

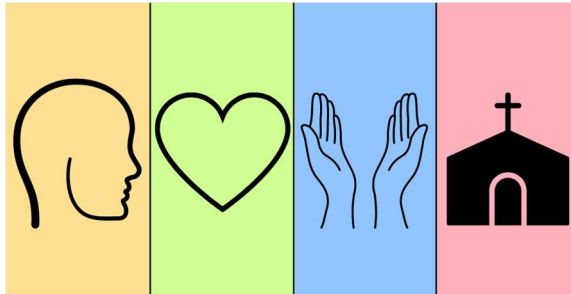


Helping people take the next step toward Jesus

Welcome

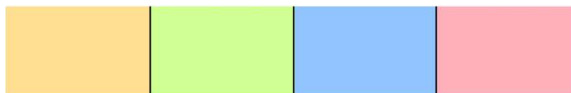
GATHERED WORSHIP BOOKLET

Sunday 16th April 2023



HEAD, HEART, HANDS &
HOLY WORSHIP

2023



Psalm 91 Courage for Christians

Psalm 91

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 - Shout to the Lord - ccli1406918

Song - He knows my name—ccli 2151368

Church strategy update—Pastor Chris

Nicene Creed

Children's Talk - Lauren Devenish

Children's song—Be strong and courageous ccli 4317674

Offerings— Martin van der Merwe

Reflection Song during offerings - Our Father BOW 016

Prayer over Offerings- Martin van der Merwe

Announcements— Martin van der Merwe

Congregational Prayer— Martin van der Merwe

Song - Strong Tower—ccli 4472894

Song - My hope is built on nothing less BOW 465

Scripture Reading - Lorensz Stork

Scripture: Psalm 91 (CSB)

Sermon - Psalm 91 Courage for Christians

Sermon Discussion / Reflection time

Song - O church arise—ccli 4611992

Close of service – Invitation

Benediction

Closing Song - Now unto Him who is able to keep BOW525

Today Pastor Chris Pretorius will be preaching.

Duty Elder : Martin van der Merwe

Sermon Title : Psalm 91 Courage for Christians.

Readings : Psalm 91 (CSB)

Sermon Notes -

Discussion Questions

1. What does Psalm 91 teach us about God's character?
2. What role does faith play in the promises of Psalm 91, and how does it help us overcome fear and anxiety?
3. Why do you think the psalmist used the particular metaphors he did to describe God's protection over us?
4. Does God protect his people because they are part of the covenant, or are they his covenant people because he protects them?
5. How does Psalm 91 compare to other psalms or biblical passages that address the topic of safety, security, or refuge?
6. In what ways does Psalm 91 help us respond to the tragedies that befall the world (natural disasters, Covid, etc)?
7. As Christians should we expect to be protected from the effects of natural disasters?
8. How does the rest of scripture shed light on this topic?

The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Power helpeth our infirmity in prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life ends our deadness in prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Wisdom delivers us from ignorance in this holy art of prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Fire delivers us from coldness in prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Might comes to our aid in our weakness as we pray.

Leonard Ravenhill

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

That we will indeed put our trust in God and rest in his wonderful salvation not allowing pride to get in the way but humbly seek his forgiveness for all our sins so that we may be strong in him.

This is what the sovereign Lord, the holy one of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength." (Isaiah 30:15)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for his faithful love that never dims, that never fails.

Please pray for our elderly members who are unable to meet with us due to their age and age related illnesses, Eveline van Dortland, Ina de Graaf, Suzanne and Phillip Nel, Johann and Hanna van der Walt, Henk Knol, among others. Pray that they may experience the presence of God whom they love.

Please pray for the marriages in our church community, pray that the Lord will protect them and keep them strong and will not allow Satan to undermine them or gain a foothold.

Please pray for our children, especially those who attend secular places of learning that they will be protected and that they will be able to discern what is in accordance with God's word and what is not.

Please pray for the church throughout Australia that we will be the salt of the earth and the beacon on the hill and that the Holy Spirit will do mighty things through us.

Please pray for our nation and our governments that the Lord will cause his will to be done throughout our land in spite of those who would have it otherwise.

For many secret believers in South East Asia, Christian festivities other than Christmas aren't celebrated openly. This is because there are many non-church activities that believers can be a part of during Christmas, but not so much during Easter, making it hard for secret believers to truly grasp its significance. This is a reflection on Easter written by a secret believer in South East Asia.

What is Easter? I'm not too sure.

I was brought up as a Muslim. As a child, I have never heard of any stories on religions other than Islam. We were told to never ask questions or show interest in other beliefs. So, I have never got the chance to ask, 'What is Easter?' I used to watch movies where they mentioned Easter. There was always the 'Easter Bunny'. They are usually these rabbits handing out 'Easter Eggs'. I scroll on my phone and see kids doing an Easter Egg hunt with their friends in the garden. It seems fun. But then again, what is Easter?

