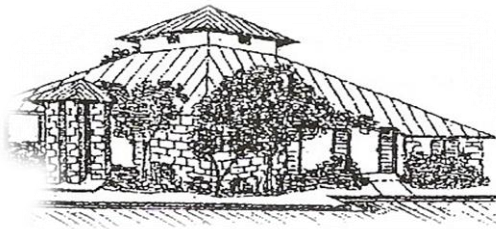


.Kirwan Uniting Church



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KEEPING IN TOUCH

WELCOME! *We welcome all visitors with us today, and pray your time with us will be a blessed one.*

Kirwan's Mission Statement

To be a people of God led by the Holy Spirit to practise and spread the love of Jesus Christ in the world

17th May, 2020

Lectionary readings	Easter 6
Acts 17: 22-31	Ps 66: 8-20
1 Pt 3: 13-22	Jn 14: 15-21

Richard's Rambling

O God,
the source of all good desires,
all right judgements, and all just works:
give to your servants that peace
which the world cannot give;
that our hearts may be set to obey
your commandments,
and that freed from the fear of our
enemies,
we may pass our time in rest and
quietness;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

It's no secret that I favour liturgical prayer, ie set in a prayer-book or prepared before delivery. A Ramble isn't the place to defend that view to fans of extemporaneous prayer. Except that the great so-called Common Prayers, from Cranmer closer to our own time, or the early Church Fathers, are rich in scripture and contain mini sermons in their

short paragraphs. This prayer, The Collect for Peace from Evening Prayer, is a great example. Cranmer adapted and included it in his 1549 Book of Common Prayer, but it is of such ancient tradition that no-one really knows who first composed and prayed it. It seems that it was being prayed regularly in the early church.

It's a prayer for peace, but, straight out of John 14, "Not as the world gives". The world's idea of peace is "absence of war," "getting along," "no shouting or fighting." Jesus knows that for his people who live in a sinful world, that isn't going to be possible. The peace he gives is an inner peace. This is how God gives peace: God's forgiveness brings peace to hearts that are troubled by guilt and regret. God's Word works a conviction in us that his promises and commands are true. That peace endures, even when we see conflict in our world, our families, and among our friends. That peace is the peace the angels sang about to the shepherds on Christmas Night.

It's interesting how the next phrase is worded. It doesn't say, "Defend us from our enemies." It says "Defend us from the *fear* of our enemies." Again, the prayer is asking for that

inner peace – not the outer peace of the world. Psalm 46: “God is our refuge and strength ... therefore we will not fear though the earth give way”, Psalm 23 “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me”. The dark valley is still there. The world still rages. The earth still gives way. The virus still lurks and mutates. But the promise of God speaks to our hearts, telling us not to be afraid, because our God, the God who calls us his own, is with us in the Valley.

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Lots of News from CoM

Firstly thank you to all of you for your generosity in giving to the church. Financially we are still in the black thanks to your gifts. Please keep giving generously because we have still lost revenue, especially fairs and sausage sizzles.

Secondly thank you to Peter, Trevor Holman and David B-T for finding the leaking water pipe and fixing it amidst a sea of mud.

Thirdly it's time to start coming back. Worship services of up to 100 may be permitted from July 12th. We will have to work out how to meet on Sundays while still maintaining social distance. By next week we are permitted up to 10 people in a public space. Therefore it is okay for groups like Crafts, Cards and Chit Chat, House of Jonah, and the Pastoral Care folk to start to meet at the church. Can you please avoid the back room as far as possible (a small group like Pastoral Care could meet there at the correct distance, but not 10 people) and use the undercroft area where possible. Members of these groups are requested to carefully follow social distancing, disinfecting and hygiene procedures. Please remember that these annoying requirements are for our benefit and that many in our congregation are in the vulnerable category.

Good luck and see you. David K

**Keeping connected at
UnitingCare**

Thank you to all the lovely people who have reached out to volunteer at UnitingCare. Your support is much appreciated.

If you are looking to volunteer, BlueCare's new Keeping Connected program offers a beautiful opportunity to reach into the lives of those most vulnerable in this season.

Can you write letters to connect with someone lonely? Can you make or send cards to bless someone you may not even know? Can you make phone calls or video messages to chat or pray with an aged care resident?

If you have some time and a lot of love, you can reach out and help connect aged care residents with the spirit of fellowship that is valued in the Uniting Church.

To find out more or be a part of the Keeping Connected program, email missionteam@ucareqld.com.au

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**Coronavirus Update
UCA Queensland Synod**

<https://ucaqld.com.au/important/coronavirus-update/>

For ALL UCA GROUPS

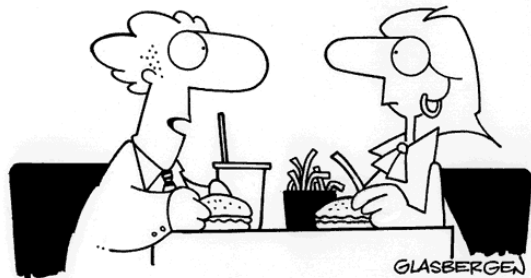
Please check this site regularly as things are changing all the time.

You may be interested in some live streaming of UC services

<https://ucaqld.com.au/coronavirus/live-streaming-worships/>

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**“I just joined a support group
for Internet addicts. We meet every night
from 7:00 until midnight on CompuServe.”**

