



# Reflections

August '21

Seek Growth



Find



Life



Know love

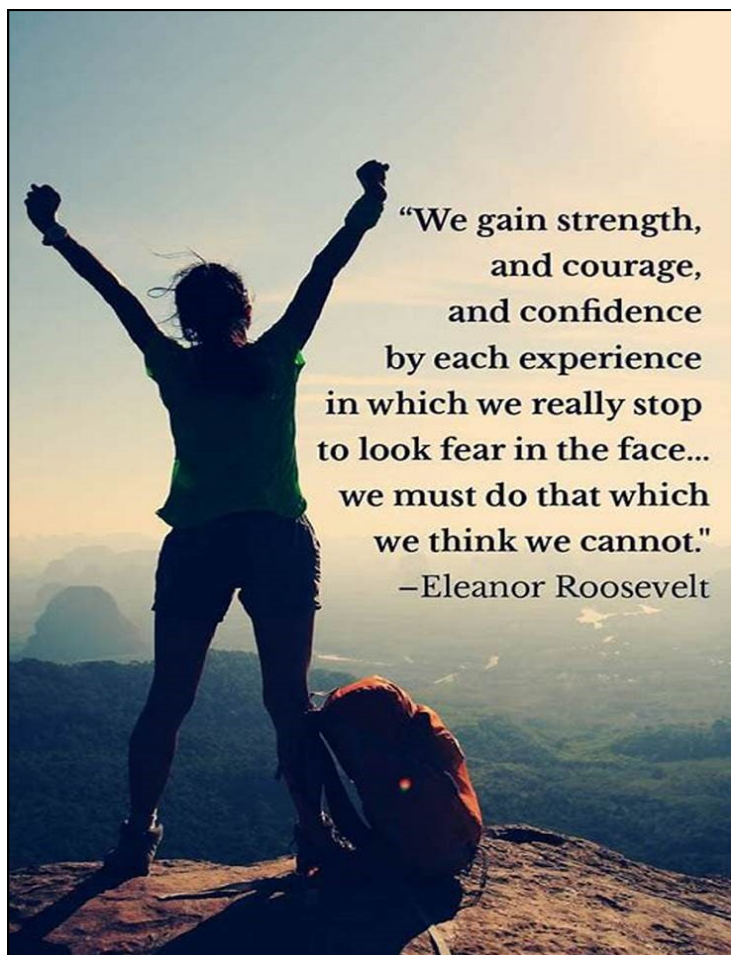
## "FAITH YOUR FEAR" Lee

Morning Service 10am is ONLINE  
Evening Service 6.30pm is ONLINE

*Lunch at the Petersham RSL is on every  
3rd Sunday each month @ 12pm  
August 15 if COVID restrictions lift.*

### Isaiah 41:10

*"Do not fear anything, for I am with you;  
Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will  
strengthen you, be assured I will help you;  
I will certainly take hold of you with My right-  
eous right hand [a hand of justice, of power, of  
victory, of salvation]"* *Amplified Bible*



*"We gain strength,  
and courage,  
and confidence  
by each experience  
in which we really stop  
to look fear in the face...  
we must do that which  
we think we cannot."  
–Eleanor Roosevelt*

### Editor's Corner

*Helen McAlley Interim Pastor  
MCC Melbourne*

THE PASTORS PEN RESTING IN JESUS  
Jesus said, 'Come to me all who labour  
and are heavy laden, and I will give  
you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and  
learn from me; for I am gentle and  
lowly in heart, and you will find rest for  
your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden  
is light' (Matthew 11:28-30).



I remember being told when I was young that  
we are yoked to Jesus as two oxen ploughing  
would be yoked together. The yoke would be  
made of wood, which Jesus the carpenter would  
have been familiar with. The yoke is 'easy' or  
well fitting so that it feels comfortable when the  
animal is working. Similarly, we are fellow work-  
ers with Jesus. He is like the leading ox and we  
follow confident that we can do the work with  
His leading and guiding. I have often thought  
what an apt metaphor this idea of the yoke is.  
Not all commentators have this interpretation of  
what Jesus meant when He used the word  
'yoke'.

Jesus also said His burden was light. I believe  
that means that the work He calls us to do is not  
burdensome and too difficult for us to manage.  
He guides us all along the way and gives us the  
strength and the anointing of the Holy Spirit for  
what he calls us to do. Sometimes we need to  
assess what we are doing and pray about  
whether or not it is what God has called us to  
do.

Jesus called people to come to Him  
and He would give them rest. It is not  
sitting in a recliner or resting in bed.



Continued over

*Continued from over*

all the time. I believe it means spiritual rest. The people to whom Jesus spoke were bowed down by many burdens as they tried to keep the Jewish law.

Hundreds of extra laws had been added to those God had originally given. It was impossible to keep them all and Jesus elsewhere rebuked the Pharisees and other teachers of the law for the heavy burdens they put on to the ordinary people. Being freed from the law and able to live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift that we have as Christians. We have the Holy Spirit in our hearts who prompts us as to how we are to behave.

Our job is to keep close to Jesus by being familiar with His word, prayer, fellowship and obedience in what he shows us, but it is wonderful to know that we are freed from legalism. All our sins, past, present and future have already been dealt with and there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. That is spiritual rest, walking in relationship with Jesus as His beloved child and trusting Him in everything. One old hymn says, 'To do the will of Jesus that is rest'.

So the message today is to come to Jesus and rest in Him knowing that He loves us, helps us in every situation and cares for us. Are you struggling with burdens, relationship problems, health issues, financial problems, unemployment, grief ...? Jesus wants to give you rest. Begin by talking to Him about what you are going through. He knows and understands and can help you.

