



**Services:**

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic there are no services or meetings in the church building until further notice. However, alternative meeting arrangements have been made using Zoom internet connectivity.

If you are reading this in an email you can click on the required meeting Zoom button below to join the meeting. You may need to enter the meeting password. Alternatively you could download the Zoom app and enter the meeting ID and password indicated. **The meeting will start 30 min early for chat.**

If you do not have access to a computer or smartphone then you can join the meeting using the phone number **03 7018 2005** . You will be asked for the meeting ID and password, and your participation will be audio only.



**Our Mission:** *The Eaglehawk Uniting Church seeks to live the way of Jesus, wherever we go.*

**10am Sunday Worship** Meeting ID: 930 3469 6004 Password: 056493  
Today: (Sept 27) Rev Ken Rookes Oct: 4 Focus Service

[Zoom](#)  
[Sun 10 AM Worship](#)

**6:30 pm Sunday Service** Meeting ID: 957 2668 4231 Password: 042802  
Today: (Sept 20): Lectionary Study Oct 4: Lectionary Study

[Zoom](#)  
[Sun 6.30 PM Worship](#)

A Welcome to any who may have joined our community for the first time, thanks for choosing to meet with us at Eaglehawk. Whilst it is not possible for us to meet physically at this time, you may be able to participate in the 'virtual gatherings' and we would love to catch up with you sometime in the near future when the current restrictions on public gatherings are withdrawn. For more information please contact our minister, contact details are on page 2 of this newsletter. The people of Eaglehawk Uniting Church acknowledge the original indigenous inhabitants – the Elders and the People, both past and present – who occupied the land on which we live and worship.

**Food & Care**

**Community Emergency Food Assistance**

will continue to run on Tuesdays for the foreseeable future, but with food packages being delivered by volunteers. Contact Di Gough 0439 405 622 for more information.



**Food & Care groceries.**

Whilst Lockdown restrictions have eased you may still choose to stay home as often as possible. If you would like us to deliver some food to you, please let Cynthia or Di know before Monday. We would love to offer this service to you so please do not be afraid to ask. Thank you.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for continuing to make your offering to the Church through these difficult and complex times. Obviously our expenses continue. To those who have increased your offering, a special thanks.

A reminder:

\*You can make your offering through Direct Debit to: UCA EUC OPERATING ACCOUNT; BSB633-000; Acc. no.155682875, Reference - your name or 'offering'.

\*Or give it to Brian Davey or Evan Field or an Elder.

\*Or put it in the envelop each week and put them in the plate when we return. (Some envelopes are still available at the Church. Contact an Elder if you need yours delivered.)

**Funding Approved for COGS Project**

Funding has been approved for our church to proceed with the building improvements and other upgrades to enable us to more effectively complete our mission to be 'COGS' in our community. (Caring, Outreach, Gathering, Supporting).

**Prayer Chain** *If one has a prayer request for our prayer chain, please contact Rosie Taylor 0417 164 973, or Yvonne Davey 5446 9163.*

**Duty Elder**      **September**      **October**

T Evans	T Woodhouse
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**Bible Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary**

<a href="#">Pentecost 17: Sept 27</a> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13 Matt 21:23-32	<a href="#">Pentecost 18: Oct 4</a> Exodus 20:1-4, 7-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matt 21:33-46	<a href="#">Pentecost 19: Oct 11</a> Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6,19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matt 22:1-14
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**Bible Readers**

6	Tilly L Preston	4	Flynn S Lawson
13	Ku S Field	11	Tilly D Uren
20	Henry R Costin	18	Ku J Richards
27	Ryan G Hall	25	Henry A Pata

# EUC Activities

*something for everyone!*

**Community Breakfast** Every Friday  
7:30am in the church hall.

**Food & Care** Emergency food assistance,  
Tuesday 1:00 to 3:00pm

**Tue Morning Bible Study Group**  
meets in the church hall at 10am.

**Wed Morning Study Group** meets at the  
Preston's 36 Harvey Lane, Jackass Flat -  
9:30 -11am.

**Mission Action Group (MAGS)**  
4th Tues. - 12noon - 3pm

**Friendship Group** meet 3rd Wed. of  
month at 12:30pm.

**JAMM group** meets 3rd Sunday of month  
at 11:15 am.

**Men's Coffee & Conversation** Usually last  
Friday of month at various venues.

**Women's Get Together** at 10am on the  
last Monday each month at Let's Get  
Saucy  
Victoria Street Eaglehawk.

**A Place to Start** 1st Fri of month 6:30 -  
8:30pm in meeting room. All welcome.  
Please bring food and/or drink to share.

