



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.*

June 2022

A Long, Hard Winter

This Sunday is Pentecost – the day we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus; disciples in the form of tongues of fire. This is somewhat ironic, given that this week we may well get our first snow of the year in Crookwell.

Last week, I was talking to a lady from Italy, who was telling me that in her hometown Pentecost is a celebration of the arrival of summer. On Pentecost morning, the floor of the Church will be decorated with flowers and petals in reds and yellows and oranges as a sign of new life springing forth.

For those of us in Crookwell, Pentecost has a different feeling. For the hard, cold days of winter lie ahead. And this year, I cannot help but feel that it will be particularly difficult. We know that COVID is still running through the community in record numbers – and now we have been warned the flu season will be bad as well.

At the same time, I'm aware of a number of members of our community who are struggling with some very hard personal issues at the moment: illness, grief, death, anxiety,

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depression, loneliness. Winter has arrived with a vengeance.

So, what may Pentecost say to us in such a time?

Firstly, that the Holy Spirit arrives in the room when the disciples are still processing the trauma of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. While they are huddled away, locked behind their doors, the Spirit blows in bringing light, and hope, and life. Might the Spirit also blow into our winter with such force?

And secondly, Pentecost is a reminder that we were never meant to carry the whole load by ourselves. The passage from Acts reads 'When the day of Pentecost had come, **they were all together** in one place.'

The first act of the Holy Spirit is to descend upon a community.

This same Spirit then gifts every member of the community with different gifts, that **together** they might walk the road ahead and be the Church for the world.

And the Spirit will then go ahead of them, to draw more members into

this community – people they never expected, like Centurions, Samaritans and Eunuchs.

Community, then, is one of the many works of the Spirit.

And it is one we might desperately need in the hard weeks ahead.

So, please, reach out to one another this winter. A phone call, a warm meal dropped at someone's door, an invitation to come and sit by the fire, a listening ear...

Could these be the gifts of the Spirit for our congregation?

- Rev Daniel



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Worship & Readings

Sunday 5 June

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34;
Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

Sunday 12 June

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Sunday 19 June

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org
2:30 Jerrara

Readings: 1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15; Psalm 42 &
43; Galatians 3:23-39; Luke 8:26-39

Sunday 26 June

9:30 **Goulburn** and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2,
11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Uniting Church Anniversary

Sunday June 26 will see Goulburn Uniting Church host a special service to mark the 45th anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia.

On June 22, 1977 the Uniting Church in Australia was formed as a union of the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church and the Congregational Union.

As well as being the third largest denomination in Australia, the Uniting Church has served our community with assistance in aged care, hospitals, family and youth services, drug and alcohol treatment programmes, emergency relief and much more.

Please note, there will be no service at Crookwell on June 26th, but we encourage everybody to attend Goulburn for a joint service between the two congregations.

Carpooling will be arranged from Crookwell for anyone who needs it. Alternatively, the service will be livestreamed at crookwelluniting.org

We look for to seeing you at Goulburn for this very special anniversary.

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Pentecost

Sunday June 5th marks Pentecost. We encourage everybody to wear red, orange or yellow clothing to Church as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

"I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."
- Acts 2:17



Connecting Faith and Action

The Uniting Church Assembly has put together an information and resources pack to assist churches, households and individuals to reduce their carbon emissions as part of the church's commitment to net zero by 2040 under the Climate Action Plan.

Produced by the Rev. Dr Ji Zhang, the resources endeavour to link faith and action by exploring in details seven lessons of climate theology:

1. God in Good Creation
2. Our body and the land are not two, but one
3. The Cosmic Christ in Climate Change
4. Protect the rights of future generations
5. Suffering and Hope
6. God's love is for all
7. Reconciliation and renewal of the whole creation

You can find further information on the project, including the resources pack at <https://uniting.church/towards-zero-2/>

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