



# Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;  
people to people; and people to community.

Newsletter

September 2022

## Worship Services

9.30am on Sundays in the church.

4 Sept Rev Keith Hamilton  
Holy Communion

Fathers' Day

11 Sept Rev Keith Hamilton

18 Sept Creation portfolio

25 Sept Rev Keith Hamilton

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

### 'Sunday @ 5'

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall. All are welcome.

## Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) and we'll put you in touch with someone.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email [keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com](mailto:keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com)

## *Listen to the Voice of Creation*

Many churches across the world set September as the Season of Creation. This year Bathurst Uniting Church is joining in. Each

Sunday, morning and evening, our worship will be on the theme of "*Listening to the Voice of Creation.*" We are encouraged as we read the Bible readings to think about how they speak to the theme. Those who use the daily devotional *With Love to the World*, will have noticed that the contributors have been invited to focus on questions relating to the care of the environment, living sustainably, and demonstrating responsible stewardship of the earth's resources, as integral to our discipleship, to our worship of God, witness of faith through word and deed, and serving others in the name of Christ.

Governments and many businesses are onboard with reducing emissions. Both State and Federal governments have set targets for significant emissions reductions. Our Bathurst City Council has set an Emission Reduction Plan that includes 25% reductions by 2025, and 60% reductions in emissions by 2035. Our Council has signed an agreement for supply of 100% renewable electricity for its large sites and streetlighting from 1 January 2023. Electric Utes were in the news this part week and a number of vehicle manufacturers have commenced production of electric Utes which will arrive in Australia over the next few years. Many businesses are going solar power, passive heating and cooling, and electric vehicles. A new seven-star rating has been released for buildings and homes that meet certain criteria of low emissions.

The Bible speaks into the matter of creation. The Genesis creation myth portrays God as seeing everything that was made and being pleased (Genesis 1:1-2:3). The Psalms speak of creation praising God. Psalm 19 "The heavens are declaring the glory of God." Psalm 148 exhorts the whole of creation to praise God: angels, heavenly hosts, sun, moon, stars, mountains, waters, beasts, and all cattle, all people are to praise God. Nothing is excluded from the call to praise God. There are many more Psalms that continue the theme. The Bible suggests that by their very being, plants, birds, animals, landforms, fish, and humans praise God. The writer of the letter to the Colossians speaks of the cosmic Christ who came to redeem the entirety of Creation. The resurrection of Jesus is good news for the entirety of Creation.

Not only did St Francis and his sister Clare of Assisi model and speak of the whole creation worshipping God, but many others as well. The Reformer Martin Luther, John Calvin and John and Charles Wesley also wrote



extensively of both the way in which the whole of creation praises God, and of caring for God's good creation.

Notice the language. The language of creation contrasts to the language of nature. The language of creation suggests a Creator. The language of nature is suggestive of atheism, of self-creation. The language of creation is suggestive it was created. Who by? If God, what does it mean that God created the entirety of creation? What right do we have to destroy what is God's, created by God and assessed as being good by God? What moral responsibility do we have as people of faith to look after that which we believe God created? If we are accountable to God for our life, would that also include how we cared for or abused God's creation?

Creation is easily changed and destroyed. Since Julie and I moved into our house at Llanarth in June 2021, we have planted more than 40 trees and shrubs. I am mindful that my own parents in their house of 31 years at Wentworthville planted thousands of trees and shrubs and vegetables. It had such an impact on one of my sisters and her husband that they live on 15 hectares (37 acres) near Kempsey. And one of our daughters was inspired to become a horticulturalist. When mum and dad sold the house and moved into their retirement, they then proceeded to fill the yard with trees and shrubs. But the new owners of the house at Wentworthville removed the entirety of the garden and landscaping at the front of the house. Successive owners have removed the entirety of the garden at the rear of the house so that now it is devoid of any trees.

Creation is both fragile and resilient. Our influence can be significant and long-term, as well as short-lived. We can easily destroy landforms, create erosion, pollute waters ways and air, and change weather patterns. My late Grandfather, an electrician, pondered the effect on weather patterns, including rainfall, of the magnetic field produced by very high voltage powerlines running across many kilometres. The very high voltage powerlines create such a large magnetic field they must be on very high towers, up to 60 metres (200 feet) away from humans. Likewise, I often marvel at how bare paddocks can be reforested, and how when a house is removed and concrete lifted, even after 100 years, green shoots quickly appear.