**Old copies of the church newsletter** can be  
found in the rack in the foyer just near the  
library. Copies are available up to about 9  
weeks ago. Last week's is top right, oldest is  
bottom left.

*If you have items for the newsletter or would  
like this newsletter emailed to you, contact  
John Taylor, [john-teuc@gmail.com](mailto:john-teuc@gmail.com).  
Online readers can use hyperlinks indicated by  
underlined text or icons.*



## Contacts:

Rev Cynthia Page Mobile 0400 543 372  
Church postal address: PO Box 387 Eaglehawk, Vic 3556  
Church location: Corner Peg Leg Rd (Loddon Valley Hwy) & Kirkwood Rd  
Booking Officer: Brian Davey 5446  
Web address: [www.eaglehawk.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.eaglehawk.unitingchurch.org.au)

## Dates to Remember

As government Covid 19 restrictions are being maintained, most meetings are cancelled until further notice.

## Grampians Trip

A number of folk have booked accommodation at the Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park for a few days between Tuesday Oct 7 and Saturday Oct 10. If you would like a break in the Grampians and stay in the same accommodation then you can contact the park to make your own booking, ph 5356 4244, web [hallsgapgardenscaravanpark.com.au](http://hallsgapgardenscaravanpark.com.au) or email [stay@hallsgapgardenscaravanpark.com.au](mailto:stay@hallsgapgardenscaravanpark.com.au) Cabins and caravan sites are available.



This is not an organised EUC activity. Normal COVID-19 restrictions will apply to whatever activity individuals may choose, eg masks must be worn, social distancing, people can only meet with people from other "household bubbles" outdoors and in groups of less than 10.

Contact John Taylor for more information.

## Eagle Op Shop

Now open. Eftpos facilities are now available. Why not pop in and pick up a bargain!

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, open times are now limited to 10am to 1pm and only a limited number of customers are allowed in the shop at any one time.



## Update on COVID Restrictions and EUC

Unfortunately, gatherings at the church and small group gatherings at houses are still not permitted.

School will return in Term 4 - which will mean our Playgroup can restart.

Church Council will continue to monitor the situation and report back to the congregation as has been the case throughout the pandemic.

There are no changes to Food and Care operation.

Thanks  
Al Pata  
Chairperson

## Calling all Can Collectors...

YES - We are still collecting aluminium cans for the EUC. Continue to deliver to the church - leave in the shed... OR - call Merrill on 0407 844951 to arrange a 'contactless' pick-up.



## Some simple but urgent guidance to get us through these next months.

I awoke on Saturday, September 19, with three sources in my mind for guidance: Etty Hillesum (1914 – 1943), the young Jewish woman who suffered much more injustice in the concentration camp than we are suffering now; Psalm 62, which must have been written in a time of a major oppression of the Jewish people; and the Irish Poet, W.B. Yeats (1865 – 1939), who wrote his “Second Coming” during the horrors of the World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic. These three sources form the core of my invitation. Read each one slowly as your first practice.

Let us begin with Etty:

*There is a really deep well inside me. And in it dwells God. Sometimes I am there, too ... And that is all we can manage these days and also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves.*  
—Etty Hillesum, Westerbork transit camp

Note her second-person usage, talking to “You, God” quite directly and personally. There is a Presence with her, even as she is surrounded by so much suffering.

