

Sunday Worship Services

8.00am Informal (in English)
9.30am International (English +)
2.00pm Chinese (Mandarin +)

Eastwood *contact*

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH
APPROACHING PENTECOST

Mission Update -What Now?



The sale of Denistone East has been realised, but COVID has made all pre-2020 Mission Plans redundant. We need to review our goals in the light of the Pandemic and the changes to what is now possible for churches.

Through 2020, without face-to-face gatherings and the move to online giving, EUC relied heavily on Jobkeeper to be able to sustain the Office, Resource Ministry and a Minister-in-Placement. Without Jobkeeper, we now need to consider what is possible with significant increases to COVID-related Property costs. Most churches face similar challenges. Few will be able to proceed with Pre-COVID plans. We also need to consider how to best manage ongoing risks. COVID reminded us that people are more important than property and that

digital connectivity is now an essential aspect of church life. Church Council and several study and fellowship groups still meet online and pastoral chats and visits can also be done online.

Most people who come to church for the first time now visit the website or Facebook page first. Please approach these developments prayerfully. Remember, we serve God as a Team and we need to listen for what God calls of our whole community.

Community Outreach conversation

Tuesday mornings at the Provence Café have been buzzing with conversation, facilitated by Tennyson, our Community Resource Worker. Following on from some new and friendly relationships, a few of this group decided to come to some of our Easter Services.

Just as Sunday Schools were originally set up to teach people how to read for themselves, English language classes (on Mondays) and Conversation Groups (on Tuesdays) are a real help to people struggling to find their identity and home here.

Please consider if you can spare an hour or two to help out. This is a ministry where presence and companionship becomes blessing.

Eastwood Uniting Church is a multicultural church with Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational roots. Worship takes place in English, Mandarin/Cantonese, Korean and occasional other languages.

OUR MISSION

To witness to the Gospel, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action

OUR VISION

To engage and connect with our diverse community through active discipleship

OUR VALUES

*Visible
Inclusive
Relevant
Active*



(Singing in the park)

Apart from my annual leave on the last 2 weeks in January, I've various meetings with different stakeholders in the community to connect and explore the possibility to collaborate in the future. I'm the chairperson of the Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club (Founded in 1991). I believe that we should try our best to connect with other organisations to serve the wider community. I represented the church to meet and talk to people (both community and 2pm) and tell them who we are, what we are doing and explored the opportunity to work together to serve the community. Most people from the wider community not knowing us or our ministry especially those "outsider". A Chinese singing group normally in the park from the community would like to start their activity in our church premises when possible. (will commence on 13 April at 11-1pm at East and West Room)

ESL class resumed end of 2020 with a handful of students and I try my best to let the wider community to know that it's safe to come back. The 2nd term will resume on 19 April and also we would resume the English Bible class at the same time. We look forward to get more and more students back to the classes.



During March & April, "Coffee with the community" at Provence café has a good response from the community and we need more English-speaking members to participate in this ministry to meeting with the "outsider". Thanks Amelia, Val, Wendy, Malcolm and Marion for your support in this event.

2pm Chinese worshipping group is a unique community. I started the Sunday "The Bible Project" group at 12:30-1:30pm in March and try to keep the learning of the words as a regular training program for 2pm.

We've two combined services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday followed with luncheon. The two combined services with very positive response and also an unexpected large number of attendants. The Easter Sunday Luncheon held in the local Chinese restaurant totally out of our expectation with nearly 80 participants was a good move for EUC to become a real multicultural congregation with UCA.

Amelia would take a more active role with 2pm and foresee there will be a great need of translation ahead.

"Our mission is to witness to the gospel and spread the good news of Jesus in word and action. Our vision is to engage and connect with our diverse community through active discipleship."

The above statement not just a slogan. I can't accomplish this great mission without your presence. You can join me in person or prayers for all the outreach.

