



Reflections

January '21

Seek Growth



Find



Life



Know love

What's Online This Month January 2021

Morning Service 10am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5106252255514401293>

Evening Service 6.30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/156940301057506061>

Small Groups will recommence at a time to be announced

Pastor's Corner... Rev Dale Yardy,
What a year it was!



In keeping with the spirit of the Premier's announcement today, we will be temporarily ceasing live worship services in an effort to reduce the amount of people moving around Greater Sydney and keep our community safe. Please note that our Christmas Day Service, along with services on December 27 and January 3 will now revert to ONLINE. I will review where we are in early January and keep you updated.

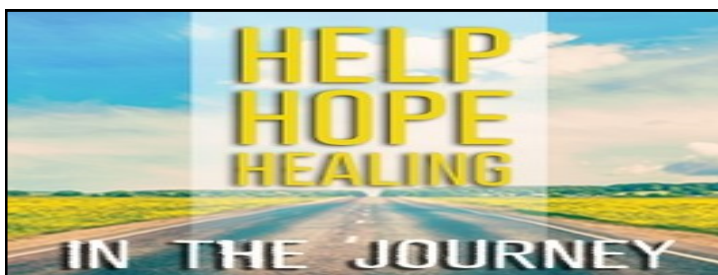
Thank you again for your patience and hopefully your understanding through it all. We all want to be back at church worshipping together. More importantly we don't want to be a hotspot that closes the church for even longer. It only takes one person....

May we turn to the story of Jesus' birth now, another story filled with all sorts of roadblocks and disappointments, yet a story that reminds us of God's faithfulness to God's people throughout, and ultimately, a story that gives birth to new hope. May we hold onto that new hope over these chaotic days we live in, and find our hearts comforted by the story of God's love come down to us again.

Blessings, Rev. Dale

Looking for a Place to Belong? MCC Sydney is here for you.

Not just on a Sunday either. Our BE UPHELD MINISTRY TEAM is waiting to hear from you. Feeling stressed or alone? Suffering with grief from a death or a breakup? Rejected by your friends or family because of who you are? Lacking HOPE in the New Year? Whatever the reason, a Be Upheld Minister may be just what you could do with. Contact the Church at office@mccsydney.org to let Rev Dale know you wish to talk about the Be Upheld Program.



**HOPE is being able
to see the light,
despite all the darkness.**

-Desmond Tutu



LifeWords

LEAVING OUR RELIGION

Matthew

15:10-14

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?" Jesus replied, "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch." (NLT)

Some of us, years ago, had to leave our churches to find Jesus again. For some, a childhood faith and routine kept them from encountering the living Jesus. Of course for many others this sort of early faith and routine was enriching and resulted in an ongoing and vibrant faith.

But it isn't always like that. It is not that our youthful experiences were bad or cultic. It was just that faith sometimes seemed like conforming to a set of rules, that church was a settled routine, that Jesus was primarily an object of correct beliefs. Not at all evil, but not at all likely to engage our hearts and minds with an experience of love and grace.

Sadly, some who left a church of their younger days that didn't teach of the love of Jesus, never found the real Jesus or the real church again; old wounds never healed. Others cut through the old mentalities and tasted the power and love of Jesus afresh.

Jesus warned his contemporaries of following religious leaders who would only lead them astray into dead end legalism. Their religion was toxic, despite outward appearances and reputation. The religion of mere externals could not accommodate Jesus. Then and now, dead religion is the subtle enemy of living faith.

Blessings, David Reay



I believe God wants you to know

... that gratitude in advance is the most powerful creative force in the universe. Most people do not know this, yet it is true. Expressing thankfulness in advance is the way of all Masters. So do not wait for a thing to happen and then give thanks. Give thanks before it happens, and watch energies swirl! To thank God before something occurs is an act of extraordinary faith. And that, of course, is where the power comes from.

Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch

A Blessing For You from Pope Francis

"Yet how empty is a life centred on our needs and blind to the needs of others! The reason we have gifts is so that we can be gifts for others. And here, (siblings) brothers and sisters, we should ask ourselves the question: do I only follow my own needs, or am I able to look to the needs of others, to whoever is in need? Are my hands open, or are they closed?"

--Pope Francis (Homily November 15, 2020)

LAUGH OUT PROUD

Proudly presented by ANZ

Friday 26 February at 7:30pm

Enmore Theatre

Don't miss this jaw-dropping night of laughs. Come along and experience the wit and wisdom of some of Australia's best and brightest LGBTIQ+ comedians.

Last year's LAUGH OUT PROUD sold out !



