

SOUTH COAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ordinary people **“continually praising”** an extraordinary God

What a week it has been, **Nandita Bose and Lucas Jackson writes for the Financial Review** “... demonstrators filled the streets in cities around the world, staging some of the largest and most peaceful protests against racism since a 46-year-old black man, George Floyd, was killed after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck. People marched in Washington, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, London, Berlin, Paris, Sydney and elsewhere, with turnout reaching the tens of thousands in some cities. Australians defied warnings from the prime minister and health experts about the coronavirus risk to turn out in force to protest against racism and Aboriginal deaths in custody. In Australia Sydney had the largest crowd, with 20,000 people marching from Town Hall to Belmore Park after the Court of Appeal declared the protest a legal assembly at the eleventh hour.”
What does this mean for us as Christians?



Brent Rinehart writes **“Believe What the Bible Says about Race, and Let Your Actions Show You Believe It**

The Bible is abundantly clear about race, from cover to cover. We see God’s creation of man in His image in the beginning, and we see the vision of every tribe, nation and tongue together in heaven in the book Revelations.

In between, we have the words of Jesus, Peter, Paul and James:

- *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31*
- *“So, Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” Acts 10:34-35*
- *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour.” Romans 12:9-10*
- *“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[a] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13*
- *“But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.” James 2:9*

Reading these words is one thing. Understanding them and allowing them to guide your everyday life is another. If we believe we are all equal—and family—then it should change how we approach our current events.

Dr. Eric Mason, in his powerful book about racism and injustice called *Woke Church* puts it this way: “We have the tool of God’s Word to help us become change agents—to make a difference in our spheres of influence. The gospel is the truth that unites us. It is the common ground that knits our souls together as one.”

When one of our members hurts, we should all hurt. Right now, our black family members are in pain. Their pain is our pain. We need to be working together to bring it to an end.”



Heather also sent this article by Arnie Cole:
 “We live in a sinful and grievous world—a world where Satan attempts, and often succeeds, in taking what God has created and called good, and twisting it into something vile.

Diversity in every aspect is one of God’s signature trademarks of Creation. He has made everything unique and distinct. He has incorporated every shape, colour, texture, and form into what He has made.

But the enemy would have us use these beautiful differences to divide ourselves into “better” and “worse,” “inferior” and “superior,” “us” and “them”—and we fall for his lies. We are baited into warring with one another over something as meaningless as the pigment in our skin. In light of this, let’s go back to some basic truths from God’s Word:

1. Genesis 1:26 **“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’”** We bear the image of God. When we destroy, damage, or denigrate others, we are also attacking God Himself.
2. Acts 17:26 **“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth...”** Everyone on earth shares a common ancient heritage. It’s been said that “there is only one race: the human race” and when we consider our shared ancestry, we know it to be true.
3. 1 Samuel 16:7 **“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”** To quote another adage, “It’s what’s on the inside that counts.” When we judge people by their appearance, we are not looking from God’s

perspective.

4. James 2:9 **“But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”** To act from a place of prejudice is sin, plain and simple.
5. Ephesians 2:14 **“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.”** Jesus is the answer. The world will not truly know peace unless and until it knows Jesus. He is the great reconciler, equalizer, and peacemaker.

There are so many more verses we could look at. Which one would you add to this list? Email me back and let me know.

Onward & Upward in Faith!”

Arnie info@backtothebible.org

One of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission’s areas of responsibility is Indigenous ministry. However, over the years APWM has struggled with a lack of finances in seeking to carry out such a ministry. For many years APWM has supported the ministry of people such as the Rev Rick and Mrs Kayleen Manton but there has always been a deficit in support which means that APWM has to pay for the shortfall from its general funds but this cannot continue with affecting the future of APWM.

Last year’s General Assembly of Australia authorised an Annual appeal for Indigenous ministry to be held, commencing on Sunday 12th July, 2020. APWM asks that you consider holding such an appeal in your congregation and pray for Indigenous ministry. We have prepared a video to be shown in church and letter of explanation, with prayer points, to accompany the appeal.

