



Welcome to church today!

We meet as people committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives. We hope you will be encouraged by your time with us.

11th September, 2022

Encouraging Bible Verse [Psalm 81:1]

Sing for joy to God our strength;
Shout aloud to the God of Jacob.

SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS?

Last week I was speaking with someone and they mentioned they are spiritual but not religious. A survey found nearly one in four Australians describe themselves in this way (Australian Social Attitudes, 2018). What does it mean though? Religious is often linked to a particular community, a church or another organised group. Spiritual is defined as personal preference in relationship, altruism or contemplation. Often it means that people were raised in a community, no longer attend but have an interest in some values or practices they regard as spiritual. Sometimes people mean I don't go to church but I enjoy yoga or find mindfulness helpful.

There is a tension here though. People rarely reject all community and often group together with others with similar values. These groups may not be recognised as religious but they have their own set of shared beliefs. If you change your beliefs you can no longer be part of the group. The group then functions as if it is a religion. You can't go to yoga and choose to do kung fu! Someone who rejects same-sex marriage is not accepted by the LGBTQIA+ community. Maybe more people are religious and there are more religions than we realise.

Jesus lived in community with others and Christians are not meant to live in isolation (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:24-25). The church is Jesus' body so if we belong to Jesus, we are part of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23). Strangely in the same survey lots of those who do go to church said they were not spiritual. I think Paul would want us to reclaim the term (1 Corinthians 2). It is those who trust in the cross and resurrection who have new life in the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9).

Mission Statement

To 'make disciples of all nations' as we:
... engage
... evangelise
... establish
... equip
... export



Next Sunday

'God is ... living' Psalm 84; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10.
Preacher: Allan Baird

MINISTRY TEAM

Ven. Paul Spackman

Minister-in-Charge

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Rev. Allan Baird

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Church Warden:

Isabelle Scott

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BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Everyone is welcome!

Monday 7pm Church Hall.

Thursday 5.30pm Church Hall.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 13th September
Commemoration Service for
Queen Elizabeth II, Geraldton
Cathedral

Saturday 17th September
Geraldton Men's Conference

Sunday 25th September
5pm Evensong, Mingenew

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact Allan.

SERMON NOTES

GOD IS ... STRENGTH (PSALM 81; PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13)

What makes you sing?

1. A CALL TO PRAISE GOD (v.1-5)

A command to sing for joy. The source of this worship is God. God is our strength. Worship in a context. God gave grace to Jacob. Feast (Leviticus 23; 1 Corinthians 11).

2. A CALL TO LISTEN TO GOD (v. 6-10)

The voice of God calling to His people echoing Deuteronomy. God rescued Israel from Egypt. God heard His people's cry. God provided water from the rock at Meribah in Exodus 17. So they should listen to Yahweh alone (verses 8-10, 13). Like the Shema of Deuteronomy 6:4 and the first commandment to have no other gods because Yahweh alone had rescued them (Deuteronomy 5:6-7). For us, listen to Jesus (Mark 9:7b; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:1; John 16:13-14). Reading the Bible, feed on God's Word.

3. THE CALL OF ETERNITY (v. 11-16)

God's people didn't listen so are given over to stubborn hearts and devices (verse 12). God promises to act swiftly if they would listen. God will deliver and vindicate His people from their enemies who will face punishment for ever. Even greater promise at the end of the psalm of honey from the rock (song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32:13-14).

A biblical view of worship includes joyfully praising God's name, carefully listening to God's Word and faithfully obeying God's will. Particularly we need to be careful of worshipping other gods. Whatever is on our Spotify or YouTube playlist, we will find joy in hearing and obeying God!

Matters for Prayer

We give *thanks* for ...

- God's provision of His Word;
- God's rescue in Jesus;
- those serving Jesus' mission in other places, especially Joan and Roger and Amanda Kyngdon.

Let's *pray* to our heavenly Father for ...

- enabling us to praise Him with joy;
- people hearing and obeying the call to listen;
- family, friends and neighbours in Dongara and Mingenew who haven't yet placed their trust in Jesus; and that we may have opportunities to share the gospel with them;
- Kigali 2023

Giving to our Gospel ministry

Please commit to giving for God's work at Dongara-Mingenew Anglican Church.

A helpful way is through direct deposit. The details are below:

Account Name: Anglican Parish of Dongara Mingenew

Bank Details: Westpac **BSB number:** 036 131

Account number: 810 016