one, anointed by the spirit of the Lord, generally considered Israel’s greatest king, and right there in the genealogy as an ancestor of Jesus (I read somewhere that David’s name is second only to Jesus in the number of times it appears in the scriptures).

When I was younger, and a new Christian, David was a definite hero and someone to look up to. There were a few little blips and shades, but they were accounted for and set aside. But today, Bathsheba is a lot more than a blip or shade, and delving more into her story, and how she has been perceived and treated over the centuries until right now, in the 2020s, is a definite lesson in biblical interpretation and reinterpretation. The way I remember being taught about it was that it was Bathsheba’s ‘fault’ for causing David to lust after her; back in those days, I had never heard of blaming the victim or power imbalances, or perpetrators, or even sexual violence. Debate on this text is nothing new, but it does seem to have extra resonance now, when statistics on domestic and family violence continue to horrify, with gender violence being called out regularly and when concepts of coercive control and consent are entering mainstream conversations. A recent podcast from the Bloody Bible, focusing on David’s encounter with Bathsheba (<https://www.bloodybiblepodcast.com/episodes/entitled-king-david>) is ‘a deep dive into the monarch’s masculinity, examining the way it is interwoven with power, privilege, and entitlement.’ It is definitely worth a listen.

We have no insight into how Bathsheba felt about her rape, pregnancy, the murder of her husband, her marriage to the king, the birth of her child, and then the baby’s early death (seemingly as a punishment for David’s killing of Uriah rather than what he did to Bathsheba). Who cares for her? Seemingly, no-one, including the writers of the text. It certainly makes reading David’s psalms a different, and difficult, experience in the light of what he has done.

We can’t unsee and unknow these different interpretations or understandings to which we come over time, through study, teaching or personal experience. And once we do see and know them, we need to call out the behaviour and make sure that the word of God is no longer used as a weapon to justify and perpetuate violence, entitlement, privilege, injustice and inequality, wherever we see them.

Amanda

Sunday September 1st

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Chris Goringe**
In person and online...

5.30pm **Worship Service with Sonia Powell**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:
Song of Solomon 2: 8-13
Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9
James 1: 17-27
Mark 7: 1-8, 14-14, 21-23

What’s on this week...

- Tue: Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am
- Wed: Social Games 1.00-3.00pm
Elders’ Forum 7.30pm
- Fri: Christian Meditation 2.30pm
Spark 7.00-9.30pm
- Sat: eSoc Walk

Sunday September 8th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Sean Weatherley
In person and online...

10.45am **Second Cuppa Group**

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:
Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7: 24-37

Links

[Service live \(or replay\) streaming](#)

[Zoom \(for meetings\)](#)

[Church website](#)

[Chris’ sermons](#)

eSoc Walk Saturday 7th September

Meet at Roseville Station on the highway for a train replacement bus at 9.00am. We will have a walk around Kirribilli and then morning tea at Pam and Neil Wyles place.

Please let Maz know by Monday September 2nd for catering purposes.

Maz: 0432 115 744



ROSEVILLE
Asylum Seeker and Refugee
Support Group

News about our Refugee Family

Two members of our refugee support group have continued their tutoring work with the children who are all happy and going well at school. Osoli has finished his studies and has a job at a bakery. The baby is now a very active toddler and her mother has been able to improve her English so she can now participate in everyday conversation.

There are some recent pictures on the notice board.

Join us in prayer....

Loving God, creator of us all, you have made us in your image.

Lord Jesus, you have untied our burdens and shown us the way.

Holy Spirit, you accompany us on the journey.

Work your fruit of love in us, that we may bring comfort and belonging.

Work your fruit of joy in us, that we may bring lightness and laughter.

Work your fruit of peace in us, that we may bring reconciliation.

Work your fruit of patience in us, that we may endure with forbearance.

Work your fruit of kindness in us, that we may be quick to help and slow to condemn.

Work your fruit of faithfulness in us, that we may remain loyal and true.

Work your fruit of gentleness in us, that we may bring welcome and safety.

Work your fruit of self-control in us, that we may discern and follow your call.

Amen

Sonia

Circle of Friends

September 26
10.30 am - 12 pm

Roseville Uniting Church



This is an opportunity for morning tea and a chat, and all are welcome.

If you would like transport please contact a member of the Pastoral Care Team or leave a message on the office phone—9416 5185



Roseville Ministry Contacts

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Church Office

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