



# ALKING POINT

**Worship Service Times:**

Traralgon:	9:30 am
Glengarry:	11:00 am
Rosedale:	10:00 am
	(2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
	2:00 pm
	(3rd Sunday)

*Our Mission:* Sharing God's presence and reconciling love.

*Our Vision:* More wholehearted, more compassionate,  
more abundant life shared in our neighbourhoods

**SUNDAY, 14th April 2024**

**Volume 30 Issue 12**

Coming from Gippsland and driving through our landscape, I have come to love the great Strzelecki Eucalyptus which we see in isolated parts of our landscape. There are a few along the highway to Rosedale: - those large trees which seem to stand as sentinels, in their majesty. Recent storms through Gippsland, especially Mirboo North, has seen some battered by the force of storm winds. Trees are such beautiful reminders of time, of the need to have deep 'roots', all that they shelter in their own ecosystem and by parallel our own relationships in Gods grace. So I want to share this prayer, by Neil Paynter in "Gathered and Scattered: Readings and meditations from the Iona Community".

Prayer

God, help us to grow

like a garden

like a song

like a tree.

Like a great tree

Like one of those great, old trees

you meet sometimes and hug

wandering lost

or enchanted

in a deep, dark forest

in an empty field.

A great, old tree

with roots that reach down to the heart

roots that reach down but

break through the ground around the trunk and lift as if the earth can't contain the yearning.

As if the earth shall erode and pass away and all that shall be left in the end is Spirit.

A great old tree

with breaks and wounds and scars

but dancing and clapping its hands.

Like a beautiful, old woman at a summer wedding.

A great, old tree still and centred

drawing on the living warm core of God

though left stripped of everything.

God, help us to grow

like a garden

like a song

like a tree.

Like one of those great, old trees

you meet sometimes in a crowded forest

in and empty field.

Neil Paynter



**Traralgon District Uniting Church**

Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



# AT HOME WORSHIP - ORDER OF SERVICE

## SUNDAY 14th April 2024

*Reflection* ~ from Peter Morris

**So You Would Come**

[So You Would Come - YouTube](#)

*Theme*

The LORD who knows and loves us,  
changing us through the love and  
forgiveness of Jesus

*A paraphrase of Psalm 4*

Dear God, respond to Your servant in  
distress / make room for a disciple in  
despair / listen to the agonizing cries of a  
child / who is depressed and unhappy.

O you who I thought were my friends / why  
do you keep hacking at me / gloating over  
my errors, rejoicing at my failures / always  
looking for the very worst in me?

I remember that I truly belong to God / and  
that He does feel for me when I hurt.

Go ahead, explode, blow up / it doesn't  
frighten God / as long as it doesn't hurt  
anyone else.

But then, O foolish heart, simmer down /  
and begin renewing your confidence in God.

I hear voices about me / whining about the  
wickedness of the world / begging for divine  
demonstration of might and right.

And yet I have discovered / more delight in  
my relationship to You / than in all their  
possessions and pleasures.

And so, I can lie down and sleep in peace /  
because of You, I am eternally secure.

**AMEN**

(freely adapted from "Psalms Now", Father  
Leslie F Brant, 1973)

*Comments*

How can we sleep peacefully at night and  
be joyful, when those who do the wrong  
thing prosper and we don't...

This Psalm asks us to consider whether we  
have a divided heart, making things like  
success or relationships into idols. It is an  
invitation to examine ourselves and where  
needed, to change our attitude.

If we have any bitterness, we are invited to  
forgive... and a call to seek God's face to  
have a sense of his presence and love in  
our hearts. Knowing that we are safe in  
God, come what may...

*Prayer:*

LORD, there are things  
perhaps some bad things  
perhaps even some good things  
that we can be tempted to turn  
into idols in our lives

To compete with you for the allegiance  
of our hearts

Sometimes we might have resentment  
to people who have wronged us  
And sometimes we even have resentment  
towards you

These things restrict us in knowing  
the joy of your presence  
and the peace in trusting in you

Help us to see these idols for what they  
are

and turn more and more to you  
as you fill our hearts with joy

AMEN

*Comments*

God invites us to speak honestly with him,  
and then to listen to what he says to us in  
return.

A priest told me the story of his argument, with another priest...

They had very different backgrounds and personalities; but because of their work, they had to share a house and often they argued like little kids.

One day during a heated argument he went to his room and slammed the door (just like a little kid...). Then paced up and down, rehearsing all the words he could have used in the argument.

And as he paced up and down, he thought he should pray. Now he could have folded his hands and said, "Bless him LORD". But that wasn't how he felt. It wouldn't have been an honest prayer, so he tried to pray honestly.

"LORD, he is so arrogant and rude and self-centred, he is always rubbing me up the wrong way, I wish I had the words to cut him down to size and put him in his place".

