

# SCOTS' *weekly*

## NEWSLETTER OF THE SCOTS' CHURCH MELBOURNE

Friday 3 May 2024

### **From the Next Generations Minister's Desk**

There is a wonderful, traditional prayer still used in many Protestant churches for daily morning worship.

*"As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever."*

The pattern of starting the day with prayer is in and of itself worthwhile, but there are three remarkable things in that first line which make this such a good prayer for the morning. The start of our days are marked by joy, "as we rejoice." They ought to be considered a "gift" rather than a burden or a punishment. And each day is new, new for us and new with respect to what God may do in and around us.

We all know that such gratitude does not last throughout our day, not even throughout our mornings most of the time, and that the "dark clouds" that Justin has been preaching about can cover weeks of the Christian's life. Notice it's not a "bright day" or "glorious day" that marks the morning, and that the "light" is the light of God's presence; it's a new day with beams of divine presence breaking through. So even in times of lament and great trial, we can be encouraged toward gratitude: to rejoice in the gift of this new day.

The traditional evening prayer is this:

*"As our evening prayer rises before you, O God, so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise now and forever."*

Quite a change of pace from the morning. It's that request for God's mercy which acknowledges that our days will not always go as we want or how we think, and that maintaining a sense of gratitude (never mind a love for God!) will be a challenge. Thankfully, it is not the dark clouds of life but the deep mercy of God that wins in the end.

See you on Sunday.

Arthur Keefer



### **MISSION PARTNERS LUNCH on 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

You are invited to join us for lunch in the Westpac Function Room after the morning service on 19<sup>th</sup> May to find out the latest news from our Mission Partners Lauren Raiter, and Adam and Helane Ramsay.

Lauren began her work with students in Madrid, Spain, earlier this year, and is already getting involved in a number of ways. Adam and Helane, with their family, continue to work with new churches in Chiba City, Japan, including training and developing resources for Japanese churches to teach the Bible to children. Both Lauren and the Ramsays are currently producing videos of their recent mission initiatives to be shown at the lunch so that we are able to appreciate their progress first-hand.

As a congregation we continue to uphold all our Mission Partners in prayer, and through financial support. Thank you for joining in this vital part of our church life, as we reach out beyond our own community to help others and to spread the Gospel of Christ.

We look forward to seeing you at the Mission Partners Lunch on 19<sup>th</sup> May. If you are able, a donation of \$5 toward the cost of the lunch would be most welcome.

Louise and Rosalie  
Mission Partners Team



Our 11am service will be streamed live on YouTube.

Please join <https://youtu.be/P8Wq-5gO8Pg>

or visit [scotschurch.com/service-info](https://scotschurch.com/service-info) for details

## PRAYER NOTES

Prayer Notes

Psalms 22:1-5

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

- Give thanks for the fact that God is Holy, Righteous, and Just.
- Give thanks that we can reflect on Psalm 22, which reminds us of Christ's suffering and glory.
- During times of despair and anguish, pray that we can find comfort in the knowledge that Jesus experienced the depths of human suffering.
- Pray that in moments of darkness and despair, we can hold on to the assurance of God's faithfulness and His promise to never leave nor forsake us.

Give thanks for:

### *Scots' and ScotsCity*

- Thank God for continuing to grow His church at Scots' and ScotsCity.
- Give thanks for the Ministry Team - pray for unity in purpose, prayer, teaching and their lives as they serve Jesus.
- Give thanks for all those who come to Church.
- Pray we would encourage and strengthen each other as we grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus.

- Pray we would live walking in His Spirit and sharing his love and the good news of His generosity with our friends and family.
- Pray for those who serve our church—the Elders, Board of Management, Property Committee, Trustees, and Staff—that they would be given the Lord’s wisdom and strength to do their work well and please Him in all they do.
- Pray for those who are experiencing grief, physical or mental illness, unemployment, or times of questioning life. Pray they will draw strength from the Lord and find their deep joy in knowing and serving Him.
- Pray for the healing of those who are currently experiencing ill health, including Margaret Young, Wayne Truong, Dennis Conradi, Stewart Banks, and the seniors residing in aged care facilities.
- Please keep Rev. Phil and Louise Campbell in your prayers for a safe and enjoyable holiday and safe return to Melbourne.

## **Mission**

### **Pray for our four Mission Partners:**

#### **Colin and Alison Morrow - The Mungo Patrol, Victoria,**

- That more people in their Patrol Area will come into a personal relationship with Jesus
- For safety and protection as they conduct patrols in their region to reach more people with the Gospel
- To uphold and sustain their ministry to the local community through Sunraysia Presbyterian Church

#### **Lauren Raiter – In Spain**

- Pray for the process of obtaining her long-term visa.
- Pray for the conversations that she continues to have in both Spanish and English, as she builds relationships with so many people and continues to learn about the language and culture.
- Pray for helpful cultural insights through upcoming events and for an encouraging time with her team.
- May the Holy Spirit soften the hearts of those she meets so that they see the wisdom and power of the gospel.
- Pray that God continues to use Lauren to share stories of who He is, (1 Corinthians 1:18.)

#### **Adam, Helane Ramsay in Japan and their children: Leo, Ellie and Albert.**

- Pray that Adam and Helane will find friendship with the local people through Bible studies, events, and hospitality and share the Good News of Jesus and His love.
- Pray that they will become involved with a local Japanese congregation, seeking to encourage believers and hone their Japanese ministry skills.

