

# HOPE



We are living in extraordinary and challenging times for the whole world. In Australia, extensive parts of our country have been and continue to be in the grip of devastating drought. Farms and farming communities have been severely impacted. A few months ago, I heard a farmer in an interview say "each day it doesn't rain is a day closer to when it does rain". I was struck by his attitude in a desperate situation. The farmer clung to 'hope'.

Victoria and New South Wales, and other parts of the country, have experienced frightening and devastating bush fires. Lives were lost, homes and businesses lost, livestock and other animals lost, feed and fencing lost, communities partially destroyed and shaken. We saw courageous fire fighters and emergency workers doing what they have trained for in taking on the fires. We saw overwhelming generosity by the public, and the Church and government are responding as well. There is such a long journey ahead for recovery to unfold. With the rains that fell on the fire-affected bush there is new green growth shooting forth - small signs of life, small signs of hope.

Now we are in the midst of a COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic which is a significant public health issue. The coronavirus is causing sickness and death as well as anxiety, fear, panic buying and forcing us to change how we greet, interact and gather with people. The whole community including the church are taking steps to contain the spread of the virus.

Someone I was speaking to said our grandparents and great grandparents got through WW1 and WW2 and the depression and we will get through this. With an attitude like that, as well as scientists and medical professionals and good hospitals, we do have hope when it comes to this virus.

## **How to find our Live Broadcast**

*Services go 'Live' 5 minutes  
before the start time*

### **Option 1:**

1. Open the Internet on your computer, iPad or device
2. Go to the Glen Waverley Uniting Church website - [www.gwuc.org.au](http://www.gwuc.org.au)
3. Click on the **Worship Live Stream** box
4. Move your mouse over the picture of the church and when the arrow in the middle highlights red, click the arrow.

### **Option 2:**

Open YouTube and search for **Glen Waverley Uniting Church** to find our YouTube channel.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church  
Corner Bogong Avenue & Kingsway  
Glen Waverley 3150

Phone: 0434 119 335

Email [office@gwuc.org.au](mailto:office@gwuc.org.au)  
or [minteamandoffice@gwuc.org.au](mailto:minteamandoffice@gwuc.org.au)

Easter is a season of hope. Jesus taught and lived a message of love, acceptance, inclusion and justice. Jesus strongly affirmed and lived having a love for God and a love for people. And yet when Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem, people turned on him and he was betrayed, arrested, beaten and crucified. Even his close followers scattered as their focus became one of self-interest. But Jesus' death is not the end of the story. On the third day God raised Jesus to life. This is a message of hope, a message of new life, a message of life overcoming darkness.

This message of hope and new life gives us reassurance and courage to face the challenges of this present time. One aspect of new life finds expression in Christian community. So as followers of Jesus and people of hope, how do we exhibit that hope in these times of social distancing and self-quarantine? Every time we refuse a hand shake or keep our distance let's also remember to smile, to speak warmly and just be mindful of the people near us and even more mindful of those who can't get out. For our physical health we are cautious, for emotional and mental wellbeing we need connection and community. We need to be ensuring that we are messaging, texting, phoning, emailing, using WhatsApp, Snapchat and writing old fashion letters to communicate and maintain community connection. We can do this with congregation members, neighbours, friends, elderly relatives. This is a time to intentionally connect with people. In this way we can offer hope and remind people they are not forgotten and they are cared about.

In his ministry, Jesus didn't forget people, didn't overlook people and noticed those on the margins. All people are made in the image of God. All are of value. The challenge is for us to live like this as well.

This Easter we offer an important message of hope, love and new life.

*Blessings for a different Easter from Neil, Alanee & Di and Joanne in the office.*

## *Connect with Us*

*Don't forget **WE ARE HERE!!!***

*If you need a chat, a phone call, shopping picked up, anything (well almost!) please do not hesitate to contact us. We are only phone call, email, text, WhatsApp or Snapchat away. Please send a message to the office or the ministry team if we can help in any way. We may not be able to help you ourselves, but we might know someone who can.*

*For worship and pastoral care please email celebrations and prayer concerns to the church office on [office@gwuc.org.au](mailto:office@gwuc.org.au).*

*Let's remember one another, pray for one another,  
and reach out in new ways so that we stay  
connected.*

### *Weekly Happenings*

#### **Tuesday**

10am-12pm Call Neil for a catch up

#### **Wednesday**

7am Prayer Broadcast

10am-12pm Call Di for a catch up

#### **Thursday**

7.30pm Evening Reflection Broadcast

#### **Friday**

12pm-2pm Call Alanee for a catch up

#### **Sunday**

10am Live Broadcast

*you may be  
isolated, but you are not alone...*