Then, the perennial classic wisdom of the Psalms:

*In God alone is my soul at rest.  
God is the source of my hope.  
In God I find shelter, my rock, and my safety.  
Men are but a puff of wind,  
Men who think themselves important are a delusion.  
Put them on a scale,  
They are gone in a puff of wind.*  
—Psalm 62:5–9

What could it mean to find rest like this in a world such as ours? Every day more and more people are facing the catastrophe of extreme weather. The neurotic news cycle is increasingly driven by a single narcissistic leader whose words and deeds incite hatred, sow discord, and amplify the daily chaos. The pandemic that seems to be returning in waves continues to wreak suffering and disorder with no end in sight, and there is no guarantee of the future in an economy designed to protect the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and those subsisting at the margins of society. It’s no wonder the mental and emotional health among a large portion of the American population is in tangible decline! We have wholesale abandoned any sense of truth, objectivity, science or religion in civil conversation; we now recognize we are living with the catastrophic results of several centuries of what philosophers call *nihilism* or *post-modernism* (nothing means anything, there are no universal patterns).

We are without doubt in an apocalyptic time (the Latin word *apocalypsis* refers to an urgent unveiling of an ultimate state of affairs). Yeats’ oft-quoted poem “The Second Coming” then feels like a direct prophecy. See if you do not agree:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.*

Somehow our occupation and vocation as believers in this sad time must be to first restore the Divine Center by holding it and fully occupying it ourselves. If contemplation means anything, it means that we can “safeguard that little piece of You, God,” as Etty Hillesum describes it. What other power do we have now? All else is tearing us apart, inside and out, no matter who wins the election or who is on the Supreme Court. We cannot abide in such a place for any length of time or it will become our prison.

God cannot abide with us in a place of fear.

God cannot abide with us in a place of ill will or hatred.

God cannot abide with us inside a nonstop volley of claim and counterclaim.

God cannot abide with us in an endless flow of online punditry and analysis.

God cannot speak inside of so much angry noise and conscious deceit.

God cannot be found when all sides are so far from “the Falconer.”

God cannot be born except in a womb of Love.

So offer God that womb.

Stand as a sentry at the door of your senses for these coming months, so “the blood-dimmed tide” cannot make its way into your soul.

If you allow it for too long, it will become who you are, and you will no longer have natural access to the “really deep well” that Etty Hillesum returned to so often and that held so much vitality and freedom for her.

If you will allow, I recommend for your spiritual practice for the next four months that you impose a moratorium on exactly how much news you are subject to—hopefully not more than an hour a day of television, social media, internet news, magazine and newspaper commentary, and/or political discussions. It will only tear you apart and pull you into the dualistic world of opinion and counter-opinion, not Divine Truth, which is always found in a bigger place.

Instead, I suggest that you use this time for some form of public service, volunteerism, mystical reading from the masters, prayer—or, preferably, all of the above.

You have much to gain now and nothing to lose. Nothing at all.

And the world—with you as a stable center—has nothing to lose.

And everything to gain.

Richard Rohr, September 19, 2020

(You can read about Richard Rohr and the Centre for Action and Contemplation here, <https://cac.org/sign-up/>)

## From the Lectionary

### Philippians 2:1-13

2:1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

2:2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

2:4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

2:7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

2:8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

2:9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

2:11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2:12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### Matthew 21:23-32

21:23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

21:24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

21:25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

21:26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet."

21:27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

21:28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

21:29 He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went.

21:30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.

21:31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

21:32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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## Of the two

*Haiku for the first in line.*

Chief priests and elders  
can only defend the past;  
cannot see the new.

We are entitled!  
They cry with indignation.  
No, you're not, he says.

What authority  
do you have to say these things?  
I will not tell you.

A man had two sons.  
Asked them both to work the vines;  
different answers.

One said I will not,  
but later changed his thinking  
and did the right thing.

One said Yes, I'll go;  
but for whatever reason  
that son never did.

Words are easily  
spoken. It is the actions  
that really matter.

The tax collectors  
and prostitutes believed John;  
entered the kingdom.

Chief priests and elders  
believe they set the standard  
while others fall short.

You wear the Tee-shirt;  
make sure you know its message;  
act accordingly.

The first will be last.  
Those who pass up the invite  
lose their place in line.

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