

Singer wakes the music, voiced with silver note, taking us to wonder, space for joys to float.
Mystic offers wisdom, faith we seek to hold, treasure mined from stillness, greater gift than gold.

Poet speaks in riddles, sharing words and themes, phrase and verse revealing human hopes and dreams.
Harpist plucks our hearts strings, music on the air, notes of sunlight streaming, calling all to prayer.

Lute and cello solo, skills of hands and voice, thankful for these blessings, gladly we rejoice.
 Sacred are these talents, wondrous gifts of art; wisdom shared and honoured, stirring soul and heart.

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Date	24 February	3 March	10 March	17 March
Worship Assistance	David Janet/Brian	David Desleigh	David Melissa	David Randall
Welcome at door	Louise	Roma	Louise	Maureen
Flowers	Deb	Roma	Desleigh	Petra
Coffee	Louise	Roma	Louise	Maureen
Rubbish collection	Darren/ Melissa	Andrej	Randall	Roma

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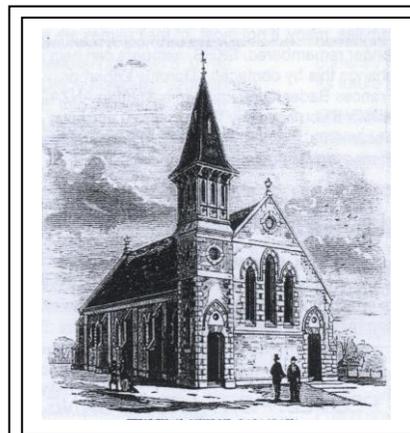
0458 417 708

VISION STATEMENT:

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

NEWSLETTER DETAILS:

Desleigh Kent is the editor and distributor of the Newsletter. If you would like to receive a copy of the church newsletter each week or if you wish to be removed from the list, please contact Desleigh: desleighk@ozemail.com.au
 Contributions to the content are also welcomed.



**St Kilda Uniting Church
 Parish Mission**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 54, Issue 5

Sunday, 24 February 2019

You are most welcome to our worship service. Rev. David Pargeter will lead our service today – the theme for February being *humour*. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation.

Bible Reading: Luke 6: 24 - 37 The Inclusive Bible

From David:

Back in 2001 I was a guest on Triple J taking phone calls about Asylum Seekers. It was after the ‘fake news’ debacle of Tampa. Towards the end of the session the host, Tim Ferguson, threw in an unscheduled ‘on air’ question. “So, David, you’re a minister, what do you think of the 2nd coming? My response was quick, off-the-cuff, and honest. I said: “Not an issue for me, I’m still coming to grips with the first one!”

So, my attention was sympathetically captured this week by an article in the Guardian. It appears that a right-wing Christian group in the US called CitizenGo (anti-abortion and anti-LGBT campaigners) have been effective in cancelling a new comic series from DC comics, in which Jesus is sent on “a most holy mission by God” to learn “what it takes to be the true messiah of mankind” from a superhero called Sun-Man. The decision follows a petition that called it “outrageous and blasphemous”.

The Second Coming series, was due to be launched on Ash Wednesday. Its story followed Jesus’s return to Earth. “Shocked to discover what has become of his gospel,” he teams up with a superhero, Sun-Man, who is more widely worshipped than him.

Writer, Mark Russell requested that rights for the comic be returned to him. “I decided I would rather keep the story intact” he said. “Nobody really wants a watered-down, one-size-fits-none version of this story, so they graciously agreed to let me have it back. We also want a publisher who can get it to fans in the near future, so we hope to be able to announce a new home as soon as possible.”

PTO

CitizenGo hailed the decision as a victory, claiming that Second Coming “portrays a false view” of Jesus, who is “not a failure”. It added: “Most children grow up reading about iconic DC superheroes like Batman, Superman, or Wonder Woman. It would be a shame to market this false view of Jesus as an equal read to these figures.”

Russell was undeterred. “I first heard of CitizenGo when they ran this silly campaign to get the buses in Portland to drop ads featuring lesbians. They would be completely ridiculous if not for the fact that social media’s anger-made-easy platforms give them access to cranks from all over the world. But it’s OK. Some enemies are worth having,”

“I think the religious fundamentalists and critics who are trying to stop Second Coming aren’t interested in protecting Christ so much as their ability to control his narrative ... They probably (correctly) suspect that it’s not Christ who’s being parodied, but themselves and how they’ve twisted his teachings of mercy for the powerless into a self-serving tool of the powerful.”

How nicely put Mark Russell, truth in the form of a comic.

I can’t wait to read it! David

SONGS

All Creation Sings. Tune: TiS 93

All creation sings an anthem waking earth with sacred voice;
all creation rings with music calling nature to rejoice;
we who hear dawn’s sweetest love song

join the wondrous symphony;
we who cradle earth in nurture offer thanks for all we see.

All creation waits in stillness ringed by countless stars of night;
all creation stirs in splendour blessed by sun and golden light;
we who rise to greet the morning breathe with joy, life’s fragrant air;
we who share earth’s ancient wisdom join the canticle of prayer.

All creation moves with passion dancing with the birds in flight;
all creation swirls in colours full of fire and dazzling light;
we who live in sun and shadow add our joyous song of praise;
we who feel an inner stirring bring our thanks for gifted days.

All creation tells a story words of life for heart and mind;
all creation shares a secret: wisdom’s love for humankind;
we who meet in hope and longing seek a gentle healing place;
we who pause in joy and yearning bless this earth as sacred space.

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Breathe in The Morning Air

Tune: TiS 341

Breathe in the morning air; inhale its fragrance rare;
Be still and trust the sacredness arising there;
whose ever near; who knows our fear;
whose presence calms each silent tear.

Lie down in pastures green; rest in this sacred space;
be present to the myst’ry of this holy place;
hear singing streams; wake hopeful dreams;
see how our lives are touched by grace.

Walk in the way of love, of justice and of peace;
Bring caring to a world at war til conflicts cease;
reach out and bless with gentleness to heal the hurt of brokenness.

Here in this darkest vale,
shadowed by grief and pain,
we sense a loving presence that our hearts sustain;
our fear subsides; deep calm abides;
our panic flees, and peace remains.

Trust in the love of God; see goodness ever grow;
feel hope and joy and sacred love forever flow
Through changing days, in pilgrim ways
our thankful hearts will offer praise.

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Explore the world of nature

Tune: TiS 457

Explore the world of nature; discover life anew;
see each of earth’s rich seasons, and ever-changing hues.
Explore the world of matter; see galaxies newborn;
hear whale songs from the oceans; and magpie calls at dawn.

Engage the world of science; share in her endless quest;
grasp wisdom’s understanding, her striving for the best.
Engage the world of atoms; untangle coded genes;
hear arguments and answers with visioning and dreams.

Embrace the world of wonder;
discover mystery;
see life in wild profusion and rich complexity.
Embrace the world of beauty; surprises daily spring;
hear some of the unspoken; live with deep questioning.

Exploring and embracing, we’ve daily life to share,
enriched with sacred passion, with watchfulness and care.
Engaging and embracing, we celebrate and pray;
beholding and believing, we offer praise this day. Words: Helen Wiltshire

Talents to Share:Tune: TiS 687

Artist paints a picture, drawing us to see
harmony and tension, perfect symmetry.
Dancer steps to music, hands like birds that soar,
beauty in the movement, held by earth no more.

Author tells a story, shaping words with skill,
hinting at life’s anguish, eager minds to fill.
Sculptor chisels marble, images set free,
carving out a vision, love’s reality.