And as he prayed an honest prayer, the LORD seemed to speak to him.

"Try to see him from my perspective he is lonely and hurt by the world, with a really low self-image. He is dearly loved by me and I long to build him up".

At the close of his prayer, he didn't want to cut the other priest down to size, he wanted to find ways to befriend him and build him up.

*Symbols: simple reminders of God's wonderful love...*

#### *A Candle*

We are changed by the life and warmth of Jesus as he touches our very lives...

#### *The Cross*

Here is the God who loves us, who seeks us out, and who longs for us to know His love in the inner fibre of our being.

It's not just what we say, it's who we are, it's what His love makes us.

His love is so wonderful, that we can't really grasp it, and can't really explain it. BUT it's real...

Pray that we can catch a fresh glimpse of this wonderful love ...

**The steadfast love of the LORD** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edvskV0oxdQ>

#### *Receive the good news:*

Our Loving Heavenly Father pays attention to us when we pray. He receives our confession and saves us by grace.

May the peace of God guard us in mind and heart  
now and forever.

Thanks be to God Amen

**O how He Loves You and Me** [Oh, How He Loves You and Me - YouTube](#)

The Presbytery Fig Tree Worship Resources for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024, to enrich your worship...

<https://figtreeworshipresource.blog/>



**COPYRIGHT**

Hymns copied: CCLI Licence no 206729, 153822, 17844

Peter will be preaching at  
Newborough Uniting Church  
on Sunday afternoon.  
We ask for your prayers for Peter as he  
continues in this important ministry.

### Winter Appeal

As the weather turns colder by the day, there is an amazing opportunity for us to support our friends in need in our community. Whether you are knitting, crocheting or buying new blankets, beanies scarves and gloves, every bit helps.

Our WINTER APPEAL dedication service will be on the 5th May.

All your wonderful contributions can be left in the office. Thank you.

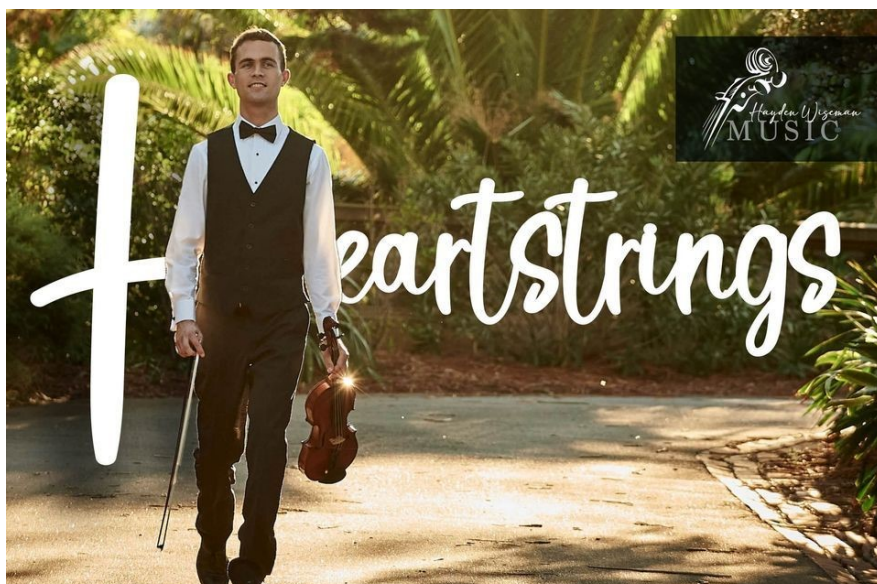


mainly music  
**Thursday**  
@ 9:30 am  
During school term

Music Group  
Fridays  
@ 5:00 pm



Playgroup  
**Monday**  
@ 9:30 am  
During school term



Scan to book or register

### Sunday APRIL 21 7pm TRARALGON UNITING CHURCH

Having performed more than 400 concerts across Australia, New Zealand and also Canada, Hayden is now an international violinist.

He is passionate about bringing real live music to churches and communities around the world. The connection is greater, the experience is deeper than the online dynamic.

Come along and bring a friend to enjoy a truly uplifting and unique experience.

**Tickets:** \$25 ADULTS, \$20 CONCESSION/UNDER 18, \$10 CHILDREN UNDER 12  
CD'S,DVD'S, USB'S AVAILABLE

#### Scripture

14th April

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

21st April

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

#### Uniting Church in Australia - Traralgon District

19-29 Park Lane (PO Box 1136) TRARALGON 3844 ph: 5176 1029

**Administrative Assistant:** Theresa Steyn **Office Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday 9am-1pm

**Email Address:** [mail@traralgon.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:mail@traralgon.unitingchurch.org.au) **Web Address:** <http://traralgonuc.blogspot.com/>