

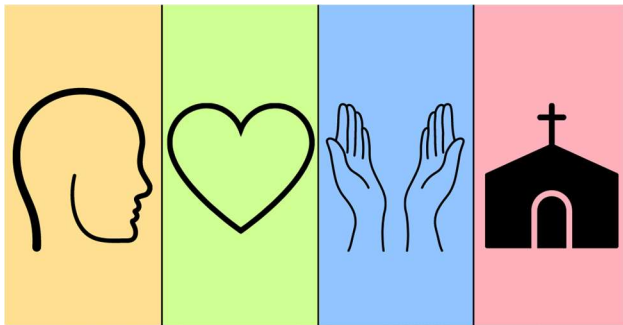


Helping people take the next step toward Jesus

Welcome

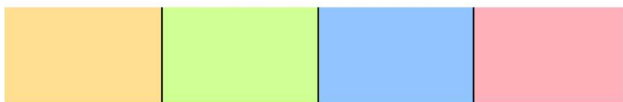
GATHERED WORSHIP BOOKLET

Sunday 19th March 2023



HEAD, HEART, HANDS &
HOLY WORSHIP

2023



Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1

wpcrc.org.au

We're so glad you are with us today!

Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in His living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

During our service, most weeks, we share in a discussion time after the Sermon. This is one way we can allow the message to penetrate our hearts and encourage one another with what we have heard. Please feel free to just listen to the discussion in your group should you feel uncomfortable to share.

We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

We have a cry room off to the side of the church for parents with infants and a designated colouring-in space for young children at the rear of the auditorium. During School term we also run a Sunday School for primary school aged children.

We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this booklet, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you.

Please stay after the service and join us for coffee and fellowship.

Prayer

We have several places in our worship service where we pray. If you have a prayer request, please fill in your request with your details (if you would like us to contact you) on the last page of this booklet, and place it in the offering bag. Our prayer team will pray for your request.

Order of service

Call to Worship - Welcome

Song

Lord's Supper

Lord's Prayer

Song

Children's Talk - Roger Fernando

Offerings–Neil Bester

Reflection Song during offerings -

Prayer over Offerings- Neil Bester

Children go to Sunday School

Announcements– Neil Bester

Congregational Prayer– Neil Bester

Song

Scripture Reading–Marlene Theron

Scripture: Romans 8 : 1–18 , 28–39 (CSB)

Sermon - Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1

Sermon Discussion

Song -

Close of service – Invitation

Benediction

Closing Song

Today Peter Williams will be preaching.

Duty Elder : Neil Bester

Sermon Title : Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1

Readings : Romans 8 : 1–18, 28–39 (CSB)

1Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, **2** because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.**3** For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, **4** in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. **6** Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. **7** The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. **8** Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **9** You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. **10** Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, **13** because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "*Abba, Father!*" **16** *The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children,*

17 *and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.*

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

28 We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **30** And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32** He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? **33** Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. **34** Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. **35** Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written:

**Because of you
we are being put to death all day long;
we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.**

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Heidelberg Catechism

1. Q What is your only comfort
In life and death?

A. That I am not my own, ¹
but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death, ²
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. ³
He has fully paid for all my sins
with His precious blood. ⁴
and has set me free
from all the power of the devil. ⁵
He also preserves me in such a way ⁶
that without the will of me heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head; ⁷
indeed, all things must work together
for my salvation. ⁸
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit
he also assures me
of eternal life ⁹
and makes me heartily willing and ready
from now on to live for him. ¹⁰

- **1.** 1 Cor 6:19, 20.
- **2.** Rom 14:7-9.
- **3.** 1 Cor 3:23 ; Tit 2:14.
- **4.** 1 Pet 1:18, 19; 1 Jn 1:7, 2:2.
- **5.** Jn 8: 34-36; Heb 2:14,15; 1 Jn 3:8.
- **6.** Jn 6:39,40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess 3:3; 1 Pet 1:5.
- **7.** Mt 10: 29-31; Lk 21: 16-18.
- **8.** Rom 8: 28.
- **9.** Rom 8: 15, 16; 2 Cor 1:21,22, 5:5; Eph 1:13,14.
- **10.** Rom 8:14.

