

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Lent 2A | 1 March 2026

relief

Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!  
Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those  
who can't join us physically today

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Prelude** A van Noordt, *Fantasia in A*

### *The Gathering of the People of God*

**Sung Processional** (TIS 715)

*We stand to sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space. This can be sung as a round, repeating at \*\*; you're welcome to chime in there if you'd like!*

**Everything that has breath**

**\*\*Praise the Lord of hosts forever, praise the Lord!**

**Call to Worship**

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Do not lift your eyes to the hills,

do not raise them to the horizons;

Our help comes not from the heights nor the depths;

**our help comes from the LORD.**

*Psalm 121*

Come, let us worship God.

**Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 125 The God of Abraham praise vv1-3, 5,6

**With the Children**

The musical notation is presented in two staves. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor' and the second 'Congregation'. Both are in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of the Lord lasts forever, the word of the Lord lasts forever.' The lyrics are split across the two staves: the first staff contains 'The grass withers and the flow - ers fade, but the word of the Lord lasts for -' and the second staff contains '-ev - er, the word of the Lord lasts for - ev - er.'

## The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

### ForeWord

#### Word: The Testimony of Scripture

Genesis 15:1-6 *And Abram believed the LORD*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 *The God in whom Abraham believed*

For the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### Word: In Preaching

*The sermon text will normally be available  
after worship and online*

*A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching*

#### AfterWord: Confession

Musical notation for the Confession section, featuring Cantor and Congregation parts. The notation is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, l - lei - son. Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, e - lei - son. Christ-e, Christ-e, Christ-e e - lei - son. Christ e, Christ e, Chris te e - lei - son. Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, e - lei - son. Kyr-i - e Kyr-i - e Kyr-i - e, e - lei - son.

#### Declaration of Forgiveness

*(Please stand if you are able)*

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:  
Your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 121 *The Lord shall keep watch over you*

[PCS p.344 no.6]

#### REFRAIN

Hal H. Hopson

Musical notation for the Refrain, in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.

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#### TONE

Musical notation for the Tone, in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: \*

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
**from where is my | help to come?**

<sup>2</sup> My help comes | from the Lord,  
**the maker of | heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> He will not suffer your | foot to stumble;  
**he who watches over you | will not sleep.**

<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch | over Israel  
**shall neither | slumber nor sleep.**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord himself | watches over you;  
**the Lord is your shade at | your right hand,**

<sup>6</sup> So that the sun shall not | strike you by day,  
**neither the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord shall keep you | from all evil;  
**it is he who shall | keep your soul.**

<sup>8</sup> The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your | coming  
in,  
**from this time forth for | evermore.**

UIW

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And also with you.***

## The Nicene Creed (Sung):

| Cantor | People

We be-lieve in one God, the Fa-ther, the Al-might-y, mak-er of  
heav-en and earth, of all that is, seen and un-seen. We be-lieve in  
one Lord, Je-sus Christ, the on-ly Son of God, e-ter-nal-ly be-  
got-ten of the Fa-ther, God from God, Light from light, true God from true  
God, be-got-ten not made, of one be-ing with the Fa-ther; through him  
all things were made. For us and for our sal-va-tion he came down from  
heaven, was in-car-nate by the Ho-ly Spi-rit of the Vir-gin Mar-  
y and be-came tru-ly hu-man. For our sake he was cru-ci-fied  
un-der Pon-tius Pi-late; he suf-fered death and was bur-ied. On the  
third day he rose a-gain in ac-cord-ance with the Scrip-tures; he as-  
cend-ed in-to heaven and is seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-  
ther. He will come a-gain in glo-ry to judge the liv-ing and the

dead, and his king-dom will have no end. We be-lieve in the Ho-y  
Spi-rit, the Lord, the giv-er of life, who pro-ceeds from the Fa-ther,  
who with the Fa-ther and the Son is wor-shipped and glo-ri-fied. who  
has spo-ken through the pro-phets. We be-lieve in one ho-ly cath-ol-  
ic and ap-os-tol-ic Church. We ac-know-ledge one bap-tism for the  
for-give-ness of sins. We look for the re-sur-rec-tion of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. A-men.

## Prayers of Intercession

### Offering

*(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)*

*Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts. We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.*

### *The Visible Word: Eucharist*

## Hymn 537 Let us talents and tongues employ

*(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)*

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*(The prayer continues...)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are  
 full of your glor-y, ho - san-na in the high - est! Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est!

*(The prayer continues...)*

### The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins,  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial  
 and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
 now and for ever. Amen.***

*(The people sit)*

### The Breaking of the Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God....

...Let us receive what we are,  
 let us become what we receive  
***The body of Christ***

### The Communion

*The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.*

**GATHERING:** *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

*If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.*

### Notices

#### *The Sending Forth of the People of God*

Hymn 392 At the dawning of salvation

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude A van Noordt, *Fantasia in A*

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### People to Commemorate

#### **DIANNE ETHELLE BUCHANAN (1945 – 1993)**

You may ask why should a Gympie grave in Queensland display words in an Aboriginal language of the Northern Territory that say, 'Märr-ŋamathinyamirnydja walal gi bala-räli'yunmirr yan" which translates as 'Love one another' from John's gospel. The answer lies in the life of Dianne Buchanan.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1946, Dianne was born to Nils and Grace Buchanan. She was the only daughter, in a farming family of 4 children, whose livelihood came from growing delicious sweet pineapples in the district of Gympie.

