

BULLETIN

Welcome to the Bulletin

From David: A question of leadership

I've been searching my vocabulary for words that might describe the past week in post-election USA. Words like relieved, followed by disturbed, and mixed in with a fair bit of stunned, just about sums it up. If it wasn't so serious it would be farcical. **And what has disturbed me more than anything has been the commentary by what the media have named as the *Christian Evangelicals*.**

I was transfixed by a short video clip of Trump's personal spiritual advisor Paula White praying and ranting in tongues, almost demanding God to deliver an electoral victory to the Republican Party. I felt physically sick watching this corruption of a faith story that means so much to me. It made me feel ashamed to be associated with the movement known as Christianity.

But then I tuned into watching a very different brand of Christianity – an American Catholic brand.

I watched US President Elect, Joe Biden, give his 'victory' speech. Knowing that there is some strange stuff going on over there in the good ole US of A. I was keen to hear how he was going to navigate this high-stakes political / religious space.

Call me odd, but I love reading and listening to a well-crafted speech. Word smithery done well can be incredibly inspiring. Especially a turn of phrase that somehow captures the significance and the spirit of the moment. In German philosophy it's called the zeitgeist – the spirit of the age. Presidents and leaders in America have a history of producing some memorable moments in their speeches, particularly in State of the Nation addresses or large-scale rallies:

An honourable defeat is better than a dishonourable victory (Millard Fillmore).

Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country (JF Kennedy).

I have a dream..... (Martin Luther King jnr). To name just three.

There was for me a memorable moment in Biden's speech when he said: "Tonight, the whole world is watching America. I believe at our best, America is a beacon for the globe. And we lead not by the example of our power, but by the power of our example".

I've been chewing on that for a few days now, because it seems to me that this is precisely where faith communities of every brand find themselves in 2021. **How to be beacons of hope in a world caught in the shadows of fear and hatred? Christianity in particular, has been built upon the wisdom, integrity and faith of a man from Galilee who shone a light onto a disfigured faith and espoused that very principle: leading by the power of example and not by the example of power.**

I had the feeling that this 'memorable moment' in Biden's speech may have been shaped and influenced by his Catholic Faith, the tragic death of his first wife and baby daughter in a car accident, and the death of his son Beau from brain cancer. Undoubtedly, Joe Biden has many flaws – he is only human after all, but there is a deep sense of decency that seems to emanate from him.

Such a refreshing change to what continues to emanate from Donald Trump, or the brand of Evangelical Christianity that stands solidly behind him. As Jesus reportedly said, "By their fruits you will know them".

Shalom

David

CYBER CHURCH via ZOOM: Sunday 15th November 2020 at 10.30am

Bible Reading: Matthew 7: 15 – 29

This Sunday we conclude what has been a most enlightening pilgrimage from Easter to Advent.

A weekend on which so many Melbournians in particular will be venturing out to catch up with family and friends – people they haven't been able to spend time with for months. In so many ways we have arrived at the end of this stage of the pilgrimage. **I have one final set of public statues to talk about, and then I will offer some closing thoughts on The Way according to Jesus. Looking forward to seeing you online at 10.30.**

An invitation will arrive in your inbox around 9.45 am for anyone who feels like a chat – the 'waiting room' will be open from that time.

If you have not joined before, please send David your email so that an invitation can be sent to your inbox: saints163@bigpond.com

BIBLE STUDY/Discussion Group via ZOOM - Wednesday 18 November: 7.30 – 8.30 pm.

Following a major computer meltdown moments after sending out the Zoom invitation last Wednesday evening, **the session on *Grace* will now take place this coming Wednesday**

My sincere apologies to those impacted by the computer malfunction – I couldn't even let you know what was happening. So a big thankyou to Randall for getting the message around to as many people as possible.

Interested? Then please join us. If you are not already on the list and would like to join, just send David your email address and he will add you to the distribution list: saints163@bigpond.com

You are invited to gather in the Engagement Hub garden for **AFTERNOON TEA** together – (Chapel Street entrance) **TODAY: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15TH 2 - 4PM.**

With current restrictions, you will need to bring your own food and drink – there cannot be ANY sharing. You might also like to bring your own chair. We will need to practice physical distancing and adults will need to wear masks. We will have hand sanitizer. If the forecasted storms arrive before 4pm there will be shelter! Let's celebrate – it will be so good to see you!

**Knowledge Melbourne (City of Melbourne): MELBOURNE CONVERSATIONS:
Truth-telling and Reconciliation**



Join November's Melbourne Conversations to get an understanding of how truth and reconciliation processes work around the world. Speakers will discuss their own experiences from before and after truth-telling processes in Canada and South Africa, and discuss what this could mean in Australia. We'll hear first-hand accounts of the effectiveness of these processes in accounting for injustices in countries which have

begun the long transition from colonial rule. **Join Hans Bokelund, Marcus Stewart, Phyllis Webstad and Dr. Mochekoe Stephen Rametse LIVE on Wednesday 18 November, 1– 2.30pm.** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=649821&>

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA Sunday 22nd November 3.30 to 4.40pm

TOPIC: 'Being Black Fella's Young Fella in Neo-Colonial Australia'

SPEAKER: Rev Glenn Loughrey. Glen will explore the following themes from his recent book "On Being Blackfella's Young Fella". Glen is a Wiradjuri Man and Anglian Priest at St Oswald's Anglican Church, Glen Iris. Glen is passionate about treaty, sovereignty and self-determination for First Nations peoples.

This meeting will be followed by the AGM from 4.40 to 5pm Zoom Meeting link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82793544335?pwd=Y2xteWhQaUE5M2VCcEJtbGtPeWRyUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 9354 4335 Passcode: 764602

The monthly News and Resources from the Justice and International Mission Cluster is available online at:

The Justice Cluster at the Uniting Church jim@victas.uca.org.au

It is packed with excellent information and guidelines for letter writing for particular issues in pursuit of social justice. They are also keen to get feedback from its supporters about what issues would be important to pursue. Also included is a list of resources for congregations on issues of climate justice.

Blessed are those who know when to give up, when to walk away, to surrender.
In the world of profit and loss,
loss gets a bad rap,
and love does not appear
on balance sheets.

Blessed are those who find meaning,
purpose, and joy to fill the gap
between birth and death;
though sometimes they find us,
and come to us unexpectedly
like a stray cat.

Blessed are those sane enough to
lose well,
To let go of striving, to listen to
their heart
To allow others to care for them
To smell the aroma of goodwill
To know that failure is fleeting
And aroha is forever

Glynn Cardy



During church last Sunday, the sculpture *The Monster Petition* (Burston Reserve, near the Victorian State Parliament) created interesting discussion. Some people wanted to find out more information about women who have made significant contributions to the history of Victoria/Australia. An interesting place to start would be The Women's Museum, *Her Place*, Clarendon Terrace 208-210 Clarendon Street, East

Melbourne <https://herplacemuseum.com/> Unfortunately COVID has put a stop temporarily to any exhibitions or events.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our church financially. Contributions to support the work of the church can be made through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465 - the only identification needed is 'offering' – or by mail: PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Contributions to these bulletins welcomed – please send to desleighk@ozemail.com.au (photos, articles, poems – anything you would like to share with others)

VISION STATEMENT. As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

As we gather in our various places via Zoom, we acknowledge the *Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung People* as the traditional custodians of this land on which our church building stands. We give thanks for their commitment to nurturing this land over many generations. We honour the sacred stories that belong to this land. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and for those emerging who will lead their communities into the future. We commit ourselves to empowering children to continue the journey of reconciliation on this land.