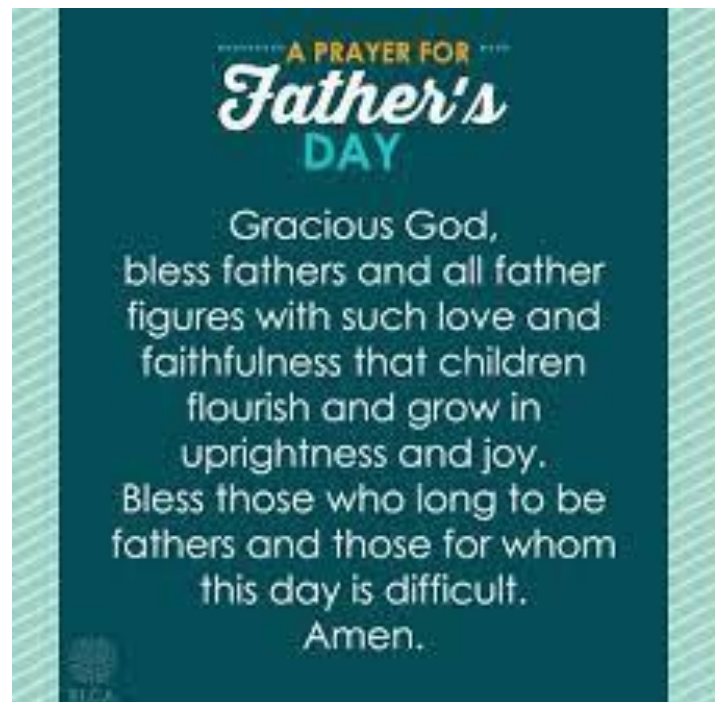
I suppose we can work with God in the care of God's good creation, or we can use and abuse and trash it. We make the choice. And our choice will be influenced by who is our God, and how big is our God?  
A question to ponder is, how can we *Listen to the Voice of Creation*?

**On two Sundays after church and morning tea, 11 September and 25 September, 11:30-12:30 we will have an opportunity to explore further the theme of the season of creation – *Listen to the Voice of Creation*. We shall meet in the foyer of our church.**

Blessings

Keith Hamilton

On Sunday 18 September members from the Creation portfolio will be leading the Sunday morning worship. It will be on the theme of the season of Creation. If you would like to be involved in that church service, or like to find out more, join a planning meeting Monday 5 September on the Church zoom, 5-5:30 pm.



## ANNUAL REFUGEE SUNDAY SERVICE

The annual Combined Christian Churches Refugee Sunday Service to mark Migrant and Refugee Sunday, organised by the Bathurst Refugee Support Group, will be held this year on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm at the Bathurst Baptist Church, with the Theme "Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee." Everyone is encouraged to attend and enjoy fellowship afterwards with Afternoon Tea.

## Lavender for a Loved One



**Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 2.30pm**  
**Bathurst Uniting Church Memorial Garden**

This is the planting date, and everyone is invited. There will be an afternoon tea following the planting. We are currently trying to trace family members of people who have plaques around the garden. If you have information please contact [judytyson@hotmail.com](mailto:judytyson@hotmail.com). The cost per bush is \$17.50

If you have indicated that you would like to donate a lavender bush in memory of a loved one, the banking details are as follows BSB: 634634

Account: 100019125

Acc Name: Bathurst City Working Account

Narration: Lavender

Alternatively, an envelope can be placed in the church collection plate, labeled with your name and "Lavender"

## The Sydney Street Choir is Coming!

The Choir will be visiting Bathurst on the weekend of 22, 23rd October and are keen to do things with the Church and BUSS. So we have worked out the following program. Everyone is invited to **all** the events.



### Saturday 22nd

- BBQ lunch at the BUSS cafe for the Choir, BUSS people and congregational members at 12pm
- A choir workshop for congregational members and BUSS people in the church approx 2pm
- A performance for those who have been planting in the Memorial garden (and anyone else) about 3pm in the courtyard

### Sunday 23rd

- Singing in the morning service briefly before heading off to Lithgow. Please put this in your diary and come and enjoy this unique opportunity.

Uniting Climate Action Network is holding a free online event this week

## Electric Vehicle Information Forum

Wed September 7pm-8.30pm

It is a perfect time to find out whether an EV could be the right investment for you and have all your questions answered. Come along to hear from guest speaker **Dr Jake Whitehead**, the Head of Policy at the **Electric Vehicle Council of Australia**.

You can register with the QR code.

### Mowing Roster

3 September John and Max

17 September Brian

1 October Ian and Allan



The poster features a green electric car parked next to a charging station. The text on the poster reads: "Electric Vehicle Information Forum", "WEDNESDAY September 7 | 7pm-8.30pm", "Free Online Event". Below this, it states: "Cars are responsible for about half of all transport emissions in Australia. Could switching to an electric vehicle be the right investment for you and the planet?" It then says: "Whether you're considering buying an electric vehicle or just curious to learn more, we encourage you to come along. Hear from guest speaker **Dr Jake Whitehead**, Head of Policy at the **Electric Vehicle Council**". A circular portrait of Dr Jake Whitehead is shown. At the bottom, it says "REGISTER HERE with QR Code:" next to a QR code. Logos for UCAN (Uniting Climate Action Network), Uniting Church Synod of NSW & ACT, and Uniting are also present.

### How to get information/stories out there

For good news stories, upcoming events or updates to be added to the church website email Allan - [allanwray@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwray@hotmail.com)

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth at [revaughan@bigpond.com](mailto:revaughan@bigpond.com) by 9pm on the last Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month.