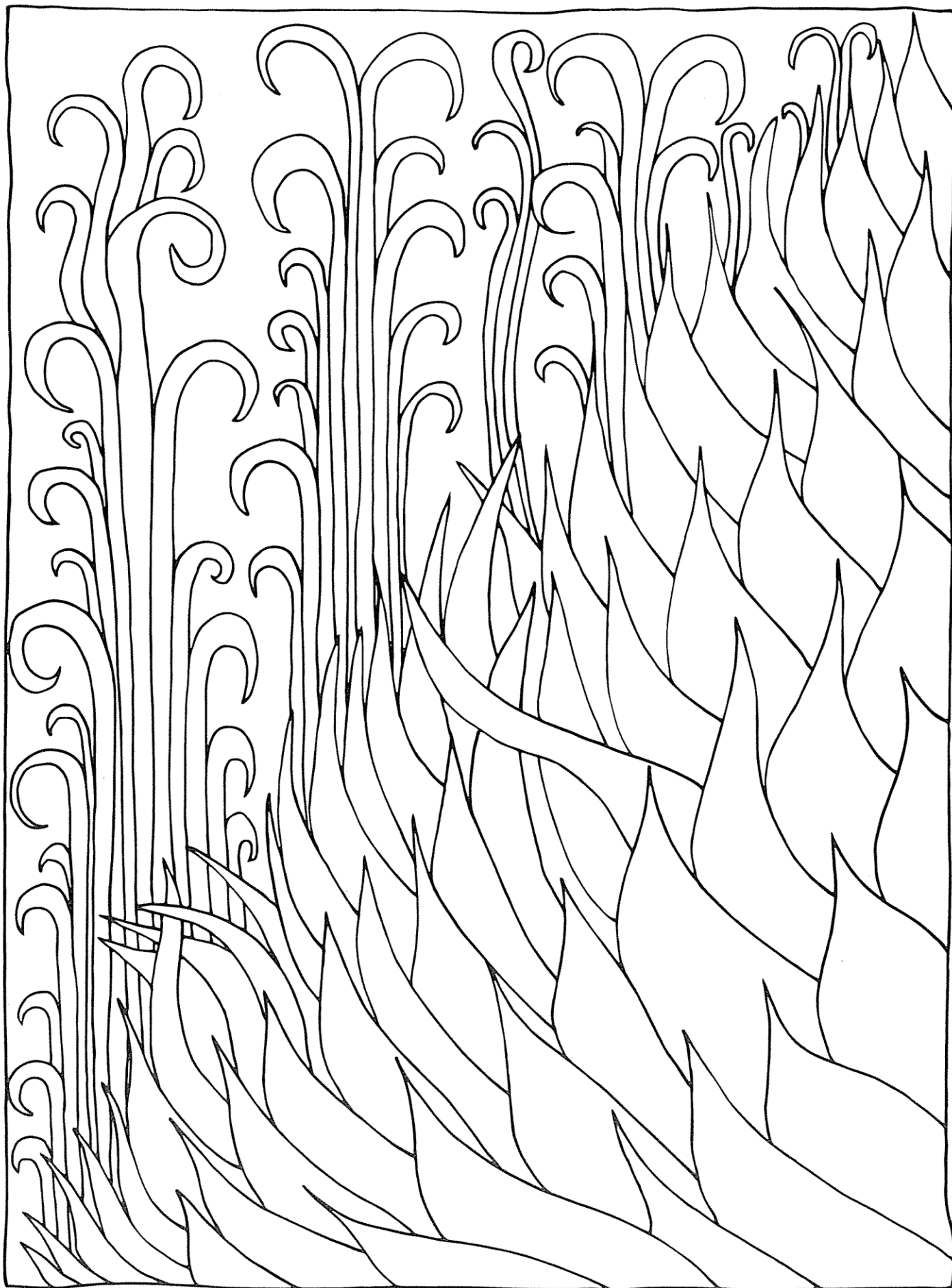
How to witness the good news in this new era? How can we engage and connect our diverse community according to all the restrictions? What is your role? What is your thought?

In the future, I would like to spend time more wisely and would leave the Macquarie University Chaplaincy Committee regular meeting. Thanks Amelia to step in to join the TCSC.

Annual Leave-2 May to 11 May 2 weeks



(Easter Luncheon at YUPAI Restaurant)



Ethno-quoi? What has music got to do with mission?

Our Minister has a Doctor of Missiology through Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, USA... she specialized in using creative arts to form Christian communities and develop congregational discipleship.

In my work as Worship and Liturgy Convenor for the World Methodist Council, I discovered I was being called upon to translate and interpret complex ideas, developed by others, into language the rest of us could understand.

I love music. I enjoy worship and liturgy. I revel in working amongst such diverse and interesting communities here and, most of all, I love God. I believe the Creator calls us all to get creative!

My focus is in discovering, with you, what words, music and liturgy helps us to come together as a community and what nourishes our distinctive differences. I will be exploring our different cultural understandings and preferences and how we can grow as we discover each other's stories.

Ethnomusicology is about how different styles of music work in different cultural settings... not just the music of old or young, different

languages or identity groups, but also, popular and classical, instrumental or sung, rhythmic or melodic. For a long time major mission movements have been 'accompanied' by various styles of music – how can anyone think of the Wesleys without thinking of hymns? – or the Reformation without Bach? Learning some new songs together will focus on how music and worship can fit us for mission from Eastwood. - AKB

Thomas Morley

"Music is well said to be the speech of angels."

I wonder?

Godly Play is a way of forming conversation around the stories of God. It allows spiritual freedom to explore and respond with a relational and supportive structure.

The stories Amelia has been telling in Sunday worship are mostly from a discipling style called Godly Play. Amelia trained in the method at Ripon College, Oxford, and has been using the stories with post-graduate colloquium classes in theology and mission. The style of story-telling also works well across language groups and generations, as they are told slowly and the stories all have visual aids to help make meaning.

We are receiving into our care, some of the Synod's Godly Play shelving to house the resources for a Godly Play room. Amelia is able to provide many of the core story equipment. It will be accessible in the Chapel. Godly Play is a recognized part of the 'Fresh Expressions Movement' in the UK and is also widely used in the US. Roman Catholics use a similar tool, called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Stories provide the foundations for exposure to the Spirit of God and hearing the Gospel.

Please join in playing, as we wonder together.

Inclusive Community

This Congregation maintains that *all* people are loved by God and welcome into Christian community.

Experiencing God's love for every person, we are a community of different colours, languages, styles, gender identities, social backgrounds, educational achievements and opinions. Share and enjoy diversity!



Thanks to Mikel Rice (See 1Corinthians 6:19)

11-10-2000

EVER SINCE MY BODY BECAME A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT I'VE BEEN GETTING CHARGED PROPERTY TAXES



What is Iftar?

The **Iftar** is the meal served at the end of the day during Ramadan, to break the day's fast. Literally, it means "breakfast." **Iftar** is served at sunset during each day of Ramadan, as Muslims break the daily fast. At 4pm on Wednesday May 5th, the UCA National Assembly and NSW-ACT Synod will host an Iftar Dinner in partnership with Affinity, a Muslim group for fostering cultural understanding and relationships. The Guest Speaker will be former Soccerroo, SBS commentator and Human Rights Advocate, Craig Foster. If you are super-keen to experience this special event, Eastwood can provide up to 10 volunteers to help set up and serve the meal. Please contact the Office if you would like to know more.

CONTACT

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Amelia's 'day off' is usually Wednesday.