



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.*

March 2021

Covenant Means Relationship

As we continue in the season of Lent, we move deeper into our theme of exploring covenants.

Already we have heard the story of the Noahic covenant – the covenant that God enters into with *all* living flesh after the flood, signed and sealed by the rainbow. This covenant has a few interesting implications. Firstly, it means that God has entered into relationship with all living creatures, not only those inside the ‘family of faith’ or our particular tradition. This is a challenge to us, as it invites us to wonder what God might be doing with those (both human and animal) who don’t belong to our particular congregation, family, denomination or even religion.

Secondly, the Noahic covenant is *unconditional*. It comes with no string attached. None. This is not true of all covenants we find in scripture, of course. Often, God might ask something of us as part of the relationship. But here, God *freely* chooses to limit Godself for the sake of being in relationship with creation.

That means, our value to God is not earned by what we do. It is instead given to us by God. And this kind of grace is not only hard to believe – it is offensive.

For how often do we humans give, or act, or enter relationship with no strings attached?

Contact Us

Minister of the Word

Rev Daniel Mossfield

0432 648 676

crookwelluniting@gmail.com

Congregation

(02) 4832 1026

PO Box 75

Crookwell NSW 2583

Even when we are being our most altruistic, we are often motivated, deep down, by what we get out of it – a sense of feeling good, or looking good, or getting to feel less guilty about our own wealth and privilege (at least for a while).

The idea of us *freely* choosing to give something up – to limit ourselves in some way – for the sake of simply being in relationship with others seems absurd.

And yet, this is the invitation of covenant.

And it is an invitation for us today.

What does it mean for us, as individuals and as a congregation, to enter *freely* into a relationship with our neighbours – no strings attached? What would it look like for us to make promises to our community here in Crookwell and surrounds about how we will choose to act for their sake? Could we go and be the Church among people (in playgroups and coffee shops and community organisations without expecting them to come to worship on Sunday in return? And can we be generous in our relationships with neighbouring congregations and faith communities (both of our denomination and not) without needing to profit ourselves?

Are we willing to covenant anew today as the people of God in this place?

- Daniel

Covid-19 and Worship until Easter Reminder

We are thankful that we have now been able to worship together for three months straight. After so long apart, this really is a gift.

Church Council has made the decision to continue in a pattern of holding worship on the **1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month only** until at least Easter, at which point we will re-evaluate the situation. Communion will be on the 1st Sunday of the month, and Jerrara services on the 3rd at 2.30pm.

As I write this, we aren't allowed to sing. This may change before you read this (who knows?). But we are able to continue gathering as the people of God to be met by the living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

- Daniel



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Worship & Readings

Church Council have agreed to hold services on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month at least until Easter Sunday. Readings for other services are also listed below. More detail can be found in the accompanying prayer pack.

Sunday 7 March

9:00am Crookwell Wesley

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Sunday 14 March

Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Sunday 21 March

9:00am Crookwell Wesley
2:30pm Jerrara

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Sunday 28 March

Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11

Happy Birthday

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

Jim Gay – March 17th

Peter Flint – March 18th

Margaret Gay – March 27th

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



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Viewhaven Service

The next service to be held at Viewhaven will be on Tuesday, March 9th at 10:30am.

While we appreciate the assistance of volunteers to help residents, at this time we are only allowed to have three people join the residents at the service.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Daniel on 0432 648 676 to ensure we comply with the restrictions on the number of people who can attend. This will avoid disappointment, and ensure the safety of the Viewhaven residents.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Special Services

The month of March brings two special services to Crookwell.

On March 5th, Crookwell Wesley will host the World Day of Prayer Service at 10am. Everyone is invited.

An online Palm Sunday service will be held on March 28th at 7pm as part of Uniting's "Whole of Church – Where the Wild God is" series of events.

Streaming live from Gerringong, it can be viewed at

facebook.com/unitingchurchnswact

or at nswact.uca.org.au/live



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