



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

August 2023

## Reflection

### The world does not need to be flat

Most of us know that the world is not flat. Yet we often live as if the world is flat. We can live as if there is nothing beyond the immediate and beyond the imminent. It plays out in our busyness, with no time to wait, no time to sit and relax, no time to admire the beauty of the world around us, even on a cold and wet day. No time to enjoy the company of others. Such things are deemed a waste of time. Such living in the imminent is as if there is nothing transcendent. But is that living?

Such living locks God out. It leaves us to try to find a rational solution to everything. But while we certainly can solve a lot of problems, there are some things we can't fix. We can't fix a broken heart. Some things are a mystery.

Our lives are finite, bound by time between birth and death. But God who is infinite is in another time frame, one not bound by such limits. Many live as Deists, that is as if God created the world and is not engaged in the world. We can appreciate such thinking because if God is beyond time, and we are locked into time, how can the two engage?

### Worship Services

9.30am in the church.

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

6 August Rev Keith Hamilton  
Communion

13 August Rev Keith Hamilton

20 August Rev Keith Hamilton

27 August Rev Keith Hamilton

3 September Communion and  
Fathers' Day

#### 'Sunday @ 5'

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

It is only as God who is infinite, beyond time, who came as fully God and fully human (God-human) that the separation between the infinite of transcendence and the finite of imminent is connected. The basis of the Christian faith is that Christ Jesus is fully God and fully human. Fully God able to do such transcended miracles as healings and teaching, and fully human, fully imminent, who hungered and thirsted, loved a good feast, got tired and needed rest, had friends and enjoyed their company of laughter and tears. The Christian faith is that Jesus, fully God and fully human, was born and lived and died. But that is not the end. The resurrection becomes the defining point. The resurrection is a disclosure that the God-human was indeed God-human, that Jesus is indeed the Christ. That would suggest a connection or a way for those bound by time to connect with God who is not time-bound. That connection is through connection to Christ.

Another important aspect of the connection between God who is transcendent and we who live in the imminent time is through wisdom. There is human wisdom, but human wisdom locked into finite time can't connect with God who is outside of time. Our worship and daily devotions, prayer and reading the Bible and other devotional aids, synthesised with reason and life experiences and knowledge create in us Godly wisdom. Such Godly wisdom becomes the meeting of the imminent with the

transcendent. Having actively waited with the God who is God, we locate ourselves in the place in which we might be encountered by God in the everyday, so that the world of imminence is transformed by the transcended God.

One Christian thinker suggested that Christian's live in a different time zone to most. It is a time zone open to the transcendent. A time open to the future of God. This compares with a finite time zone that ends in death. The irony of our rushing about is that we rush about to jam more into our limited life, while our rushing limits our living in its fullness, and often shortens our limited life through stress-related illnesses. Stopping to admire the beauty of the day, even when the day is cold and wet, or taking time to have an extended chat with another, is living the transcended life even in the imminent.

If we are rushing about, getting anxious, with no time to stop and wait, perhaps it is an indicator that we are living as if the world is flat, and God is remote. That might be a signal to stop, actively wait on God, look, listen, pray, read the Bible, sit with others.

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

## News

Monday night gatherings: Bible study, the *Basis of Union*, and the Uniting Church.

Dates: 14, 28 August, 4 September, 7-8 pm,

Where: Bathurst UC zoom. Go to the Bathurst UC web site, find the purple button and click on it.

## Save the Date in 2024

At the July Church Council meeting a date was set for a Whole Congregational Retreat on Saturday, 17 February 2024. It will be a time of celebration of what has so far been achieved on the Mission and Strategy Plan 2019-2024 and a chance to focus on the year ahead. Details will be announced by the end of this year.



An evening of food and culture was held recently when William prepared Pakistani food and shared about his home country. It was a most enjoyable time.



## **Bathurst Community Transport**

Are you looking for convenient, reliable transportation within Bathurst, to Orange, Lithgow, Katoomba or even Sydney? Look no further than Bathurst Community Transport! Our door-to-door service offers flexible pick-up times, allowing you to travel effortlessly throughout the Bathurst CBD and beyond. Whether you're visiting friends and family, attending medical appointments, enjoying social activities, going shopping, or planning a day trip, we're here to make your journey seamless. We offer subsidised travel to eligible clients who are referred through My Aged Care. Call now for more information and for bookings ph 6331 3322 or [bctg.com.au](http://bctg.com.au)

### **A date for your Diary**

Sunday 29th October at 2.30 pm Bathurst Uniting Church

A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon featuring A Tribute to Billy Graham.

## **Refugee Sunday Service 2023**

**WHEN:** Sunday 17 September  
**WHERE:** Uniting Church, William St,  
Bathurst  
**TIME:** 3 pm



**Main Speakers:**  
Refugees from Ukraine who are staying in Orange

### **Collection money:**

To an Afghan family of women Bathurst Refugee Support Group is supporting in Kabul



**ALL WELCOME**



## BUSS UPDATE

All the BUSS activities are running well with many guests enjoying lunch at the weekends. There continues to be great support from the community and community groups. A recent highlight was a Christmas in July lunch. The guests were entertained by the Music Buss.



## **ELIJAH - Felix Mendelssohn's Blockbuster!**

Allegrì Singers, together with choirs in Orange and Willoughby are well into their preparations to present Mendelssohn's huge and powerful work to audiences in Bathurst and Orange.

The Orange Symphony Orchestra will accompany Allegrì Singers, joined by the Orange Regional Conservatorium Symphonic Choir, the Orange Regional Conservatorium Chamber Choir and the Willoughby Singers, all under the baton of Phil Rees, OAM.

Vocal soloists from the region will join the choirs in evoking the drama of this epic work, based on stories from the life of the prophet Elijah, as told in the Old Testament.

Devotees of Mendelssohn's music will know what a treat is in store for them. For those unfamiliar with his work, more details will be publicised over the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, be sure to **save the dates:**

**Saturday, November 18. All Saints' Cathedral, Bathurst.**

**Sunday, November 19. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Orange.**

More information: Allegrì Singers President: Elizabeth.Tel. 0409 771 214

### **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)

The newsletter email address is [bathurstucanews@gmail.com](mailto:bathurstucanews@gmail.com) . Please send items by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month

Please send news or information for the website to [allanwray@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwray@hotmail.com)

### **Mowing Roster**

**August Aisea**