



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”

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

PROSE FOR LENT – WAITING FOR JUDAS

Having spent Advent looking at and reflecting on a series of poems, I decided that in Lent I would spend some time reading prose – but more specifically, prose of a more meditative genre than my usual, quite analytic, diet.

This week I discovered a piece by Madeleine L'Engle, written this time last year, entitled “Waiting for Judas”.

There is an old legend that after his death Judas found himself at the bottom of a deep and slimy pit. For thousands of years he wept his repentance, and when the tears were finally spent he looked up and saw, way, way up, a tiny glimmer of light. After he had contemplated it for another thousand years or so, he began to try to climb up towards it. The walls of the pit were dank and slimy, and he kept slipping back down. Finally, after great effort, he neared the top, and then he slipped and fell all the way back down. It took him many years to recover, all the time weeping bitter tears of grief and repentance, and then he started to climb up again. After many more falls and efforts and failures he reached the top and dragged himself into an upper room with twelve people seated around a table. “We’ve been waiting for you, Judas,” Jesus said. “We couldn’t begin till you came.”

I heard my son-in-law, Alan, tell this story at a clergy conference. The story moved me deeply. I was even more deeply struck when I discovered that it was a story that offended many of the priests and ministers there. I was horrified at their offense. Would they find me, too, unforgivable?

But God, the Good Book tells us, is no respecter of persons, and the happy ending isn’t promised to an exclusive club. It isn’t – face it – only for Baptists, or Presbyterians, or Episcopalians. What God began, God will not abandon. *He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.* God loves everyone, sings the psalmist. What God has named will live forever, Alleluia!

The happy ending has never been easy to believe in. After the Crucifixion the defeated little band of disciples had no hope, no expectation of Resurrection. Everything they believed in had died on the cross with Jesus. The world was right, and they had been wrong. Even when the women told the disciples that Jesus had left the stone-sealed tomb, the disciples found it nearly impossible to believe that it was not all over. The truth was, it was just beginning.

Chris

Sunday March 23rd

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

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Stuart Powell and Amanda Jones**
Organist: Sean Weatherley
In person and online...
- 10.45am **Service of Healing & Wholeness**
- 5.30pm **Worship Service with Stuart and Sonia Powell**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 55: 1-9
Psalm 63: 1-8
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
Luke 13: 1-9

What’s on this week...

- Tue Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am
Lenten Ecumenical Service at Lindfield UC 7.30
Bradfield Community Forum at Roseville UC 7.30pm
- Wed Social games 1.00-3.00pm
- Fri Christian Meditation 2.30pm
PYES 7.00-9.30pm

Sunday March 30th

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

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Jillian Cranney
In person and online...
- 5.30pm **SOUL FOOD VI**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Joshua 5: 9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32



SAFER WORLD FOR ALL

BRADFIELD ELECTORATE FORUM →

WHEN THE WORLD CALLS, WILL AUSTRALIA ANSWER?

25th March 2025
Roseville Uniting Church
7.30-9pm

Register at → saferworld.org.au



Join us in Prayer...

Kaleidoscope God,

Beyond gender and embodied in all,
thank you for your love
and your assurance
that we have been fearfully
and wonderfully made.

Grant us strength and joy
in being the people
whom you have created
and called us to be.

Give us patience
and loving persistence
in the face of struggle and adversity,
and help us always to live fully
as blessed images of you.

transspirit.org

March 31 is Transgender Day of Visibility

Amanda

Phones for Nepal!

Got an old phone gathering dust? Donate it to bring education to remote classrooms in rural Nepal.

Volunteers from the Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF) will install educational apps on the phones, providing children with access to engaging learning materials.

Let's make a difference together!

Phones can be left in the church office.



insights

Please collect your copy of the Autumn Edition of Insights. If you would like it posted, contact the office.



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