

November 4th 2018

welcome!

Our regular services are:

8 am at St. Paul's
Classic Anglican service

10 am at St. Paul's
All age service with children's
programs

3 pm at St. Stephen's
All age service with children's
programs

ministry contacts

Senior Minister
Mark Smith 0430 393 414
mark.smith@lpachurch.org.au
Not available Thursdays

Children's & Youth Minister
John Young 6352 4347
john.young@lpachurch.org.au
Not available Wednesdays

Community Pastor
Terry Smith 0449233862
terry.smith@lpachurch.org.au
On Leave unavailable

Wardens
Robert Hookham 0403506693
John Stevens 6355 1337
Eric Young
0429664436

Office Administration
Corinne Ogg 6351 3070
office@lpachurch.org.au
Wednesday & Friday 9 - 2

for children and youth



Youth Group
for yrs 6- 12
During School
Term Fridays
7:00 – 9 pm

.....
K – yr 6

During School Term
Fridays 5pm – 6:30 pm

growth groups

Small groups for adults to
grow in Christ.
*details on back of bulletin or
phone office.*



Knowing Jesus • Serving Jesus • Proclaiming Jesus

Dear friends,

Welcome to church! God is never afraid of the hard questions - & welcomes us asking the big ones. Read through the Psalms & see how the Bible gives space for those that even sound accusing (eg. Psalm 13v1 *'How long, O LORD? Will you forget me for ever? How long will you hide your face from me?'*). God isn't afraid of big questions & willingly answers. As we ask big questions (like today: 'What happens when I die?'), we must realise His answers will challenge & change us – because God wants what's best for us. He answers, so we'll learn to trust & follow Him.

Sadhu Sundat Singh was born a wealthy Sikh in the late 1800s. He grew up at the feet of a Hindu ascetic holy man, before learning English at a missionary school. His father died at 14, & he raged violently – particularly against Christian missionaries. Singh even bought a Bible – to burn it page by page. At 16, on the edge of suicide, he had a vision of Christ, & committed to following him. His family unsuccessfully tried to poison him for that decision. Over the next 25 years he preached Jesus, served the needy & was variously imprisoned for his faith. Singh's life may not be well-known. But the song he penned is: *'I have decided to follow Jesus'*. That's the heart of the chorus – with the promise of 'no turning back'. The verses explore the implications of that decision: *'Though none go with me, still I will follow'* & *'The cross before me, the world behind me'*. It's a song of commitment. A song that invites us to consider our own relationship with Jesus. Christ didn't come to follow, but be followed (eg. Mark 1v17; 8v34). As you reflect on your relationship with him, 2 important considerations.

First, Christ committed to us. Jesus doesn't ask anything of us, they he hasn't already done first. Jesus was clear: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' (Mk 8v34). Implied in his call to self-denial & the cross – is he did it first. Before we ever thought to love & serve him with anything more than part of our hearts – Jesus wholeheartedly gave Himself for us. In Luke 9, just after the disciples acknowledge he's the Christ & Jesus' true identity is gloriously affirmed in the transfiguration & words from heaven – Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem (Luke 9v51). With all his glory & power, he committed to suffering, rejection & death. He would not take the easy road to glory. Instead he commits to save the undeserving & far off – taking our place. Christ committed thoroughly to us. He didn't settle for His Father's praise – but suffered that we might be free. If you're intentionally holding on to control of your life, or keeping parts of life for yourself – look again at Jesus. He didn't take the selfish road to glory – but the difficult road for your good. You can trust him. You must trust him.

Second, All should commit to Christ. In Luke 9v57ff, just after Jesus issues the invitation to follow him, we have a series of interactions that clarify what his call means. Put simply, his call means: 'Jesus must come first'. It means leaving security behind & sharing Christ's alienation. It means him ahead of family – looking forward not clinging to the past. It means having him set the direction, or you have no part in Him. It's a call to all - & the call is 'Jesus must come first'. John Stott wrote:

'If he is true, if he is the Son of God who died for the sins of men [...] then nothing less than our wholehearted commitment to Christ will do. I must put him first in my private and public life, seeking his glory and obeying his will. Better be icy in my indifference or go into active opposition to him than insult him with an insipid compromise which nauseates him!'