The video can be found at

<https://vimeo.com/426153855>

And the letter can be downloaded

at <http://www.apwm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NAIDOC-week-2020-Letter-to-Churches.pdf>

In Christ,

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BIBLE TRIVIA

1 Who murders John the Baptist?

Answer:

2 When Christians observe Palm Sunday, what Biblical narrative are they celebrating?

Answer:

3 According to the Gospels, what is the unique literary genre Jesus employs to preach his message?

Answer:

4 Which Gospel is most concerned with the mystery and identity of the person of Jesus?

Answer:

5 Who baptizes Jesus?

Answer:

{Answers next week}

Week Eleven Answers

1 According to Paul's formulation in 1 Corinthians, which is the greatest of the imperishable qualities?

Answer: **Love**

2 Who is the high priest of Jerusalem who put Jesus on trial?

Answer: **Caiaphas**

3 In the Gospel According to John. Which of the apostle's doubts Jesus's resurrection until he sees Jesus with his own eyes?

Answer: **Thomas**

4 According to the Gospel of Matthew, where does Jesus first public sermon take place?

Answer: **On the Mount**

5 How does Judas signal Jesus's identity to the Roman officials?

Answer: **He kisses him.**

RECIPES

This is a family favorite and great for those chilly nights!



Ingredients

- 60 g butter softened
- 3/4 cup caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups dates chopped
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 1/2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/8 tsp vanilla essence

Sauce

- 1/4 cup golden syrup
- 125 g butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup thick cream

Method

- Mix the dates and bicarbonate soda in a bowl. Pour over the boiling water and leave to stand for 30 minutes.
- Cream the butter and the sugar.
- Add the eggs one at a time and beat well.
- Fold in sifted flour and stir in date mixture and vanilla.
- Pour into a greased, rectangular, ovenproof dish (I use muffin tray)
- Cook for 30-40 minutes at 170C or until firm when touched in the centre. (Less time needed for muffin size)
- **Sauce:** Melt the butter, sugar and golden syrup. Stir until dissolved.
- Remove from the heat and stir in the cream.
- Cut the pudding into squares and serve with the sauce, cream and/or ice-cream.

MUSIC

This Michael Jackson song is so appropriate for today.
“We need to care enough for the living”.

[tps://youtu.be/BWf-eARnf6U](https://youtu.be/BWf-eARnf6U)

Heal the World

There's a place in your heart
And I know that it is love
And this place could be much
Brighter than tomorrow
And if you really try
You'll find there's no need to cry
In this place you'll feel
There's no hurt or sorrow
There are ways to get there
If you care enough for the living
Make a little space
Make a better place
Heal the world
Make it a better place
For you and for me
And the entire human race
There are people dying
If you care enough for the living
Make it a better place
For you and for me
If you want to know why
There's love that cannot lie
Love is strong
It only cares of joyful giving
If we try, we shall see
In this bliss we cannot feel
Fear of dread
We stop existing and start living
The it feels that always
Love's enough for us growing
So make a better world
Make a better place
Heal the world
Make it a better place
For you and for me
And the entire human race
There are people dying
If you care enough for the living
Make a better place for you and for me
And the dream we were conceived in
Will reveal a joyful face
And the world we once believed in
Will shine again in grace
Then why do we keep strangling life
Wound this earth, crucify its soul
Though it's plain to see

This world is heavenly
Be God's glow
We could fly so high
Let our spirits never die
In my heart I feel you are all my brothers
Create a world with no fear
Together we cry happy tears
See the nations turn their swords into ploughshares
We could really get there
If you cared enough for the living
Make a little space
To make a better place
Heal the world
Make it a better place
For you and for me
And the entire human race
There are people dying
If you care enough for the living
Make a better place for you and for me
There are people dying
If you care enough for the living
Make a better place for you and for me
You and for me
Songwriters: MICHAEL JOE JACKSON

PRAYER POINTS

The following Prayer points have been identified by Australian Presbyterian World Mission's for use in NAIDOC week in July, but I feel they are relevant now and continued pray won't go astray!

1. That the Indigenous people of Australia who often feel crushed in spirit through the welfare system or injustice would turn to Christ and put their hope in Him.
2. That the Indigenous people of Australia would be reconciled to God through Christ and in turn be reconciled to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
3. That the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ would be experienced in our Indigenous communities and throughout wider Australia.
4. That those in Government and positions of influence in Australia would listen with empathy to the voices the people living in Indigenous communities throughout Australia and not allow the conversation to be drowned out by the voices of those who live in Australia's cities.
5. That there would be consistent financial support for Indigenous ministry — both within the Presbyterian Church of Australia and other denominations.