When I finally became a believer, I became a part of a small community of other secret believers like me. We share our stories; we share our burdens, and we share God's words. But we don't really involve ourselves with the open church, it is too high a risk. In this country where the majority of the population are Muslims, we don't really celebrate Easter. There is no such thing as an Easter public holiday. Because of this, some years, I don't even notice it is Easter. Most of us never celebrated it in our lives, so we tend to just ignore it.

It took me years until I finally got to understand the significance of Easter, and it is indeed very significant. I wish that I knew about it sooner, I wish to be part of a community that knows Easter. So today I pray that believers out there would reach out to people like us more, especially on this special day, so our faith can be strengthened by understanding 'What is Easter'.

Pray For Secret Believers:

That Christians in this country will be able to hear and understand the true meaning of Easter. .

That believers all over the world will be emboldened to share the Good News of Jesus.

That secret believers will be strengthened in faith and find deep Christian community.

Open Doors

Our next prayer meeting - Tuesday the 25th April at 7.30 pm.



The Forgiveness Cross

One hundred years ago four young indigenous evangelists preached the gospel to the tribal Ikuntji peoples in the western desert who lived near Memory Mountain 230km west of Alice Springs. They brought a message of forgiveness to a culture that had no understanding of it. Traditionally when someone did something wrong, they would suffer for it with payback and retribution. This could include the spilling of blood. They explained what Christ has done on the cross through His blood. He had been speared in his side and his blood went into the ground to bring true forgiveness that lasted forever. This message hugely impacted hundreds who came to know Christ and were baptised. Sixty years later, the leaders of this Ikuntji community were given a vision to establish a giant cross on top of this rugged and majestic Mountain. This year this dream has become a reality. The Forgiveness Cross was officially launched this Easter. Australians came from all over Australia and gathered at Memory Mountain this Easter to celebrate their faith and culture.

Ken Duncan says 'they're not saying we forgive white people. They've already done that. They're saying, "God, forgive us all for trying to do things in our own way and let's get the focus back on Jesus, whether black, white, or whatever colour." - Ikuntji Elder Kieran Malta. 'People from every nation can come together—every nation—black or white or Chinese or Indian. The cross is the way to meaning, forgiveness.' Vision's CEO Phil Edwards said: 'I'm really excited to be able to stand united with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in a time of so much division, and together declare to the nation the hope we have in Jesus. I am so moved by the fact this is an initiative of the Indigenous people themselves, and that their core message is forgiveness'. It is so significant that indigenous people are making such a bold statement about forgiveness in a time when their need for reconciliation and recognition are in such sharp focus.

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 - 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 of our congregation.



Prayer and Praise Items for April '23.

1. Please continue to pray for one of our evangelists who along with four elders was arrested on charges of violating India's anti-conversion law. Bail has been applied for but at time of writing had not been granted.
2. Another evangelist from the Udaipur mission field praises God for seven people in his mission field who have heard the gospel and come to faith in Jesus.
3. There have been many Easter outreach events in field. Please pray that the message of the finished work of Jesus and his resurrection would bring conviction and repentance to many.
4. Specific training for our teams has been given on legal rights and justice issues last week. A Christian advocate from Madhya Pradesh state did the training.
5. Vacation Bible School (VBS) teachers' training is planned in Gujarat this week. VBS is an effective tool for evangelism amongst children. Often parents come to hear about Jesus from what their children have learned at VBS.
6. One of our workers named Jamsingh has requested prayer for the mission field where he labours. He faces many threats and much opposition from the local community. Please pray that God would enable the gospel work to continue despite the persecution.
7. Hiralal met with an accident while riding a motorbike to the mission field. He has sustained a fractured jaw.

Church Council Chair's monthly update for March 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

Chris meets with Lauren (our intern) for 2 hours each week. Other meetings included:

- Craig from the Vine Project regarding our Church strategy
- Chris's mentor Peter Tuit
- Pastor of Canterbury Gardens Church (Shebu) for networking and training for missions
- Attended State Youth Network meeting
- Classis meeting, including running the examination of a new CRCA minister
- Mia van Wyk, Music Ministry leader, to organise Good Friday and Easter Sunday service
- Peter Williams to discuss Growth Groups Ministry
- Attended Deacons meeting
- Attended Church Council (Session) meeting.
- Prepared for, and ran, two Growth Group meetings.
- Chris attends the church prayer meeting every week.

During the month, Chris also met with Michelle and Christian for pre-marriage counselling, then prepared for, and officiated at, their wedding.

He prepared for, and ran, the Confession of Faith part of Youth Group.

Chris travelled to South Australia to preach at the CRCA church in Elizabeth (northern Adelaide), as part of the pulpit swap arrangements in our classis.

Chris also preached at the State Youth Service in Langwarrin CRCA. He also had some time of annual leave away with his family.

DEACONS

The deacons are working well as a team and are grateful that Annemarie has joined. They are still supporting a member of our congregation. The Dining Room mission is well supported and going well, but the team could still use more help. Joy is stepping down and her last meeting as a Deacon will be April's meeting, but she plans to remain involved with the Dining Room Mission.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

The team is grateful to all those who attended the working bee. Having a hired Bobcat meant that lots of the heavy-duty work was made a lot easier. At the last meeting it was decided that an increased number of dates for workingbees will be offered, so as to give everyone a chance of making it to at least one for the year.