Because of Christ's commitment & call, **next Sunday, 11th November**, we come together in one service to refresh our commitment to Him. Like wedding vows, our commitment to Christ isn't about the 'day we decided' years ago, but how we practised them today! At our 'Commitment Sunday service' (9:30am at St Paul's) we'll remember all Jesus has done for us, sing his praise, hear how he's been working in us & commit ourselves afresh to following him (no turning back). Gathering as one strengthens our accountability & unity – especially as we chat over morning tea (please bring a plate to share that morning to bless those serving).

God welcomes the hard questions. Listen carefully, & His answers will turn your life around for the better.

In Him, Mark Smith

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St. Paul's: Railway Parade, Lithgow • St. Stephen's: Williwa St, Portland



readings

ot Daniel 12:2 – 3 (page 636)

nt Revelation 20:11 – 21:8 (page 878)

Responding to God's Word in Practice:

1. HEAD: What did you learn?
2. HEART: What did God say to you?
3. HANDS: What will you do?

word of encouragement:

Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness' Psalm 115:1

The Psalms have been a family favourite this past year as we've called out to God in our times of distress and waited on Him. We've experienced God's love through our Pioneers team members praying with us in our struggles with transition and in discerning God's will for us as we sought to truly love our children. We've experienced God's love through our Khmai Christian helpers who have so little materially, but have so generously helped us with language learning, driving us around and helping out at home. I'll never forget the time our tuk tuk driver Sam fearlessly drove us through deep, fast running murky flood waters singing loudly, 'Thank you, thank you Jesus. Thank you, thank you Jesus' while we prayed with our feet up in the air. We've experienced God's love through our supporters who have faithfully prayed for us and supported us financially over the years as we've embarked on this journey to share God's love with the nations.

Just last month, the majority Buddhists in Cambodia celebrated P'chum Ben, a festival of the dead. Khmai people took time off work to take food offerings to the local pagoda to help their departed ancestors who are said to roam the earth at this time. The C people have their own superstitions about spirits and times of making offerings to show their submission to A'lah. This nation desperately needs to hear of the love and faithfulness of the one true God. Psalm 117 (one of Nathanael's favourites), besides being the shortest psalm, is a wonderful exhortation to all the nations to praise the Lord for His love and faithfulness.

This year my heart has ached for my sons as they found living in Cambodia so hard and then ached with the prospect of having to leave Cambodia and the friends we've made, the language we've loved learning and all our hopes of sharing God's love with the C people at uni. Most recently, my heart aches for my younger children as they thrive in their wonderful Christian school full of friends they've made from all the nations. And yet, as Lily led the devotion for her year at school yesterday on Revelation 7 & 21, I'm again reminded of God's love and faithfulness to the nations *I can see that you have a heart for the nations', 'what about working with refugees?'*

Over the last few weeks, Cameron and I have been in discussion with Pioneers and AFES about working amongst the nations in Sydney next year. We're praising God for his love and faithfulness that we've been invited to join a Pioneers team called SUMMIT seeking to reach refugees and new migrants in the south-western Sydney region. It looks like I will have opportunities to counsel refugees and new migrants and share God's love through a Christian trauma healing program. In a potential partnership with AFES, it seems Cameron could focus on sharing the gospel with tertiary students as well as other young adult refugees and new migrants in the area. I may also have the opportunity to work alongside Cameron sharing the gospel with tertiary students.

Praise God for his love and faithfulness in providing the opportunity for us to continue to minister to unreached people groups amongst refugees and new migrants in Sydney! While our heart is very much still wanting to work amongst the C here in Cambodia, for now, it seems, God has left that door open to return here by giving us an opportunity to share His love amongst the nations in our very own city. With only 2 months left of language, school and spending time with our friends in Cambodia, we feel both blessed to have this time and sad at the thought of saying goodbye. We would rather say 'see you soon' as we move to the next stage of our journey of, God willing, sharing the gospel with the C people of Cambodia. While we continue to wait, we're thankful and praising God that this next ministry opportunity really does look very similar to what we had hoped to do here in Cambodia. In light of this, we'd love for you to continue to support us prayerfully and financially as we seek to serve our loving and faithful Lord amongst the nations in Sydney.