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions

1. God works all things together for the good that we will be progressively changed into the likeness of Jesus. Can you identify ways he's working this good in you at present?
2. In verses 35 & 38-39, Paul lists terrible things that can happen to us but which cannot separate us from the love of Christ. Why doesn't he include death in the list?
3. What difference does it make for you "That I am not my own, but belong ... to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ."?
4. Might you find this catechism question helpful in explaining the Christian faith to someone?
5. Paul says "we are God's children, and if children, also heirs ... of God and coheirs with Christ" (v16-17). He calls Jesus "the firstborn among many brothers and sisters" (v29). How does this relationship affect how you view your life as a Christian?
6. How certain are you about your salvation? (Not "how certain do you feel?", but "how certain are you?")
 7. The catechism says Jesus has set us "free from all the power of the devil." How does this work out in day-to-day life?

Please pray

If weak in prayer, we are weak everywhere.

Leonard Ravenhill

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That the Lord will help us as we strive to be without spot or blemish so that we may be at peace with him.

But based on His promise, we wait for the new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell. Therefore, dear friends, while you wait for these things, make every effort to be found at peace with Him without spot or blemish. (2Peter 3:13-14 HCSB)

Give praise and thanks to God our Saviour for the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us giving us the strength and wisdom we need to walk in his ways.

Please continue to pray for those of us struggling with cancer and its affects, especially for Martie Schachtner who has been on a very long and difficult journey and for Heather Linde. Pray for healing and for God's strength and courage to persevere.

Please pray for our children that the Lord will shield them and protect them especially those in government schools where the things taught may be contrary to his holy Word.

Please pray that we will not flag in our zeal but that we will continue to pray for all those we have committed to bringing before the Lord with a view to helping them come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Please pray for the leadership of our church that they will be diligent in their efforts to honour God in all they do and seek his guidance in all matters concerning our church.

Please pray for the governments of our nation both federal and state, pray that in spite of their lack of trust in the Lord that his will is done.

Please pray for the countries in Africa suffering from terrible drought, pray that the Lord will have mercy on them and bring rain.

Please pray for Christian women in Moslem dominated countries. Life is hard for women in Iran. For women who convert to Christianity, it's worse. But even amid danger, women are finding strength and dignity.

Tears rolled down Sahar's face as she was driven away from the family home. The pain was overwhelming, and she cried out to God - "Why are you allowing this to happen?"

Sahar, a new convert to Christianity, was thrown out of home when her husband discovered her faith. Separation from her two young children was heart-breaking. But while Sahar's suffering was devastating, it's not unusual. Christian women who've converted from Islam, both in Iran and around the world, face intense persecution.

Next prayer meeting Tuesday 28th March at 7.30pm

Growing up in Iran in a Muslim family, Sahar felt empty. For decades, she searched for God. It was only when her sister-in-law gave her a New Testament Bible that Sahar found peace.

“I read it from cover to cover, and when I closed the book I felt a calmness covering my spirit, soul and life. I was transformed through Christ.”

But in choosing to follow Jesus, Sahar took an enormous risk. Iran is the eighth most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian, according to the 2023 World Watch List. And women from the Middle East and North Africa, who’ve converted from Islam, are among the most persecuted believers in the world. For women, persecution is hidden, complex and violent... Forced marriage, divorce, rape and physical beatings all happen behind closed doors.

It means millions of women and girls suffer in silence.

Sahar was imprisoned for her faith, but today, she lives in Turkey and ministers to other persecuted Christian women - restoring their strength and dignity.



Request

On the 28th of March it is our turn once again to cook for the Dining Room Mission in Croydon.

The Deacons are very grateful for our regular cooks, but we would also like to ask for more volunteers.

We need meal(s) that will feed approximately 60 people.

We have found that if 2-3 people cook for approx 20-30 people each we will have enough food.

If you are not able to attend on the Tuesday night to serve the food, you are welcome to pre-prepare and freeze the food which will be defrosted and heated up by one of the other volunteers.

Other things to note.

Some people like to cook as a group or team, and the members of the team do not need to be from our congregation. Or we can have different meals from one, two or three individuals.

Meals like Pasta bakes or Cottage or Shepherds Pie are a relatively easy heat and eat option, but as long as the food can be served hot and is somewhat nourishing it will be gratefully accepted.

We do not need to make desserts at this time, but if we have some soups that can be pulled out of the freezer on the day as needed, that will also be gratefully accepted.

Reimbursement for ingredients is available through the Deacons.

If you are unable to assist this month, but are able to do the 4th Tuesday of one the following months please let me know. I would love to have a roster filled out for the year, It will make my life a lot easier.