Our Moderator's Reflection



HOPE in a chaotic world. What does hope look like, feel like, sound like? It will be different for of us, depending on our circumstances. For me, seeing the first shoots poking through the soil in Spring and the buds appearing on the barren branches of trees always give me a burst of joy, a sense of hope and optimism for the year ahead. There is space for growth, for possibility, for beauty. There is the satisfaction of knowing that no matter how severe and long the winter has been, nature has prevailed and new life is bursting into being.

In the gospel according to Luke, we hear two parents proclaiming great hope. When Mary travels to visit her cousin, she greets Elizabeth with the defiant and joyful words of the praise prayer we now call the Magnificat. Those who have power and privilege have been swept away, those who are lowly and hungry are raised up. Mary's personal experience of becoming pregnant has been transformed into a proclamation of hope for a new way of being, a new world order. Elizabeth too is pregnant. When her son John is born, his father Zechariah proclaims a message of hope, promising a mighty saviour who will bring light into the darkness and who will guide the people "into the way of peace". The birth of Jesus was a small event, witnessed by a few. Yet those who were part of the story realised that they were part of something much bigger, something yet to be fully revealed. Hope does not give us the whole picture, rather a sense of direction, a sense of purpose. It lifts our spirits and helps us to imagine better times.

As we continue to navigate our way through this pandemic, through the daily challenges that we face, the steadfast love of God remains constant. The promise of new life, a new way of being through the birth of Jesus gives us hope. Jesus, the Light of the World guides us into the way of peace.



We Had COVID Covered

We do hope you have been enjoying our online services during this long and uncertain time of restrictions to live church services. Our small groups and bible study have been a great social and spiritual gathering every week, and we hope like us, you feel this has been helping you keep the community and social connections strong as we head to "COVID Normal".

We thought this would be a good time to see if anyone who is not already involved in the services may like to get involved. The roles we love the congregation to be involved with are the **readings**, the **prayers**, producing the **PPT** or looking after the **Roster**. In the morning service we also have the Call to Worship and Discipleship.

We are happy for you to compose a prayer yourself, or we have prayers that you can use . If you are reluctant to read ,we can even find someone to read your written prayer for you!

Whenever we have a live service (at the church) we will need volunteers to fill other roles. Welcomers, helpers to set up, our live streaming crew, helpers to pack up and clean, singers and more. So please think about what you can offer and then get involved. It makes a big difference to your church and it will make a difference to you as well. Let us know so we can put you on the monthly roster . Contact office@mccsydney.org and tell us what service you attend (morning/evening/

both) and what job you would like to get involved in. We look forward to seeing you on the service Team in 2021.



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Who Can We Thank For Keeping Us Safe and Connected

This year has been a difficult one in various ways for each of us and for us as a Church Family. Suddenly the church doors were closed and we needed a new way to view church and stay connected. Our Rev Dale to the rescue. He researched the available programs, tried out the different ones to best suit our needs and then learned single-handedly how to run the GoToWebinar program so that church for us could continue. All in a short space of time. Some people probably grizzled that we should stay open but as it turned out, the decision was the safest one. **THANK YOU REV DALE.**



Then Sarah de Rooy came to his rescue by learning how to run the Webinar Program. Loading the Powerpoint, coordinating the mics and videos on and off, sending messages. Sarah is still running the Morning Webinars online. **THANK YOU SARAH.**



So our Pj dons the hero suit and learns from Sarah how to run the online Webinar program. From then on he has been coordinating the evening service Webinar. **THANK YOU Pj.**



And Rev Geoff has been willing and able to step in and give our Pastor some time off. Especially towards the end of December. Geoff has been leading many of the online and live services and I am sure will continue to do so into the future. **THANK YOU REV GEOFF.**



Finally there are the Webinar Sponsors who have saved the church thousands of dollars during COVID by banding together and financing the monthly GoTo cost. **THANK YOU DONNA AND TIFFANY, SARAH AND NIC, WAYNE, ASHLEY, LEE AND AN ANONYMOUS SPONSOR.**

It's so easy to pay electronically. It takes the worry out of having to bring money with you and it helps the church budget for the future. PAYPAL is also an option.

Direct Deposit Details:

BSB: 082-048

Account: 509412200

Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney

Fast Payments:

PayID: treasurer@mccsydney.org

BSB: 082-356

Account: 780 749 9652

Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney



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Board of Directors

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secretary@mccsydney.org

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Reflections Items to the Editor
newsletter@mccsydney.org

Questions re Events,
events@mccsydney.org

MCC Good Shepherd, Granville Tues.7

Rev Robert Clark 0431361519

mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com

CRAVE MCC, Paddington Sun.3pm

Rev Karl Hand 0425220635

redchiron@gmail.com



Disability access

is via Crystal St
Hearing Loop is connected.



Parent's Room is currently closed due to COVID

Morning Tea & Supper are unable to be served at present due to COVID

Everyone is welcome ONLINE