



Hornsby Uniting Church - News for April 6, 2025

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

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.
- Psalms 100*

Sunday March 6 - Daylight Saving ends. Clocks go back one hour.

An Over-the-Top Gift - Based on John 12:1-8, from the perspective of Judas Iscariot

My name is Judas, a disciple of Jesus and a member of the group known as "the twelve." We've just been to the home of Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha. Lazarus was the one who had died and Jesus brought back to life again - but that's another story! Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were giving a dinner for Jesus. Martha served, and Lazarus was at the table with us.

Out of the blue, Mary came up to Jesus with a pound of perfume made of pure nard - really expensive stuff. And she used it all, the whole lot, anointing Jesus' feet. The smell of it filled the whole house, and Lazarus doesn't have a small house, either. It was so overpowering some had to go outside.

Then Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her hair! Have you ever seen such a thing? It was embarrassing.

Well, someone had to say something, so I asked, "Why was this perfume not sold? It must have cost a fortune - about a year's salary! That's money we could have given to the poor."

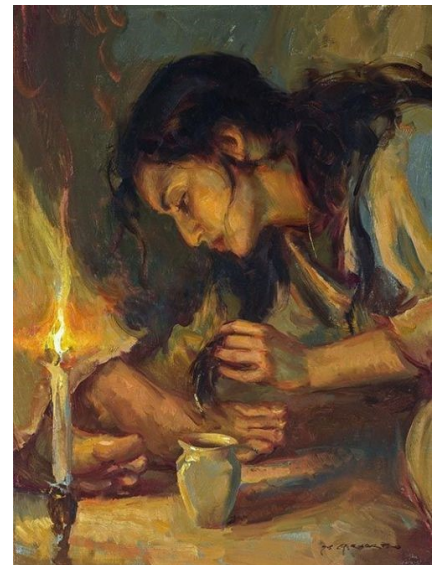
Okay, so I wasn't necessarily concerned about the poor, but about our own funds - it's fairly costly to feed and clothe a dozen disciples.

Okay, so we had a fair bit of help from the widows who travelled with us and others who opened their homes to us, so there weren't quite so many demands on our funds - oh, all right, the funds were more mine than ours. That perfume would have got a lot of money, and she was throwing it away on Jesus' dusty feet.

Jesus sure put me back in my place, though. "Leave her alone," he said. "She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Jesus thought it was a wonderful gift. I tell you, he is starting to sound a little crazy!

And this certainly isn't turning out as I expected, eating with the poor and unclean riff-raff, travelling about on foot along dusty roads, baiting the authorities with "kingdom" tales and then running away. Are we overturning the powers of the world or not? Now Jesus keeps talking about leaving us. I think I'm on the wrong side. I've been offered a good sum for information. I think it's time to do what I can; it's becoming clear that this lot are going to be on the losing side. - *Seasons of the Spirit*



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>



Photos from the March 29
farewell dinner for Kodjo
and Juliana, and Sunday
March 30 Service of
Closure, final liturgy led by
Rev. Keith Garner



Easter 2025

April 14, 15, 16 - Prayer vigil at Asquith 7pm

Maundy Thursday - Observance at 7:00 pm, April 17

Good Friday - April 18 at 8:30am

Easter Saturday - April 19 retreat (see below)

Easter Sunday - April 20 at 9:30am



Saturday, April 19, 2025, 2-5 pm at Hornsby Uniting Church

Come away, my friends, and take time between the sombre shadows of the burial of Jesus and the joyful affirmation of Easter Sunday.

We gather in community through Holy Week, imagining how we may have felt if we'd been there with Jesus. Our journey will take us through Good Friday, via the Roman Governor's palace and thence to Golgotha's hill. Saturday is a waiting day and this year we will spend time waiting in the uncertainty, searching our hearts' for connections to Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour.

Please text Rev Ann on 0403257013 by Tuesday, 16 April, 7 pm. There is no charge.

IN PRAYER

We praise and adore you, O God, for giving us reason to sing aloud with joy. The Psalmist wrote about a joyous future and the prophet Isaiah beseeches us not to dwell on things past, but to concentrate on the new thing that you have planned for us. A new thing greater than any could imagine, when you entered our history in the person of Jesus Christ. A costly act which transformed the future forever. As we draw nearer to the events which led up to the death of Jesus, we marvel that through even that dreadful act you turn our weeping into shouts of joy and point us toward a new future through the glory of the resurrection. Accept our prayers and praises we pray, for we utter them in joyful thanksgiving for all the great things you have done for us - especially for the great gift of Jesus, our Lord and our Saviour, in whose name we pray. Amen

We are most grateful, God our true love, that humanity is your project: that our brokenness is mended by your almighty tenderness, our foolish moves are countered by your long-sighted strategies, our little faith is tended by your faithful encouragement, our wounds are dressed by your firm fingers, and in our dark wanderings your shepherd-soul finds us. We are most grateful that we are your project which cannot fail.