The team was able to install the new projectors after adjustments were made to the mounting brackets to align them with the existing structure.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This ministry is going really well and the leaders are grateful for all the helpers. The children really enjoyed the theme of Gratitude this term. The team has been discussing new topic for next term.

Sarah is now sharing the role of Sunday School Co-ordinator with Ilze Kellerman.

KIDS HOPE

This ministry continues to run smoothly. Nicky Bester continued training for her position as a mentor.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The music team were busy preparing for the upcoming Easter services. New members are settling in well, and Mila van Wyk joined the group very successfully one Sunday as one of the singers.

The leaders are grateful for every member of the music team.

While all the CCLI songs are now in the exhaustive new folder arrangements, Mia and Nelleke are now working through the Book of Worship songs which are regularly sung by our congregation.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The discussion questions following each sermon were discussed. The recent survey revealed that most people find the discussion time valuable, but there are some who find it challenging. Offering the option for people to reflect silently and individually was considered the best way forward, and this is now offered during the worship services.

It appears that knowledge of the structure of the Bible is not as strong or universal as might be ideal. As part of the Head Heart Hands and Holy Worship, we will have Sundays where there will be instruction on the structure of the Bible, so that everyone will be able to access the various parts of God's word more fruitfully.

Arrangements are being made for the conduct of the Lords Supper at home for congregation members who are unable to come to church in person due to old age, chronic illness or the like.

An independent, external audit review of the church's finances was conducted in March for reporting to the Church

Council in April. Audits or audit reviews are conducted annually.

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 invaluable help in gathering the information for this report.

Peter Williams

STATE YOUTH GAMES



LAUNCH NIGHT

**FRIDAY 28TH OF APRIL
7PM - 9PM @ SCORESBY SECONDARY COLLEGE**

STATE YOUTH GAMES–2023

WHEN : MONARCH'S BIRTHDAY LONGWEEKEND

9 TH–12TH JUNE 2023

LARDNER PARK–GIPPSLAND

Launch night will include all the information you will need to know about the State Youth Games and where you will find all the answers to your questions. There will also be games, snacks, worship and a short Bible based encouragement.

For more info - peyton.donnelly@ohcc.com.au



APRIL

1st April Joy van Veen

4th April–Harry Berends

14th April Lynette Pretorius

16th April–Nina Theron

17th April Lydia Oppermann

23rd April–Leon de Beer

29th April Ilze Kellerman



Coffee Roster

Today : Martin and Marianne van der Merwe

Sunday 23rd April : Lynette Pretorius and

Joy van Veen

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.

What's Happening at Church



Sunday 16th April

Worship Service 10am (in person & online)



Thursday 13th April

Prayer Meeting 7.30 pm



Saturday 22nd April

Jesus Revolution movie

Hoyts Eastland 6.30pm start



Sunday 23rd April

Worship Service 10 am (in person & online)



Tuesday 25th April

Prayer Meeting 7.30pm



Friday 28th April

State Youth Games Launch Night

Selah

sing • pray • linger

Please join us for our next Selah evening
on 7th May at 7pm.

Our Ministry teams have been working hard to prepare another special Selah service where we will get to enjoy singing Worship songs to our Lord together , where we will Worship Him in prayer together and then get a chance to linger in His presence together. If you haven't been to one of these special evenings then please join us .





Thanks to Scott Alan Leonard (See Genesis 8:17) 03-19-2002

**BUT WE CAN'T GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY
... WE'RE ADDERS**



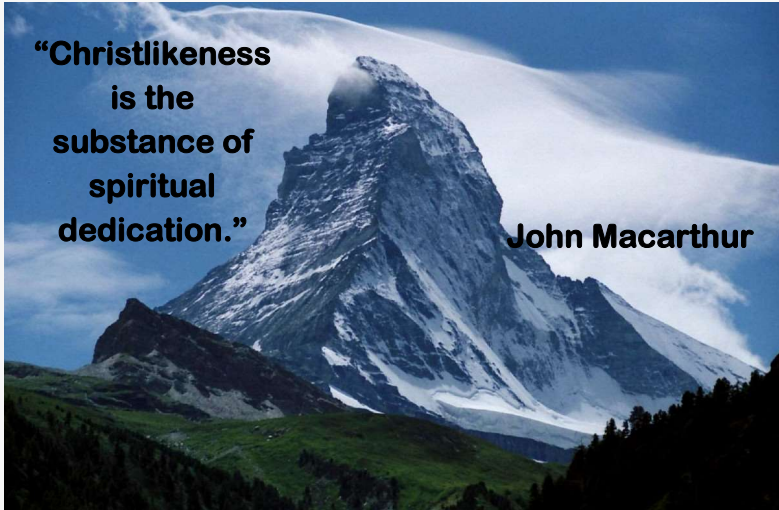
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**I'M SORRY, SIR - THIS IS A
NON-PROPHET CORPORATION**



**The other kids always hated it
when little Moses came to the pool.**

Thank you for joining us today



Connect with us

Your name :

Contact number :

Contact email :

Prayer Requests :