

Serving us this week 6 November, and next week 13 November

	6 November	13 November
Preacher	Mark Hillis HC	Ian Pearson
Organist	Merril Hillis	Margaret Neville
Bible Readers	Annie Cox. Deborah Wall	Lorraine White. Peter Whalan
Vestry Elder	Kate Prowse. HC Deborah Wall	Carolyn Craig-Emilsen
Welcomer	Louise Mattay	Kate Prowse
Stewards	Ross Neville. Kerry Jordan	Ross Neville & Stephen White
Prayers of the People	Mel Macarthur	Annie Cox
Flowers	Jenifer Tippins	Peggy Goldsmith
Morning Tea	Susie Christie & Annie Cox	Lorraine & Stephen White

<i>This Week, 6 November Pentecost 22</i>	<i>Next Week 13 November Pentecost 23</i>
Hag 1:15b—2:9. 2 Thes 2:1-5, 13-17 Ps 145:1-5, 17-21 Lk 20:27-38	Is 65: 17-25 2 Thes 3:6-13 IS 12 Lk 21:5-19

Activities of Leura Uniting Church

<p>Sunday Morning ZoomWorship 9.30am Taize Services 3rd Sun 5pm Contact Carolyn 0413 993 368</p> <p>Monday Playtime 10am – 12 noon during school term. Contact Denise 4782 6556</p> <p>Book Club- 3rd Monday 3pm Contact Delma 0407 140 837</p> <p>Open Table Tuesday & Sunday Lunch, Thursday breakfast, Junction 142, Katoomba. Contact Margaret 0247 031 761</p>	<p>Mt Solitary Pilgrimages: Contact: revmel@bigpond.com</p> <p>Twilight Services 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5pm</p>
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Editor Louise Mattay 4782 2931 lmattay@bigpond.com
Bulletin Deadline Wednesday 8pm



Corner of Grose and Megalong Streets, Leura
has a Zoom service every Sunday as well as
a face-to-face service in the church at 9.30am

Pentecost 22 6 November'22 Luke 20:27-38

Where, on Earth, is heaven?

Carl Sagan challenged faith based on the biblical flat earth understanding of the shape of the Universe by suggesting that if Jesus had ascended at the speed of light, and if he had kept up that speed for the last two thousand years, then he hasn't left our galaxy yet.

There are many dangers in reading the biblical texts and worldviews literally.

It is possible though to engage the texts faithfully as parable and story.

Though Jesus' own understanding of the Universe contained a flat Earth, he nevertheless points to heaven here and now *on* the Earth beneath our feet more than in an afterlife spent above the colander dome of the sky.

In Luke, Jesus counters the misdirection of the Sadducees who were looking upwards, by looking down at the Earth where God is concerned with the living rather than the dead. An afterlife did not seem important to Jesus.

So, friends, where might we see heaven now? Could heaven be in the soils beneath our feet? In a woman sweeping her house to find a lost coin? In a burglar imaging God surprising us by turning up at unexpected places and times?

It is in unlikely places like these, Jesus says in his many parables, that we might experience heaven ... right here on Earth.

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As always, today's preacher may have a different view altogether to the one expressed here. Which goes to show how wonderfully diverse are our interpretations of our Scriptures can be!

Ian Pearson

For God is not God of the dead, but of the living.
For all people are alive to him. *Luke 20:38*



Minister
Myung-Hwa Park
0400191880
Congregation Chairperson
John Cox 0408993 007
Congregation Secretary
Stephen White
Congregation Treasurer
Kerry Jordan 47843051

What's happening in 2022

November

Sun 13 AGM *after Morning Tea*

Thu 17 Junction 142 Board 7pm

For our thoughts and prayers

All those who are sick, in pain, grieving, lonely.

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation

will be held on **Sunday 13 November 2022** after morning tea.

This meeting will include the election of Elder/Church Councillors and appoint all other office bearers, coordinators etc. We need more Elders/Church Councillors and ask you to think and pray about who you think could serve in this position. Have a talk to John Cox or myself. Sometimes we can see a person's potential where they do not see it themselves. We don't need highly experienced or qualified people, but people willing to give some time and get more involved in the running of our church.

Stephen White, *Congregation Secretary*

For those who wish to contribute to Leura Uniting

Church via Bank Transfer, the details are:

Leura Uniting Church – General Account

BSB 634 634

A/c No. 100031809 Reference – Offering

Jesus' reply, referring to the words spoken by God through the burning bush, is universally admired for its clever exegesis of a text from Torah that the Sadducees would have to accept as authoritative. But there is much more here than declaring that God is a God of the living. In (Raising Abel), James Alison explodes this reply by saying that the power of God which the Sadducees do not understand "is that of being completely and entirely alive, living without any reference to death. There is no death in God. God has nothing to do with death, and for that reason facts which are obvious to us, like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob having been long dead at the time of Moses, simply do not exist for God. Let's put this another way: for us 'being alive' means 'not being dead;' it's a reality which is circumscribed by its opposite. For God this is simply not the case. For God being alive has nothing to do with death, and cannot even be contrasted with death."

Andrew Marr, <https://andrewmarrosb.blog/2013/11/05/jesus-explodes-with-life-his-reply-to-the-sadducees/>

The Seasons in Haiku

Author: Jacinta Shailer sgs

The haiku are short poetic forms of three lines composed of five, seven and five syllables. This form of poetry originated in Japan in the seventeenth century, with Basho being the chief exponent. He wrote these glimpses of Nature in this form on his many journeys over the countryside in all kinds of weathers. Buson and Issa were also celebrated haiku writers. The haiku are each a kind of word picture and are inseparable from the changing seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter. Sr Jacinta Shailer writes that: "In this booklet I have tried to capture some of the beauty of this poetic expression in English illustrated by photography of Australia, with the inclusion of a few photos from the country of the haiku's origin."

Available at <https://www.bmert.com.au/books/p/the-seasons-in-haiku>

WWW: leura.unitingchurch.org.au

Facebook" <https://www.facebook.com/LeuraUnitingChurch>

Other nearby Uniting Churches

Blackheath – Sunday Worship 10.30am Contact: Michiel

Groenewegen 4760 8064

Hazelbrook – Sunday Worship 9.30am Contact: Marjorie Leggatt
4759 1228