



Hornsby Uniting Church - News for March 30, 2025

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

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you ...
Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!
- Psalms 32*

This weekend we say farewell to Rev. Kodjo Nkrumah and Juliana, who have been our friends and guiding lights since September 2016. While Kodjo's ministry with us has been shortened due to health issues, we have been privileged to have had his leadership and concern for us, shown in so many ways.

The Nkrumahs will move across to Quaker's Hill around mid-April, and Kodjo is likely to make himself available for Supply ministry in the Parramatta/Nepean presbytery. We hope that on occasion we will be able to invite him back home to lead us in worship.



Hopefully you have booked your seat for tonight's farewell dinner, starting at 6:00pm.

Tomorrow morning (March 30) the 9:30am worship service is along usual lines, with the addition of Holy Communion, and concluding with the liturgy of "Conclusion of Placement" to be led by Presbytery Chair, Rev. Keith Garner.

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>

Bulletin 300325 - **We Won't Be Shaken**



People are different, so are Christians too. Each person will react differently to the same issue!! The reaction may be fear, anxiety and completely shaken; whereas others are calm and reflective!! There is this beautiful Gospel we used to sing few years ago, but it is still good for today. Some scholars believe that it began originally as an African American Negro Spiritual prior to emancipation. It calls for strength in adversity and deals with the themes of justice and standing firm in the midst of calamities!

*We shall not, we shall not be moved.
We shall not, we shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not be moved.*

*We're on the road to freedom; we shall not be moved.
We're on the road to freedom; we shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not be moved.*

It has been adopted and adapted by different groups and different causes around the world. However, we are looking at it this time as Christians in our pilgrim journey through this world that is fraught with dangers, troubles, issues, persecutions and life's issues. This Gospel is a solid encouragement mechanism for survival – a potent example of how humans can endure the worst of conditions.

Psalm 112:1, 6-8 states: "Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands... Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes - (adversities, troubles, the future or other worries)"

At times it feels as though the earth is shaking around us. Everything seems unstable and the uncertainty can lead to feelings of anxiety and insecurity. There is no novelty in the uncertain state of the world. Since Bible times, the people of God have often found themselves in difficult situations and many experienced the same fears and anxieties we feel.

The psalmist in the scripture above discovered how to respond to these situations and not be shaken. It all begins with a change in our attitude and focus. When we obsess on the worries, problems, and uncertainties around us, fear and anxiety are almost inevitable responses. However, when we change our focus to God, spend time in His Word, and draw closer to Him through prayer and worship, He calms our fear and replaces it with hope and peace.



When we live free from fear, trusting the Lord and being steadfast in Him, we can give stand strong above the storms of life and since Christ gives us the victory, we are able not only to survive and thrive but also ready to support others freely; those around us who cannot cope under the stress of the turmoil around them. What are your worries or fears or things that shake you in life? 1 Peter 5:7 states: *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

May this prayer comfort and uphold you:

Dear God, worries, fear and anxiety are common responses that often times sneak in when times get tough. Help me to trust you always, knowing that the heart of the righteous is secure in you. I can stand strong and not be shaken because you are my Lord. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name, amen. May the Lord God richly bless you.

Rev. Jojo Nkrumah 290325 (inspired by Crystal B; Daily Encourager)

Half Day Easter Retreat
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

God of steadfast love, you give us so many reasons to rejoice - the best reason of all is having been brought so close to you in Jesus. Through him you enable us to be new people - part of your new creation. And you have entrusted us with the task of continuing to give shape to this new creation by commissioning us as ambassadors of Christ. By aligning our hearts with yours, we can speak the words to others which you have spoken to us in Christ: "You are loved. You are forgiven. You are saved." We praise you and adore you, O God, as we offer this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

Merciful God, you have brought our lives into harmony with yours through the sacrificial love, life, and death of Jesus Christ. You have created us anew in Christ and have entrusted us with the task of living out this newness of life so that others will also come to know you through Christ. We confess that we readily accept the privilege of being a new creation in Christ but all too often we fail to live up to the responsibility which that brings. We come to you, merciful God, in penitence and faith, praying that you will heal us and forgive us in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

God our motherly Father, our brotherly Saviour, our sisterly Spirit-Friend, we ask that in our prayers and in the ordinary affairs of each day, we may exhibit your generous spirit to other people. We pray for the millions of homeless people whom we will never meet but whose predicament we see on the TV. *Please bless those humanitarian agencies who attempt to care for them, and all who give generously to support their work.*

We pray for unwanted or destitute people in our own country, from Darwin to Port Arthur and Port Headland to Byron Bay. *Please give both wisdom and a generous spirit to Federal and State Governments, and strengthen the welfare ministry of churches.*

We pray for any among us here today, who with dignity and courage are secretly enduring misfortunes or ongoing worries. *Please give your peace and healing to them, and keep us sensitive, that we may recognise a cry for help if it comes our way and respond generously.*

We pray for neighbours or workmates, and for those familiar but nameless faces we notice each day in train or bus, elevator, bank or supermarket. *Please bless each according to their need, and without any prying or self importance on our part, make us ready to help in the hour of need.*

We pray for all the bewildered, lost souls; for young folk hitting out, puzzled adults who find that neither career nor family satisfy their deepest need, sour elderly folk who are jealous of the faith and happiness of others. *Please gather the lost into your loving arms, and help each of us to treat awkward, prickly people with the generous respect that you have for each.*