

Message: 'UNITING 4570 - GIFT & WILL

with Rev David Fanning

Scriptures: Ephesians 2:11-22 and 4:1-6 (Good News Translation)

Forty-seven years ago on the 22nd June 1977, *The Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in fellowship with the whole Church Catholic, and seeking to bear witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will for the Church, hereby enter into union under the name of the Uniting Church in Australia. (Basis of Union Paragraph 1)*

(This union came about after each denomination had voted in favour according to necessary majorities being obtained in 1972.)

The only reason for this union was a seeking to bear witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will for the Church.



In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, Paul talks about this unity as gift and will. Many of the Christians there had been Gentiles (non-Jews) prior to their conversion. Likewise, the Jewish Christians in the congregation had been Jews. (Stop and read Ephesians 2:11-22. Note the number of times Paul mentions Christ as the one who has brought them together.)

For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people (Ep 2:14)

It is through Christ that all of us, Jews and Gentiles, are able to come in the one Spirit into the presence of the Father. (2:18)

Unity is Christ's Gift. The Uniting Church sought to bear witness to that Gift.

In Ephesians 4: we meet unity as Christ's will. (Take the time to read Eph. 4:1-6). *Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds us together (4:3).*

Unity is Christ's Will. The Uniting Church sought to bear witness to that Will.

Uniting 4570 is a most challenging name. The word 'Uniting' links the congregation to those who had the vision in 1977 to bear witness to that gift and unity. It is essential Uniting Church DNA. And that DNA has its roots in the life and ministry of Jesus, *the foundation (2:20)* on which the church is built.

Uniting 4570 is a visionary name, an affirmation of who you are in Christ and who you want to be in your relationships with one another and the community.

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Your name provides an excellent framework for your mission into the 4570 communities. Celebrate the gift of unity that is yours in Christ. And do all you can to maintain that unity in your daily lives and witness.

By the way, our Lord started praying for you (and continues to pray for you) a long time ago. And that prayer is John 17:20-26. And, remember the dance again. *Rejoice in your union with the Lord. Show a gentle (generous) attitude to everyone. (Philippians 4:4,5)*



Grace and peace,
David.

- Coming up :**
- * **Uniting 4570 Prayer Warriors** - 8am, Tuesday mornings, CE room
 - * **Next Sunday in Gympie** - 21st July, an inspired message from David Wright
 - * **Local Churches at Prayer** - Tuesday, 23rd July, 6pm, Gympie Church of Christ
 - * **Shine Women's Conference** - Saturday, 3rd August.
 - * **Hymn-Fest** - in the Springtime, details to come.

Joy Circle - This Thursday

Time flies ... JOY Circle is gathering again this **Thursday, 18th July, 9.30am** in the CE Room. Hope you can come and bring your friends.

Gympie Kitchen Refurbishment

We've been given a preloved kitchen - in much better condition than our own - David Wright will be Project Managing the installation.

We're seeking your input regarding layout - particularly from those who work in the kitchen and coffee hut - who can provide practical suggestions. Please take your ideas to David or a Church Councilor. Feedback deadline is next Sunday, 21st July.

Christmas Shoeboxes July Collections

This month we're collecting '**Something Special**'. Nothing too big as they'll need to fit into shoebox-size gift packs. e.g. soft toys, plastic animals, purse/wallet/small bags, stickers, bangles, necklaces, small puzzles, hair ribbons/clips, sunglasses.

Call to Prayer for Uniting 4570

Wherever you may be at **7.30pm of a Friday** (or at a time that better suits you), we ask that you continue to pray for our next ministerial appointment - someone who will share our vision and plans; and for those coming to deliver messages in the interim. Please also keep Orrell and Christine in your prayers as they wait to hear what God has planned for them in this next season.

THE COVERING OF LOVE

Our current culture is not grounded in a social structure of forgiveness. It seems as though the Biblical truth of mankind's sin and its remedy of forgiveness by the Creator is not on many people's radar. For example, if someone in the political arena is discovered to have said something offensive recently or in years past, they are pounced upon and condemned as a bad person. The "cancel culture" stands ready with a cry of "off with their heads!" Slips of the tongue, unintended snubs, as well as truly inappropriate comments are all thrown together into the bubbling cauldron of offenses. Even if the guilty party apologizes, it's not enough.

**Why is there such a loud outcry for punishment?
Perhaps the answer lies in a lack of awareness of grace.**

If the majority of a people don't believe they are sinners yet they see sin in others, someone must be punished and it 'isn't going to be them'. There is also a lack of awareness of redemption. There is an assumption that the offender will always behave in the same way. This cynical world view arises from a lack of experience of forgiveness and grace.

The gospel of the world seems to be ...

"Not all have sinned and fallen short, (some of us are perfect, it's always the other guy) ... and there is no glory of God. We have to be perfect because there is no cover for sin. We must have a scapegoat so that the sin of the evildoers is gone."

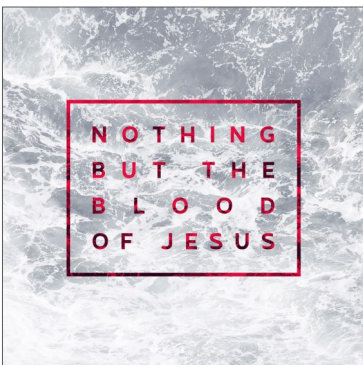
On the other hand, the Gospel is ...

"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. God's love covers a multitude of sins. Sin is wiped away by the blood of Jesus."

Ahh! what a breath of fresh air to hear that:

"Love keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5.

"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered."
Romans 4:7.



When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God covered their sin and shame with animal skins and thus there was the first shedding of blood.

Let us humble ourselves and know who we are - sinners in need of a Saviour.

"Oh, precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

(Mary Atwood)

Our Name, Our Calling.

"Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name. It is the name you gave me. Keep them safe so they can be one, just as you and I are one."
(John 17.11 NIRV).



UNITING 4570
Better together

These words were spoken by Jesus the night before He died, as He prayed for us to His Heavenly Father (John 17). Five times He expressed His desire for our unity – not only a unity of the original apostles – but also of all who have followed in their footsteps, generation by generation.

Our Church

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling ...

The calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, a spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!

~ from Uniting 4570's Operational Guidelines ~

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email.

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 75 ♦ Children 10 ♦ Facebook 65 ♦ Youtube 11

Total Week's Offering: \$ 1,769.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)