



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Rockingham Congregation
4 Erindoon Way, Waikiki 6169

UPDATE

SUNDAY 3rd March 2024 at 9:30am

Service conducted by Rev Samuel Annan
Please join us for morning tea following worship

Welcome to Rockingham Uniting Church

Our hope is that all who come through our doors find Spiritual rest and nourishment, and that you will experience the presence of the living God in our midst.

MISSION AND VISION

- ❖ We aim to be a diverse community with the crucified risen Lord Jesus Christ as our guiding light spreading the good news of reconciliation to all.
- ❖ We aim to welcome all newcomers, encourage spiritual growth in all members of the community, nurture faith in children and young people and care for those in need,
- ❖ We will strive to achieve this by committing ourselves to God through love, worship, prayer, bible study and diligent management of our time, talents and resources.

Minister Rev Samuel Annan	Minister's Days: Sunday, Tuesday – Thursday, Saturday Mobile: 0406 346 432 E-mail: samannan15@gmail.com
Office Staff Office Hours Contact Details	Margit Hanisch Monday & Thursday: 9:00am to 12:00noon Phone: 9527 1014 Email: RockinghamUniting@gmail.com
Postal Address	PO Box 263 Rockingham WA 6168
Website Address	www.rockinghamuniting.org
Church bank details	Account Name: UCA Rockingham Parish BSB: 086918 Account Number: 015990422
Opportunity Shop	169 Parkin Street, Rockingham Phone 9527 4660 Monday to Friday: 10:00am to 3:00pm Saturday: 9:00am to 12:00noon

Reflection

In the OT and particularly in Genesis reading (Gen. 17:1-7,15-16), we see consistently God's initiative to re-establish the relationship between God's self and nations. We recognise that the scope of God's redemptive work is indeed global; the promise of reconciliation is planted in the midst of a very specific people, Israel. The shocking reality, however, is the fact that YHWH willingly binds himself to a people who, like us, persist in turning away from God's invitation of grace. The one who seeks to restore and reconcile humanity by establishing a covenant with Abram is the one true God.

In Genesis, when God promised Abram and Sarai that he would have a covenant with them, everyone in this story is given a new name. For the first time, God is given the name (Gen. 17:1) "God Almighty" (El Shaddai). Abram and Sarai are also given new names: Abraham and Sarah. The changes are subtle, yet their theological implications are profound. In the OT, names reflect the character and destiny of the person. The covenant offers the people **the gift of hope, their source of identity and their place in the creation**. This covenant will not end with just Abraham but for all generation.

Paul in Romans (Rom. 4:13-25) explains that the promise to Abraham is similar to the promise to us now. Abraham's promise depended on the God of creation bringing forth life from that which was barren; the promise for us now depends on trusting the God of creation who brings life from death. In the case of the Christian, God enables the promise to be realised through the miracle of the resurrected life out of the death and suffering of Jesus. Paul argues that having faith and trusting in the promises of God enable God to make "right" our relationship with God. God wants us to trust in God and his promises. For Paul, trusting in God is what God requires. Even if everything looks hopeless, as it did for Abraham, we should still trust in God and know that God will make all things happen. We are called to imitate Abraham's response to the promise he received and to trust in the God who brings life from weakness and tragedy.

The journey to the cross has just begun; the drama of Holy Week is a long way off. During the lent season, the church, in its wisdom, calls us to reflect on our sin and brokenness, on all the ways we have fallen short of the high calling of following Jesus. Lenten fasting and abstinence, when understood as practices of faith, have the potential to introduce Christians to a sacramental understanding of everyday life.

We follow Jesus and this is the covenant that we have with God, even as we follow the one named Emmanuel, whose destiny is our destiny: the cross, the grave, the skies.

By Rev Samuel Annan

Bible Readings 10th March 2024:

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3,17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

ROCKINGHAM CONGREGATION

Weekly Worship with Children's Activities each Sunday 9.30am (with Communion on First Sunday of each month).

Week's Events from 3rd - 9th March 2024

Today 9:30am

Morning Worship Service: led by Rev Samuel Annan with Holy Communion
Elder on Duty: Shirley Garrod

Pastoral care

Rev Samuel will be away from 4th to 16th March. As a result, Rev Zak Cronje is to take up the 10th of March service. Please get in touch with him or the elders regarding any pastoral concerns during this period.

We had the news of the **passing of our friend Rodney Buchan**. Please keep the family in your prayers, and we will keep you informed about the funeral arrangements when finalized.

**Wednesday 9:30am-
11:00am**

Women's Connect Group at the Church
THE STORY by Randy Frazee
Session 10 - Standing tall falling hard

Bible Studies at the Church Hall

Simon Cartwright will lead the Bible Studies at the church hall whilst Samuel is away. Please join us on Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm to study the book of Mark together.

Friday 5:30am

Music Practice

Saturday 4:00pm-7:00pm

Youth and Children's games
Board Games at the Church

Coming Events

Sunday 10th March: Worship Service at 9:30am – conducted by Rev Zak Cronjé

Youth-Led Service on every third Sunday of the month at 9:30am.

The Church AGM will be held on 17th March 2024.

Men's Group will be held on 21st March at 10:00am at the Church.
Topic: God and Suffering by Rev Samuel. Then every 3rd Thursday in the month.

Mission Shaped Ministry (MSM)

The MSM is a one-year course on how to start and sustain a Fresh Expression of church. It's about how to re-invent church for 21st century culture. MSM 2024 will be held face to face over four weekends: April 27-28, June 22-23, August 24-25 and October 26-27. Each of these Saturdays at Mt Pleasant Uniting Church and Sundays at Nedland Uniting Church. You need to attend both days and all four weekends to fully participate. We want to register all who are willing to participate. Kindly contact Simon Cartwright to register if you would like to participate fully in this.

Notices

In your prayers remember the lands and people of Ireland, and The United Kingdom.

Op Shop - Furniture Shed. We urgently require assistance to operate this vital service. From 10:00am to 2.30pm, 1 day per week. Training provided. Contact: Rob Skeet 0438 986 204.

Collection of Data:

We would like to compile the day and month of each member as part of our record to help us celebrate your birthday with you. We will provide a sheet on Sunday to collect this information.

If you want to watch the live-streaming of our Sunday service, simply follow this link:

https://www.facebook.com/RockinghamUnitingChurch/videos/?ref=page_internal

Otherwise, you can go to Facebook and search Rockingham Uniting Church.

Sunday 10th March 2024	
Bus Driver	Tim Finney 0434 208 534
Reader	Ann Ried
Elder & Announcements	Helen Williams
Stewards	Brian Williams & Christina Harman
Communion Stewards	
Morning Tea	Kerry Dunn & Ann Toerien
Accompanist	Joy Williams
AV System	Shirley Garrod & Adrian Graetz
KUCA	Jamie McKeig

Four week averages: 69 Adults, 2 Children