Finally— This is my last month as a Deacon serving in this congregation. I just wanted to express my gratitude for the support and encouragement I have received over the past four years.

I will continue to assist the Deacons with The Dining Room Mission for the foreseeable future and look forward to serving with the Deacons in this way.

Yours Faithfully.

Joy van Veen.



CHURCH WORKING BEE

25TH MARCH 2023

FROM 8AM

Our Facilities Management Committee have organised many tasks for us to do to keep our Church home looking loved and cared for. As usual there is lots to do in the garden and outside, weeding, mulching, and trimming as well as window cleaning and removal of cobwebs. We are also hoping to get the heater filters cleaned (before the cold weather starts) as well as cleaning our Church signs.

Morning tea and Sausage sizzle lunch will be provided.

Best of all—it is always a great opportunity for some fellowship together.

The FMC are also aware that sometimes you just can't make it to a scheduled Working Bee because of other commitments. They have, therefore, scheduled the following dates this year for 4 more Working Bees

Saturday May 27th

Saturday July 29th

Saturday September 9th

Saturday 25th November

Hopefully everyone will be able to make it to at least one of these days, and keep our Church looking loved and cared for.

Giving– Our giving is an act of Worship

In our church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation.

The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering will go towards the work of our Deacons.

If you would like to support this work you can do so by in Church giving–Simply add your offering to the bag or bank transfer

BSB 063 167 ACC 1015 8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering “Sun 1” or second offering “Sun 2” in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app:

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

SECOND OFFERING

Our Deacons

Our Deacons help to serve our Church and the wider community both practically and financially. Financial gifts for the Deacons are always appreciated and will go towards supporting people in and outside our congregation.



Easter Biscuit Bake

2023



THE CHALLENGE: To bake 79,000 homemade biscuits

THE CAUSE: To share God's love with every inmate in Victoria this Easter

THE CALL: To bake and deliver nut-free biscuits to the locations below

BISCUITS MUST BE:

- 1. Homemade**
- 2. Crisp, not moist or crumbly**
- 3. Nut free (no peanut butter, almond meal, etc.)**
- 4. In sealed, disposable containers**
- 5. Clearly labelled with ingredients**
- 6. Labelled with the number of biscuits in each container**
- 7. Delivered to one of the delivery points listed in attachments.**

Our Youth will be baking biscuits for this worthy cause so we are asking our Church family to contribute as well. You can do this by baking biscuits and returning them to Church in a disposable container on Sunday 26th March. What a great opportunity to get your friends involved.

For more details—please see Anne Keegel.

Church Council Chair's monthly update for February 2023

The purpose of this update each month is to keep everyone abreast of all the ministries and activities taking place among our church family. If there are additional things you would like to share, that would be great! - please drop an email to Michelle.

PASTOR CHRIS

February was a busy month for Pastor Chris. He attended Timothy Gray's ordination service. He also had meetings with:

- Pastor Cameron Griffiths (Croydon Presbyterian Church)
- Craig from the Vine Project regarding our Church plan
- RTC representatives
- Chris's mentor Peter Tuit
- Colin Buchan from One Hope Church Wantirna
- The Administrator of Casey CRC, providing Elvanto help.
- Planning meeting for Super Dash Youth group with Lauren

Additionally, Chris planned for and ran 2 profession of faith classes (Friday evenings during Super Dash). He helped prepare for the First Selah evening of the year. Chris also planned and attended two Growth Group meetings, a Deacons meeting, a Pastoral Care meeting and a Church Council meeting.

Chris attended the Prayer meeting and organised with Herman a lunchtime weekly prayer meeting specifically for our Church family while we move ahead with our Church Plan for this year.

Pastoral Care

Chris had pastoral visits with 3 people/families. He also met with two new members of our church family. Chris is also mentoring a young man from Casey CRC.

Chris also held 4 pre-marriage counselling sessions.

Ministry Development

Chris meets with Lauren (our intern) for 2 hours each week.

DEACONS

The deacons hosted the Launch Day lunch at Church and will be organising more lunches during the year.

They were happy to welcome Annemarie to her first Deacon's meeting as a newly appointed Deacon.

They have donated \$500 for Bibles, on behalf of our Church, to go to the Solomon Islands.

