



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”



roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

@530worship

@rosevilleuniting

TWO THINGS INTERSECT – by Steve Biddulph

Two things intersect in my mind these days. Amid all the distractions and clutter that life adds, it comes down to just these two. Firstly that the world is in really bad shape. You cannot look with clear eyes at the human race and its situation, and not be full of horror. The dim sense of “progress” that underpinned life during my earlier lifetime and yours too, has been stripped away.

Suffering is growing exponentially, and climate disaster has barely started to stalk the earth. It doesn't get any more dire than this. It's a horrible time for very many people, and I am not prepared to live a life that doesn't somehow answer that. And I know you care too, dear reader which is why I am enlisting your time here. We have to link up around this almost cosmic scale of need.

So it is not a time for playing golf or going on lots of cruises, at least as the defining meaning of being old. The proper role of old people is to safeguard the world for the young. They support, counsel, and keep watch. They take their own lives and needs lightly because they are more concerned for the future after they are gone, than diversion and self-indulgence. And yet, in an odd balance, we have to be incredibly calm, full of love and appreciation of the world, keep our roots watered, so we can bring calm and joy to the picture, not anger and division.

And, then secondly, my own life is in its last chapter, and I will some time not too far away, be gone. That puts its own quality on every second, and should. It is defining, in a helpful way. It makes me want to “cut the crap”.

I don't mind being gone, I love the idea of being a little stream that winds its way into the mighty ocean, home at last. But I am very very concerned with how to spend the time I still have. How to give courage to the people who will carry the same torch after we are gone. Hence, the Decade of Farewell.

When we say “fare well” we mean that literally - that we want our loved ones, and all small creatures, to fare well, have safe and happy lives, and we will do all we can to make that so. Even though we will die and never know if we have succeeded.

So that is the huge challenge. To have that question always there. What does the world need from me? (and by me. I mean, you, dear reader) (with your own unique mix of weakness and strength, talent and disability). Never knowing the answer in a finished way, but just always seeking it, fumbling along and seeing what might work. And at the same time, sitting in a place of peace, and joyful celebration of being alive now, so that we bring harmony and calm, not agitation or polarisation, to what we do. Rest when you need to rest. Accept that some things are best done slowly, and we don't know what will make the difference.

Cont'd.....

Sunday June 23rd

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

Refugee Week

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe and Noor Azizah**
In person and online...
 - 10.45am **Healing & Wholeness Service**
 - 5.30pm **Worship Service with Sonia Powell and Noor Azizah**
In person and online...
- Bible Readings from the Lectionary:**
 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11,19-23)32-49
 Psalm 9: 9-20
 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13
 Mark 4: 35-41

What's on this week...

- Tues: Kids Playtime 10.00am
- Wed: Social Games 1.00pm
- Fri: Christian Meditation 2.30pm
Spark 7.00-9.30pm

Sunday June 30th

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

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe and Dedication Service for Sebastian.**
Organist: Sean Weatherley
In person and online...
 - 11.00am **Congregational meeting**
 - 5.30pm **Worship Service with Michael Dowling and Chris Goringe**
In person and online...
- Bible Readings from the Lectionary:**
 2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27
 Psalm 130
 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15
 Mark 5: 21-43

Links

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

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

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)

Ram Dass once said (of his work with grief and loss) - It's so heavy that it's light.

Theresa of Avila (I think) put it another way "All the way to heaven, is heaven".

The situation is truly awful. Don't give in to panic. Don't indulge in despair. Breathe slow and deep, and you will get a sense from listening to your own insides, of how to proceed, so that you are on the side of life, when death, greed, and fear loom so close by. We wrote it on our SIEVX Memorial in Canberra all those year ago. Love is stronger than fear.

Love is a river, wade out into it and flow with it, and it will carry you.

Join us in prayer....

May we, through prayer, open our eyes to seeing God in new and surprising places. Through prayer may we be prepared to embrace situations in a new light.

With the sense of anxiety that we feel with so much needless destruction and conflict in the world, may we see opportunities to bring harmony and acceptance to the world in which we live.

May we know that God has called each of us to walk a different path. May we understand that our path is not the only way, and that we learn to walk humbly with God.

Lord we pray for the forgotten in our world. The problems and injustices are overwhelming. Give us the wisdom to know how we may live through such violence both in war and in domestic situations. How may we reach out to those whose lives are shattered.

We pray for those in our community here at Roseville and further afield. May all experience the power and peace of the Holy Spirit.

Lynn

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday 30th June 11.00am
(after the 9.30 service)



Scan me to join the
5TW announcements
WhatsApp group

insights

The latest copy of Insights is available for collection. If you would like a copy mailed to you please contact the office.



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