



Hornsby Uniting Church

Our Vision: To grow in Christ and share His love.

News for April 21, 2024

*All who believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another, live in him and he lives in them.
1 John 3: 23, 24*

I Am the Good Caretaker

Based on John 10:11–18

In Israel, in Jesus' day, sheep were everywhere. Every hillside had a flock and a couple of shepherds. In every village, people went to sleep to the bleat of sheep and woke up with them wandering past the window. Everywhere you looked, women and men were caring for sheep; keeping an eye on them, looking after them when they were hurt, and helping them give birth.

When Jesus wanted people to know how much he loved them, he said that he was like the hardworking shepherds that the people saw all around them. Jesus said that he is like the shepherd who knows its sheep. I wonder what Jesus would say to us today to help us know how much he loves and cares for us. Let's imagine Jesus talking to us today.

"I am the good caretaker. The one who welcomes the children and everyone. The one who gathers up the rubbish, the one who fixes the broken things, the one who keeps an eye out for the loiterers and any troublemakers. The one who is here early and late. Whatever is needed, I do.



"There are others who come and go, but I am always here. I know everyone's name. I know the ones who need space and the ones who like riddles and the ones who limp. I know the ones who carry heavy bags and the ones who are hungry.

"I encourage the late ones and invite the early ones to help. I find the ones who are lost, and I know the ones who wish things were different and the ones who are sure they never can be. I know the ones who are forgotten and the ones we never see.

"I know my job. I know what I must do. I am here. This is my life here.

"I am the good caretaker."

Our morning worship service is videotaped each Sunday, and made available online later in the day.

You can join us at

<http://hornsby.unitingchurch.org.au/church-at-home.html>



Our April 21 service tomorrow will include a short ANZAC commemoration.

Please be aware that there will be a Hornsby RSL memorial service taking place from **10:45am** tomorrow, starting from the RSL and moving to the Cenotaph at the railway station. Road closures on Peats Ferry Road are likely - the alternative access route is via Pretoria Parade and Frederick Street.



Games Night is back! Fast becoming a regular popular event, our next games night is Saturday May 18, from 7:00 - 9:30 pm.

While you are writing in your diary, pencil in Saturday December 7 as the likely date for our **Christmas Dinner**.

Sydney 42nd Meccano exhibition
 Sat 4th May 2024
 Educational!
 Family \$12 max
 Adults \$6
 Students \$2
 Uniting Church cnr Pacific Hwy and Amaroo Ave, Mt Colah 10:00am to 4:30pm

Upcoming local musical society shows feature people you know! Hornsby Musical Society's **"Jekyll & Hyde"** at the Pioneer Theatre, Castle Hill from May 3 - 12: bookings at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1129330>

Dural Musical Society's **"Oklahoma"** from May 25 - June 8, for this season performing at Normanhurst Uniting Church. Book at: <https://www.duralmusicalsociety.org/book-now/>



duralmusicalsociety.org
 DMS
 Dural Musical Society
 Presents
 Rodgers & Hammerstein's
Oklahoma!
 Music by Richard Rodgers
 Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
 Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs
 Original Dances by Agnes de Mille
 25th May - 8th June 2024
 Normanhurst Uniting Church
"Oklahoma!" is presented by permission of ORS/DMT. Theatrical on behalf of B&W Theatricals, a Concord Theatricals Company.

Bulletin 210424 - The Painting



Jesus died for our sins. He rose from the dead and by accepting Him through belief in His sacrifice on the Cross; we pass from judgement to salvation, - we are reconciled to His heavenly Father, God. 1 John 5:9-12 states; *We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.* We humans cannot substitute any other person holy or deity for Jesus. There is no other name given amongst men that one can be saved from the wrath of God, except Jesus.

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they travelled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of their estate. As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country.

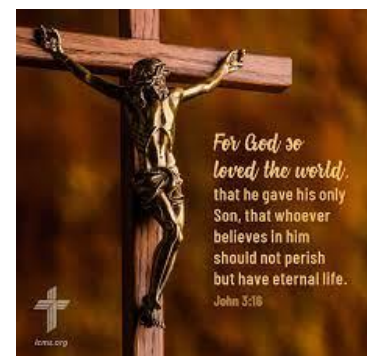
After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was killed in action. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic. Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Easter holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer. On Easter morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man.

As he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you." As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told everyone of his father's love of fine art. "I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this." As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the man's son. Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace. A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task.

True to his word, the painting went above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Easter gazing at the gift he had been given. During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart. As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamoured. He told his neighbours it was the greatest gift he had ever received. The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation. With the collector's passing, and his only son dead, those paintings would be sold at an auction. According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Easter day, the day he had received his greatest gift.

The day soon arrived. Art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many would claim "I have the greatest collection." The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent. "Who will open the bidding with \$100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke. From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son. Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff." More voices echoed in agreement. "No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?" Finally, a friend of the old man and his son spoke. "Will you take twenty dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it." "I have twenty dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer. After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell. Cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. What about all of these paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what's going on here!" The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son... gets it all!" Just as those art collectors discovered on that Easter day, the Easter message is still the same - the love of a Father - a Father whose greatest joy came from His Son who left his home and gave his life rescuing others. And because of that Father's love... whoever takes the Son gets it all.



Friends never let anyone deceive you about Jesus, he might not be attractive but remember what he said in John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. When we accept the Son, His Father in heaven also accepts us. May God open your heart and mind to believe this truth to accept Jesus into your life; and be blessed with eternal life in His Father's kingdom in Heaven. God richly bless you.

Rev Jojo Nkrumah, 21/4/24 (inspired by *The Daily Encourager*)

IN PRAYER

Good Shepherd, there are many among us today and throughout the world who are walking through the deepest of valleys:

For those who are physically and mentally ill, feel lonely and isolated,

for those whose poor choices and behaviour have limited their futures,

and those who are victims of others' poor choices and behaviours,

for those entering into their final days...

for all these and more, we pray that they may know they are cherished members of your flock.

May they rest in green pastures and still waters.

Receive offerings of comfort and protection,

be welcomed at the table of plenty,

and blessings overflow We lift their needs to you, our protector and caregiver. Amen.

To the one who has commanded us to love one another, we give thanks for the love we have received.

Hugs, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, forgiveness, and grace.

In recognition of all we are given

let us now commit to doing love.

Sharing, caring and sacrificing,

being patient, generous, selfless,

risking judgment, loss, disappointment.

Let us offer all the love we have in all the ways we can

until our doing becomes our being.

Let us do love, let us be love,

in the name of the one who is love.

Amen.

JOHN 10:11-18



"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."



Do you need to contact someone? Have a support need?

Rev. Kodjo Nkrumah - 0408 250 601. Kent Blackmore - 0438 611 795

Joyce Lum - 0402 093 618. Bill Laidlaw - 9477 3409