The Dining Room mission is doing well due to the efforts of a few faithful committed people who continue to cook and help. It would be great to get a few more people onboard to spread the load on the long-term roster.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

A Working Bee has been organised for March 25th.

The broken privacy locks in both the female and male toilets have been repaired.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is up and running for the year with the program for this term already set in place. It is doing well despite everyone still finding their feet and their rhythm, the kids are really enjoying it.

YOUNG ADULTS

No update this month, but they were going to be formally starting up again in February.

KIDS HOPE

This ministry has begun the year well. Dale has spent time training Nicky Bester who has joined the team.

AUDIO VISUAL TEAM

The team has the new projectors but found that some brackets must be fabricated to match up with existing structures to enable the installation of the new projectors. They're waiting on these brackets now.

The team itself is going well and continue to be thankful to all the volunteers.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The team planned for the Selah evening (which was a huge success) – specifically because the space that was created for everyone who attended allowed for a meaningful experience focussing on time with and Worshipping God for who He is.

A new system has been implemented where all the music that the music team requires has been placed in personal folders. This makes it much easier when a new member joins the team. Many thanks go to the huge commitment of those who enabled this to happen.

Music team are now busily preparing for the upcoming Easter services.

CHURCH COUNCIL

A new name for Session because people who are new to church (or just new to Christian Reformed Churches) would have no idea what a "Session" is, but everyone has some sort of an idea what a Church Council might be and do.

The Church Council recommenced monthly meetings in February. Most of February's meeting was devoted to discussion of the results of the recent survey of our church – which had an excellent response rate, so thank you to all who contributed. Chris provided relevant feedback in the outline of this year's program.

Among the numerous decisions following the survey feedback was acceptance of a proposal by Chris about sermon topics. We have a proud tradition of preaching through whole books of the Bible, and we are not abandoning that. However, because of the influences from outside, practical teachings are becoming a higher priority at present than our practice of working through Bible sections methodically. One month we may take a Bible book that's themed along the lines of one of the practical topics and working through that. This approach will continue this year and then be reviewed. There are also some adjustments to our worship services to be considered in our March meeting.

Childsafe is a standing agenda item that we cover each month, and Michelle, as our Childsafe Coordinator, presents a report to the Church Council each month.

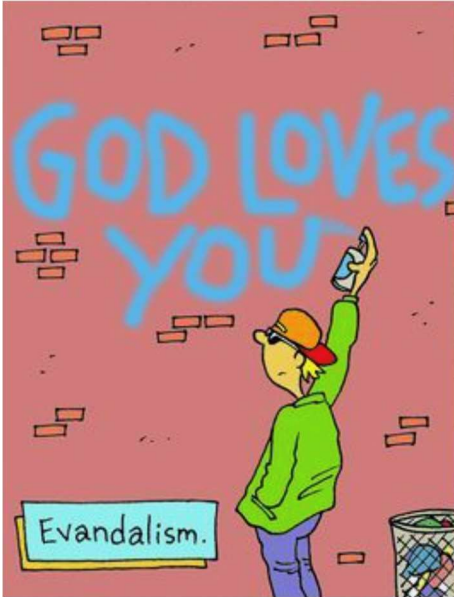
Many thanks, as always, for Michelle's help in gathering the information for this report.
Peter Williams

Happy Birthday

24th March—Leonie Stork

25th March—Pieter Kellerman

26th March—Michelle Dyer



**Just
For
Fun**



What's happening this week at WPCRC

Sunday 19th March

Worship Service 10am (in person and online)

Thursday 23rd March

WWOW Women's Bible Study 10 am at Church

Friday 24th March

Super Dash Youth and Parents Group–7.30 pm

Saturday 25th March

Church Working Bee from 8 am

Sunday 26th March

Worship Service 10 am (in person & online)



Coffee Roster

Today : JD & Izelle Steenkamp

26th March : du Toit family

Contact

If you would like further information about our Church or anything you have heard today please contact

Pastor Chris Pretorius 0423 889 913 or our

Youth Worker (Intern) - Lauren Devenish 0488 453 834 or our

Church Administrator–Michelle 0488 777 517

You can find a full list of Contacts , Growth Group information as well as news and information about what's happening in our Church community posted on our Bulletin Board in the Church Foyer.

Thank you for joining us today

Humility

**is not thinking less of yourself
but thinking of yourself less**

- CS Lewis

Connect with us

Your name :

Contact number :

Contact email :

Prayer Requests :