



Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



*Witnessing to God's love for the world
From the main street to the paddock.*

August 2020

How Could We Sing The Lord's Song In A Foreign Land?

Psalm 137

One of the most powerful events in the biblical narrative is the exile of the Jews from their homeland following the Babylonian invasion.

In an instant, the lives of God's people were turned upside down, as the Temple where they had always worshipped God was burned to the ground, and they were dragged into a strange new land against their will. The grief and lament that marked this loss and dislocation oozes throughout the latter half of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in both the testimony of the Prophet and the groanings of the Psalmist.

And the People of God, who had learned to worship God in a particular building, in a style which had been handed to them by their ancestors, now found themselves unable to do so.

Instead, they were left asking the question:
How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

Some lost hope and gave up.

Others clung to the idea of returning home, and to how things were before.

But the prophet Jeremiah had a different message for the people:

Contact Us

Minister of the Word

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Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what you produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.
(Jeremiah 29:4-7)

Jeremiah warned the people that this moment in which they were living was not a temporary setback. This was not an inconvenient interruption to their 'normal' lives. It was not possible to go back to how things were before (indeed, the people would not even be able to travel back to Judea for another 70 years).

No, Jeremiah made clear that this was a new reality in which God's people would have to learn to live. A place where they would need to make their homes and build their future. An unexpected present moment.

But a moment in which God was still very much at work.

As we sit with our own experience of disruption caused by this pandemic, how can we sing the Lord's song in this strange new land?

How do we sing the Lord's song, if it is another two years until a vaccination is available (or if one never becomes available)?

How do we sing the Lord's song, and build Christian community, if we are unable to reopen our buildings?

How do we sing the Lord's song, when congregational singing itself may be a thing of the past?

These questions may seem scary and overwhelming. But I have no doubt, God is with us in our present moment, as God has always been with us in exile and despair.

So how will you live your faith in this moment? And how can I help? Let me know!
-Daniel

Hope

"Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." – Romans 5:2-5

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Happy Birthday

Although we cannot physically gather, let's join together to celebrate the birthdays of our fellow congregants.

Denise Moorby – August 7th

Benjamin Mossfield – August 9th

Del Davies – August 10th

Sheridan Riles – August 15th

Wal Redfern – August 16th

Faith Riles – August 30th

If your birthday is in August, and your name is not on our list, please let us know. And have a very Happy Birthday!!



Sharing Our Faith

In these uncertain times, you can help spread the message of hope and faith by sharing your stories.

Together we may be able to reach out to someone who is struggling, simply by letting them know of our own struggles, and how our faith is shining a light in troubled times.

If you would like to share your story of how your faith is helping you, please call Matthew on 4832 1026.

Also, please remember we can assist with you hosting or attending "Church at Home". If you can practice safe social distancing, hand sanitizing, follow government guidelines; and you have access to a stable internet connection and a DVD player, you may be able to host "Church at Home".

It is just another way we can stay connected until we can meet again at our church. If you are interested, please call Daniel on 0432 648 676.



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We're Here to Help

Navigating the labyrinth of the Centrelink system can be daunting for people using their services for the first time.

As the Federal Government continues to tweak payments available for people affected by COVID-19, it is important to know that we're here to help.

Our admin assistant, Matthew, has extensive experience working in welfare services. With the nearest office in Goulburn, and phone services stretched due to high demand, Matthew can assist with guiding you through the online services section, including how to set up a My Gov account, which is now necessary to access Centrelink's services.

If you need help with understanding how to access Centrelink online services, please call Matthew on 4832 1026 between 9am and 1pm, Mondays and Tuesdays.



Worship & Readings

Sunday 2 August

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday 9 August

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday 16 August

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

Sunday 23 August

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday 30 August

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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