**Helen McAlley Interim Pastor MCCM.**

May God bless you all. Editor

### ***I believe God wants you to know***

... that you are not your 'story.' Who You Are is so much bigger than that. It's okay to give up your past now.

Most of us have a story about how we got to be the way we are, about what it's like to be 'us,' and about why it is so difficult sometimes to get through life. All of this is stuff that has nothing to do with who we are *now*. How often do you 'come from' your 'story' when you experience life.

Are you ready to let go of that now? What if you could create 'you' the way you want to be, rather than the way you think you are? Wouldn't that be great? Well, you can.

All you have to do is let go of your story.

*Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch*

### ***A Blessing For You***

May you be blessed by the God of Love whose greatest desire is to be one with you. May you draw close and know the thrill of God's beating heart against your own. May this Lover God be a listening presence in every word and thought and experience of your existence. May the fire and passion of God's love for you move you to be a compassionate and loving presence to all you meet. May the God of Love be with you. Maxine Shonk, OP

### ***Sydney Film Festival***

has released the first 22 films in advance of the full program launch. Catch the long-awaited ZOLA, the inspiring WASH MY SOUL IN RIVER'S FLOW, and the 2020 Berlinale winner THERE IS NO EVIL, among many others in a program designed to thrill, horrify, inspire and delight. Full program released 21 July – buy your Flexipass now for discounted tickets -

<https://sff.org.au/info/first-films/>



## LIFEWORDS

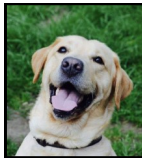
### NO FIGHTING

*Read 2 Timothy 2:23-26*

*Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of gOD must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the (evil one's) trap. For they have been held captive by 9the evil one) to do whatever they want. (NLT)*

In “doggy” terms there can be two types of Christians. Those who are bit like pit bull terriers trained to attack and destroy. And then there are those like big fluffy golden Labradors, content to be nice and friendly to all, much admired and causing no offense or concern. There is no doubt that false teaching or wrong thinking has to be opposed, but not in such a way as to cause us to hate those who embrace it or for them to hate those who oppose them. To be firm does not mean we become aggressive bullies. How sad it is that some Christians are known for their strident opposition to what is false or contrary to what they believe rather than for their sincere embrace of what is true. Too many Christians who are biblically orthodox are very hard to get on with. They seem to be always interrogating you, ensuring you tick all the doctrinal boxes. Their love of truth is outdone by their fear of error. They figure that anyone who disagrees with them is a false teacher. When there is disagreement over matters of faith, we need to decide whether it is an issue worth debating at all. And if it is of that nature, then we decide to debate with courtesy and respect. Our aim, after all, is **not** to win an argument, but to win another true disciple of Jesus.

Blessings David Reay



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## QUEER YOUTH OF FAITH DAY

Check this out from the latest  
PRIDE celebration

**QYF Day: Don't Give Up Everything You  
Believe In and Everyone You Love –**

**Matthias Roberts**

<https://matthiasroberts.com/queerology/qyf-day-dont-give-up-everything-you-believe-in-and-everyone-you-love/>

Queer Youth of Faith believe...  
Every LGBTQ+ young person has the right  
to embrace and express their faith.  
Religious communities must acknowledge  
the presence of LGBTQ+ youth  
and ensure their safety.  
People of faith need to speak up  
and advocate for the LGBTQ+ youth

**Serenade** -- the  
world's first album  
dedicated to  
LGBTQIA+ youth of  
faith. To unsung  
queer youth who feel  
unseen, unwelcome,  
unloved.

This is our serenade  
for you.

<https://www.belovedarise.org/serenade>

Click here to listen or watch the replays of the  
presentations from the recent

Queer Youth of Faith Day!

Includes Rev Troy Perry

Founder of MCC

<https://www.belovedarise.org/schedule>

Click here to listen to a podcast about  
Queer Spirituality

[https://  
enoughroom.captivate.fm/  
episode/living-the-lifestyle](https://enoughroom.captivate.fm/episode/living-the-lifestyle)





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**ONLINE & IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICES:**

Please check with individual Churches:

**Acceptance Catholics** Friday 8.00pm

Bedford & Stations St's Newtown

**CRAVE Church** Sunday 4pm, Rev Dr Karl Hand

197 Macquarie St, Martin Place, St Stephens

**Leichhardt Baptist Church** Sunday 10am Rev Don Wright

Forster & Lord St's, Leichhardt,

**MCC Brisbane** Sunday 6pm

52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm (Uniting Church)

**MCC Melbourne** Sunday 10am & 6.30pm

12 Power St, Hawthorn

**MCC Sydney** Sunday 10am & 6.30pm

96 Crystal Street, Petersham

**Spark Church** 5pm every 2nd Sunday

Pastors Elizabeth Plant & Bec Apted

3 Bridges Community Centre 23 St Georges Rd

Penshurst

**The Open Door Community of Christ** Sunday

6pm Pastor Sue Palmer



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**MCC Good Shepherd, Granville**  
**Tuesday @ 7pm**

Rev Robert Clark 0431361519

[mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com](mailto:mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com)

**CRAVE MCC, Sydney City**  
**Sunday @ 4pm**

Rev Karl Hand 0425220635

[redchiron@gmail.com](mailto: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** will be served  
in the Foyer and Community Room

**Everyone is welcome IN CHURCH**  
**OR LIVE on Facebook**

