



# ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

## *“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”*



roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

@530worship

@rosevilleuniting

Today's words are really a book review

Cerulean

Although I don't know how to pronounce this word, I think I know what it means (I looked it up, just in case!) The Oxford Dictionary simply says deep blue in colour; the dictionary that pops up first in a google search is a bit more expansive, giving the definitions azure, sky-blue, sky-coloured and blue. Google images of both cerulean and azure confirm, yes, it's a shade of blue, with many variations! I reckon our sky here in Sydney in these last few weeks of sunny, cold, clear days has been cerulean.

The word came up because I finally got around to reading a book which I have seen suggested and highly praised in so many spaces that are looking for recommendations for books which are LGBTQIA+ / diversity affirming. Following on from my saying a couple of weeks ago that I only read books with happy endings... spoiler alert, this book qualifies (I checked before I read it!)

The genre is fantasy, which I don't generally read, which may have accounted for my delay in getting around to *The House in the Cerulean Sea*. The author, TJ Klune, said in an interview *'I wanted to write a story that...not only made me happy, but allowed me to believe everything could be okay. Hope can often seem like it's in short supply these days, and while a novel like The House in the Cerulean Sea won't fix the world's problems, I hope it can at least serve as a small reminder that we are capable of so much when we stand for what we believe in and lift each other up. I choose to believe that a good number of people want to feel hope... And the idea of accepting differences and creating change through goodwill is something that people can believe in, no matter what age they are.'*

One review noted *'The themes of parenthood, community, prejudice, class, identity, sexuality and trauma gradually emerge as the story unfolds, leading the reader to moments of joy, laughter, anger, sadness and delight. Anyone who has ever felt outside of the majority in pretty much any group will find something of themselves in this book.'*

If all this sounds a bit heavy on the messaging, I didn't find it so. I have read some criticisms of it but I loved it, and learnt from it and it made me happy. Although it's officially an adult novel, kids from upper primary and up have been enjoying it. It is gentle, surprising, funny and heartwarming; a different book could have gone all dystopian (it does have some 1984 vibes) but the author's desire to offer up hope is realised.

And why am I talking about it here, in a church newsletter?

Because the underpinning themes are all about the transformative power and healing of unconditional love and acceptance, of affirmation, authenticity and being our best selves. Of kindness, tenderness and finding ourselves in communities which help shape our identities without judgement or prejudice, but which nurture us and see our potential

Cont'd over ....

## Sunday July 28th

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

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**  
*In person and online...*
- 11.00am **Healing & Wholeness Service**
- 5.30pm **Stories and a shared meal**

### Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

2 Samuel 11: 1-15  
Psalm 14  
Ephesians 3: 14-21  
John 6: 1-21

## What's on this week...

- Tue: Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am
- Wed: Social Games 1.00-3.00pm
- Fri: Christian Meditation 2.30pm  
Spark 7.00-9.30pm

## Sunday August 4th

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

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Chris Goringe**  
**Organist: Robert Bevan**  
*In person and online...*
- 5.30pm **Worship Service with Stuart Powell**  
*In person and online...*

### Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

2Samuel 11: 26—21:13a  
Psalm 51: 1-12  
Ephesians 4: 1-16  
John 6: 24-35

## Links

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

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

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)

This is how we all want to experience church. In a world which seems to encourage us towards tribalism, binaries, anger and othering, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* offers a better way to live in a broken world. That it has been so popular and read by a huge variety of ages offers hope that the book's message is resonating with and changing people.

As followers of Jesus, we also want to stand for what we believe in and lift each other up. God has created a world of beauty and diversity and called it good. May we all embrace this hope and encourage each other to reflect the love of God as we live and grow together.

Amanda

## Church Family News

Carolyn Handley's father Jacques Roussel died peacefully in his sleep, aged 92. You are invited to a service celebrating his life at Roseville Uniting Church on Thursday 1st August at 10.30am, and afterwards in the hall for refreshments.



## Join us in prayer....

Creator God

We thank you for such an amazing world even though it is only a pin prick in the universe. For the air that we breathe, the water that affects every aspect of our lives and an environment that provides our every need.

We thank you for humanity. We thank you for family and our church family and for friends and those people we cross paths with.

We pray for those whose bodies and minds are not how they used to be and how they would like them to be. We pray for those in their homes and those in hospitals or care.

We pray that they may find peace.

We pray for those who grieve the loss of a loved one, or a relationship or a job or anything that they have no choice in making or changing. We know that you are our constant companion and are with us through times of difficulty and joy.

Maz



## SEEKING THE DEEPER STORY

4th Sunday of the month  
5:30 – 7:00 pm

A shared meal and food for thought

July 28<sup>th</sup> – What's Your Story?  
August 25<sup>th</sup> – The stories around us  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> – What's Our Story?  
October 27<sup>th</sup> – Sharing the Jesus Story



## Roseville Ministry Contacts

### Office Address

7a Lord Street  
PO Box 44, Roseville 2069

### Church Office

Cath Pinchin 9416 5185  
office@roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

**Office Hours** Typically Tue, Wed and Fri

**Website** roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

### Minister

Rev. Dr. Chris Goringe  
0402 012 418

### Congregational Chairperson

Sue Drury  
**Direct Giving**  
Carrick Martin  
0418 978 480

**Asylum Seeker & Refugee Support**  
Gwyn Denton gwyn@dentons.id.au

### Church Council Chair

Pauline Callan  
0417 419 671

### Church Council Secretary

secretary@roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

### Treasurer

treasurer@roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

### Safe Church Officer

Di Knowles 9498 4736