#### **Presbyterian Church of Central Africa, Zimbabwe**

- Give thanks for Christian Churches in Zimbabwe particularly the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).
- Pray for unity in the CCAP as there are currently some issues going on. Luke and Deb Tattersall are making plans for a visit in September. First, they will help out with a Preaching Conference. Second, they will take a guest lecturer for the college there. Third, they will run a training programme with the pastors who do the ongoing Preaching training of the elders who preach in the villages.
- Pray for the planning and preparation to go smoothly, for these hopes and plans to come to fruition, and for the CCAP to be encouraged and supported. Continue to pray for the Schools and Feeding Programmes that CCAP runs and maintains.
- Give thanks that Scots’ Church can partner with this work again this year.

## Our World and Nation

- Continue to pray for areas of unrest in our world Ukraine/Russia, Hamas/Israel, Sudan, Somali, South Yemen, Nigeria, Myanmar...
- Pray for the Lord to provide peace in this world, that is found in Christ.
- Pray for those negotiating to bring about peace and stability—for God to give them wisdom and diplomacy and for an acceptance and agreement between affected countries.
- Pray for those suffering from the results of war and violence that they would be healed both physically and mentally and would find true healing and hope in Christ.
- Pray for aid agencies to get safely into countries where help is most needed.
- Pray for Australia - for continued wisdom for those who lead and make decisions on our behalf and society's acceptance of these decisions.

Shalom  
Litha Heshusius

## DIARY DATES

**Mission Partners Lunch** – Sunday 19 May – After the 11am service  
**Vespers** – commencing June 6 at 5.45pm – Scots' Church

## PCV NEWS

### **PWMU ANNUAL COUNTRY RALLY – IN HAMILTON ON 29TH MAY**

PWMU are holding their annual Country Rally at Hamilton PC.  
Date: Wednesday 29th May, beginning at 10am.

Speakers: Jeanette Bennett in the morning. R'jaye & Hayley Rojas in the afternoon.  
Morning tea and lunch provided.

Any questions - contact the PWMU Secretary on [secretary@pwmu.org.au](mailto:secretary@pwmu.org.au) or phone the PWMU office on 0466 124 261 (Tuesdays and Fridays 9am-1pm).

Alison Stanley  
Secretary  
PWMU State Council Victoria

## FOLLOW OUR SCOTS' CHURCH PODCAST

If you've missed a week of our teaching program, why not follow our new audio podcast? It's called ScotsCast, and it's available online through Spotify. (Access is free - you won't need an account.) Audio podcasts are excellent when you're driving, exercising, or just have a moment to sit and listen.



ScotsCast is now also available on more major podcast platforms, please search "ScotsCast" on Spotify, Apple Podcast, Google Podcast or Stitcher. Alternatively, visit the links below:

Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3nOFHXP>

Apple Podcast: <https://apple.co/3Paztxa>

Google Podcast: <https://bit.ly/3astaWV>

Stitcher: <https://bit.ly/3FvLieQ>

## KIDSchURCH

Our Kid's Ministry runs on Sundays during the 11am service. If you need further information, please contact the office [reception@scotschurch.com](mailto:reception@scotschurch.com) or 9650 9903.



## BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUPS

SMALL GROUP – Is held on Tuesday from 6.30-8.30pm.

We are currently working through material from the excellent Bible Project resource series. Details can be found at [www.scotschurch.com](http://www.scotschurch.com) or call the office 9650 9903.

## SUNDAY PRAYER GROUP

Prayer Group meets on Sunday at 10am before the service in the Westpac Function Room (mezzanine level). All welcome.

## SCOTSCITY – 5pm Sunday





The people of The Scots' Church started meeting together in 1838,  
and since 1874 have worshipped at the present building.  
All who share in the basis of our faith  
are encouraged to apply for membership.

How to contact us.

Telephone information and after-hours answering service: 9650 9903 (leave a message if unattended)

Email: [reception@scotschurch.com](mailto:reception@scotschurch.com)

Web: [www.scotschurch.com](http://www.scotschurch.com)

Web address for St. Stephens and the Mission: [www.scotschurch.com/flemington-mission](http://www.scotschurch.com/flemington-mission)

### Freewill Giving

- Planned giving, electronically or via envelopes arranged with Reception
- By electronic transfer to BSB **083 004**, Account number **630 327 585**
- By cheque made out to The Scots' Church Melbourne and posted to 1/156 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
- By the tap and pay terminal in the foyer. (Note that you can make multiple taps if the preset amount is insufficient.)
- By credit card over the phone, Telephone the office on 9650 9903 (please leave a message and we will call you back.

### FROM THE SAFE CHURCH UNIT

Dear fellow worker,

As you may be aware your Safe Church Representative at your church promotes the Safe Church Refresher Training each year to ensure Safe Church compliance is maintained by gospel and ministry workers in our church.

To further assist you in maintaining your Safe Church compliance in your role, and to fulfil our Church's obligation under the Victorian Child Safe Standards, the Safe Church Unit is sending you this email reminder to watch and/or read the Safe Church Refresher Training.

The Refresher video (~15 minutes) can be watched at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChEufkg1ruDmr4bnKO8yaOA>

Please make sure you watch/read the Safe Church Refresher Training at your earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

The Safe Church Unit

### Thought for the week

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4: 2