In 1955, when Dianne was 9 years of age she decided to love and follow Jesus. After completing her teaching training and a couple of years teaching at Biloela Kindergarten in Queensland, she responded to the Methodist Overseas Mission's appeal for teachers to help at the fast expanding school on Elcho Island in the Northern Territory. She winged her way into Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island, as a pre-school teacher, in 1969, where she was welcomed not just as a teacher but as one of the community, receiving an Aboriginal subsection name 'Galikali'.

"Deep down I knew it was where God wanted me," Di said. "The children were delightful to teach. So accepting and uncritical of my attempts to communicate in their language. The Aboriginal people are a very gentle people ... I've been ministered to in many ways." After five happy years in the Pre-school, she was drawn into Adult Literacy, which displayed her gift with languages. This led to another career change in 1977 when she was nominated to be translator of the Bible into Djambarrpuyngu, the largest language group represented on Elcho Island and also used in the neighbouring Yolŋu communities of North East Arnhem land.

She continued to work on translating the New Testament for her Aboriginal family right up until her final days. Rev Djinyini Gondarra said of Dianne that she was 'a pioneer in her linguist work, and a strength for both Church and Community.' 'She saw many changes. She saw self-determination' he said, and 'was one of the few missionaries who was able to adapt to the changing circumstances of Aboriginal community life'. It was a privilege for Di in 1988 to be the first lady to lead 30 traditional Yolŋu Christians from Galiwin'ku to the Holy Land."

Di was a major prayer support and encourager in spiritual renewal and the revival at Elcho Island in the 1970's and 1980's. Her diaries were a significant contribution to the writing of the book 'Fire in the Outback' by John Blacket. Of her own spiritual journey she writes: "With a renewal of my own commitment to a love-relationship with Jesus, came a release from an over-developed sense of responsibility for the church at Galiwin'ku. 'Only in union with him will you find real complete freedom, unspeakable joy, the peace that passes understanding. So now take his yoke on you again, ... for he promised to carry (his) share.'

Over 20 of her Aboriginal family from Elcho Island travelled to Gympie to join with Dianne's family and friends to mourn her death, on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1993. One could not help but also celebrate her rich and wonderful life, as one who loved and trusted in her Lord. She was only 47, but by God's grace 7 months earlier she was able to stand with her translation colleagues and witness the dedication of a Mini-Bible, that included five-eighths of the New Testament, produced in Djambarrpuyngu during Elcho Island's Jubilee celebrations.

by Margaret Miller and Dr Marilyn McLellan

## NOTICES

### FAITH AFTER FAITH

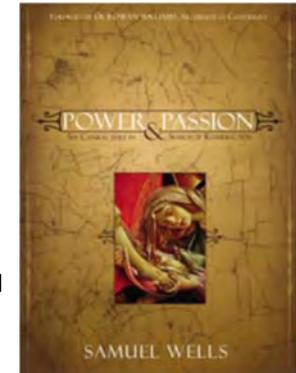
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- Recent Sermons
- New Theological Fragments (110-115): The unnecessary God



### LENTEN STUDIES – “Power and Passion”

Samuel Wells vividly paints the stories surrounding Jesus' cross and resurrection. We see the weakness of Pontius Pilate and Barabbas, and the compromised character of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. We discover the subtle power of Pilate's wife. And in Peter and Mary Magdalene we find the true power of resurrection, bringing forgiveness and ending the stranglehold of death, thus transforming all human passion. Through close readings of the gospel texts, Wells demonstrates the significance of these characters for faith and life today. In this book, structured with one chapter for each week of Lent, Wells guides us from the deathly power that put Jesus on the cross to the new power brought by Jesus' resurrection. The book offers opportunities at the end of each chapter for prayer and discussion.



### Our next Monday Morning Movie at the Nova

is next week, Monday March 2, at 10.45: *Mr Nobody against Putin* (91mins)

As Russia launches its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, primary schools across Russia are transformed into recruitment stages for the war. Facing the ethical dilemma of working in a system defined by propaganda and violence, a brave teacher films what's really happening in his own school. Academy Award nominee: Best Documentary Feature. Directed by David Borenstein and co-directed by Pasha Talankin, this uniquely collaborative film is as captivating and joyful as it is eye-opening and sobering. MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN showcases rare footage that reveals the profound impact of Putin's regime on the lives of everyday Russians, particularly its children. *Russian and Ukrainian language, English subtitles.*





### Fragment 115

*God is free, meaning that the works of God are not necessary. With God, there is no If, and so no Then. This is the meaning of creatio ex nihilo, forgiveness, resurrection: not-If-Then.*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

*See above for more details on these events*

LENTEN STUDIES!	Wed/Fri till the end of March
Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova	Mon Mar 2, 10:45am
Church Council	Tue Mar 3 7.30pm Online
Hotham Mission Board Executive	Fri Mar 20, 3pm hybrid

### People to commemorate this week

Dianne Buchanan, Christian Pioneer

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

### Lectionary Readings | March 8 2026

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalms 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

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A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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