With much love and thankfulness for your partnership in the gospel,
In Christ, **Lara** (with Cameron, Hannah, Rebekah, Zachariah, Nathanael, Lily, Malakai & Luke)

News to share or point for prayer?

If you would like the church family to hear of recent news, or request prayer for yourself, please contact the office by phone or email. *Due to privacy laws we can only publish names with permission of those people.*

prayer points

4th November God our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of your church: and grant that what we ask in faith we may surely obtain; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

5th Nov Praise Christ for not only making, but sustaining, all creation. Pray that across the world, people would enjoy the goodness & beauty of Creation & acknowledge they live for him.

6th Nov Give thanks for all those God has placed in authority to maintain justice & restrain wickedness. Pray that all with power would resist corruption, love truth & mercy, & walk in humility before God

7th Nov Give thanks & pray for all involved in the criminal justice system. Pray for '*justice to flow like rivers*' in our nation. Pray for the healing & restoration of victims - & the repentance & transformation of perpetrators of crime.

8th Nov Give thanks for the esteem God holds children in & regard for the aged. Give thanks for those who care for infants & the elderly (whether paid or freely)

9th Nov Reflect prayerfully on Proverbs 14:26-27 '*He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.*'

10th Nov Pray for all Christians reflecting on the hymn-lyrics:

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word, I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;

Thou my great Father, and I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

11th Nov Lord, we pray, absolve your people from their offences; that through your bountiful goodness we may be set free from the chains of those sins which in our frailty we have committed: grant this, heavenly father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

roster reminders for next week

11th November 2018

Removed for
privacy

bible readings
ot Deuteronomy 8
nt Luke 22:7 – 27

Thank you for serving.

If you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a swap and let the service leader and the office know

Growth Groups

Mon	pm Senior teens	Lithgow
Tues	am mixed	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Lithgow
Wed	pm Women's	Lithgow
	pm Men's	Lithgow
	pm Mixed	Wallerawang
Thu	am Women's	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Portland
Fri	am women's	Lithgow
	pm Mixed	Lithgow

notices

Hampers for Farmers

In partnership with Anglicare, we have hampers of food & toiletry essentials ready to give to those affected by drought. Contact Terry Smith and or the office to get these hampers to those you know who are in need.

Portland Men's Breakfast 10th November

8:30am Saturday 10th November at 'Portland Garage'. Open to all men. Theme: Antiques and Collectibles

'Commitment Sunday' (Combined Service) 11th November:

Once a year we gather as a single congregation to express our unity & re-commit ourselves to Christ's service. Sunday 11th November, we have one service at St Paul's - 9:30am.

(No 8am, 10am or 3pm – but Fresh Food is still on that day)

Fresh Food Day Set-up

Help is needed between 1:30 and 3:30pm this Saturday, 10th November, to set up the hall for Fresh Food Day the next day.

This will include setting up all the tables, bagging vegetables and preparing for last-minute set-up on Sunday.

Thank you for any help. For information, please contact John Wiltshire, 6351 3201.

Special Fresh Food Day: November 11th

'A help up, not a handout'. For us all, it's a chance to welcome others in conversation over a cuppa.

Next month's Fresh Food Day – Toiletries. Donations welcome now, contact John Wiltshire

Confirmation & Baptism service - 18th November:

Our Bishop will join us & several members publicly express their faith in Christ.

There is still time to join them in declaring yours. Speak with Mark Smith to be involved

Christmas Carols 2018: 6:30pm Friday 21st December

A service of classic carols and the timeless Christmas Story. Our annual Carols are a great celebration of Christ's coming, open to all the community.

This year we are holding them on a Friday night at St Paul's (rather than Sunday).

Followed by family fun with face-painting, balloons, a bouncy castle, activities & food.

Christmas services 2018

6pm Christmas Eve BBQ Carols at Portland

8am Christmas Day at St Paul's

10am Christmas Day at St Paul's

Our community Pastor, Terry Smith, is on leave for the next 2 weeks

Direct Giving details

Account Name - ANGLICAN PARISH OF LITHGOW DIRECT GIVING

BSB - 062591

Account No. - 10085204



Find us on
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please return bibles to the back of church at the end of the service. thank you!