



Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;
people to people; and people to community.

Newsletter

September, 2024

Nature or creation?

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is an icon of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, 16 because in him **all things** were created in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; **all things** through him and for him were created; 17 and he is before **all things** and **all things** cohere in him; 18 and he is the head of the body, of the church; who is the firstborn from the dead, in order that in **all things** he may be pre-eminent, 19 because in him he was well-pleased to dwell in all fulness, 20 and through him to reconcile **all things** to himself, making peace through the blood of his cross, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens. (Translation by Keith Hamilton)

Each year during the weeks between September 1 to October 4 many churches across the world celebrate the Season of Creation. This year, 2024, the theme is "To hope and act with Creation." Notice the language, season of creation, not season of nature. Implied in that very statement is the notion that everything is created by God, and more.

Most Jews and Christians believe somehow God created. Kathryn Tanner (*Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity*, p42) expressed it this way: "out of God's stores, God provides to the world its created, non-divine existence, and all that it includes: life, truth, beauty, goodness in their finite forms." Growing up in a family who were Christians, whose lives were shaped by life in the church, it was assumed knowledge that God created everything. It came as a surprise and a matter of long-term reflection, when as a six-year-old at school, our teacher gave lessons about nature. The class was taken outside to some trees in the schoolyard, and there the teacher spoke of nature that produced the tree. "Nature does this . . ." "Nature does that . . ." I remember thinking at the time, it sounds like you are saying that the tree has a mind of its own; that plants and flowers, trees, grass have a will and a mind of their own that makes decisions. We often hear that kind of language in the media. Of course, there are some scriptures (such as Isaiah 55:12) that suggest "the trees of the fields will clap their hands," but that is a way of saying the whole creation praises God. Not everyone believes that God, if there is a God, also created the world. There are of course, people of faith who also think that God did not create; that it all happened by some

Worship Services

9.30am in the church.

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

8 September the Green Team

15 September Rev Keith Hamilton

22 September Rev Keith Hamilton

29 September Rev Keith Hamilton

6 October Rev Keith Hamilton Holy Communion

'Sunday @ 5'

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

On the first Sunday of each month there will be Holy Communion and a shared meal.

kind of random happenstance. Others who while believing that somehow God created, that is the extent of God's interest and therefore it ought not be our interest either. Such a view is consistent with a Larry Norm song, "We are only visiting this planet."

The issue here is not how creation came about, but rather, if God did create, what might that mean for us? Further, that the creative work of God is not the completed.

The writer of the letter or epistle to the church in Colossi expresses a contrary view. He speaks of the second person of the trinity, Jesus, as the one who was there before the foundation of the world, and again in the flesh, and who's cross and resurrection bring a material difference to the entirety of creation. Notice in the passage of scripture, quoted above, the phrase "all things." That phrase, "all things," is repeated six times. Nothing is excluded. Christ is there at the creation, and then at the recreation and restoration of all things to God in and through Christ, who is God. Christ is the first born from the dead, meaning his resurrection has meaning for the entirety of creation. Nothing is outside or beyond, higher or lower than the reconciling work of all things in Christ. He is the head of the entire cosmos. Hence the name: the cosmic Christ.

If God's interest is in the entirety of creation, restoring all things into God, can we do anything but praise God for God's gifts? It seems to me that in our care of God's good creation, we are turning from the sin of destroying God's gifts, and we are turning to the praise of God. Out of our hope and trust in God we act in creation, with the express intention of giving praise and honour to God with the entirety of our lives. The whole of creation might with us praise God.

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

This Sunday (8 September) the services at 9.30am and at 5pm will be led by The Green Team



The Congregational AGM will be held on Sunday 29th September, in the Activities Hall immediately after the morning Church Service - having a cup of tea at the same time.



Refugee Sunday Service – 22nd September 2024

The annual Refugee Sunday Service, which is rotated around the Churches, this year will be held in the Catholic Parish Centre at 3.00pm on Sunday 22nd September.

The Theme this year is "Finding Freedom: Family."

The Speaker this year will be Anni Gallagher, the Migrant Support Worker from Orange. She will be bringing a number of the Ukrainian Refugees who have settled in Molong and Orange with her.

Everyone is warmly invited to this Service.

As part of the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the installation of the William Davidson Organ in the Uniting Church, William Street, Bathurst, a series of lunchtime free Recitals are being held.

Bring your lunch, a cuppa will be provided, and enjoy hearing our historic Organ.

The final recital is on this week:

11 September Denise Music Teacher, Scots All Saints College



BUSS has organised for a Mental Health training session on Sunday 22 September 2.30pm to 4pm in the Activities Hall.

It is free and everyone is welcome to attend...just come along on the day.

The session will cover:

Signs and Symptoms

How to have a conversation about mental health

Where to find help

Highlights from the Portfolio 2 Team – Connecting people to people Report to Council – 19.8.24

(Please note: some of these activities have already occurred.)

Members of Portfolio 2 met on Tuesday 13th August. Those present were Gwynne, Sandra, Robyn , Roc. , Marion and Ellie. Lynne and Pete sent apologies.

KUCA

There are 12 – 15 children coming to KUCA each time it is on. At the first KUCA this term Gwynne spoke about our Fundraising Project, Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation because two of our KUCA Kids have spent a lot of time down there.

On Sunday 25th August during the service the KUCA Kids will be singing and then afterwards selling the craft items they have made to raise money for their

Project. KUCA has recently held a Mini Olympics and spent time making gifts to sell. On 6th September there will be Lego Robotics with Anthony. On 20th September practice will start for the December play and musical .

YOUTH GROUP

Robyn, with help from Julie and Peter , when she is unavailable has been leading 8 – 12 young people each fortnight. Emily and Alex are joining a group from the Central West who are attending a Youth Camp in Sydney from 30th September to 3rd October.

Emily and Alex would like to talk about the camp in Church when they return.

RIVERVIEW NURSING HOME

Marion reported that there is a small service at Riverview twice a month. An idea was talked about of taking the KUCA Kids to Riverview at Christmas where they could sing and take some small gifts.

PALS

PALS is going well. There are some new families coming along and there are about 5 or 6 families who come each time. The children love doing craft, playdough, free play inside and outside play. Storytime and music are also enjoyed.

To all of the leaders, helpers and members of the portfolio 2 team.....



Over the past few weeks we have been trying to keep our Church Carpark for those attending activities at the church. We are also reminding others that it is not a public carpark. We are doing this by putting small notes under the wipers of cars that are not displaying a parking permit.

Recently one of our older volunteers, bringing lunch to a BUSS function, had to carry her full crockpot 2 blocks because our carpark was completely jammed. The majority of the cars had nothing to do with the Church or BUSS.

If you have received one of these friendly notes while parked in the car park please ignore it. It not directed at you.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email

BUConnect@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with someone.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email

keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

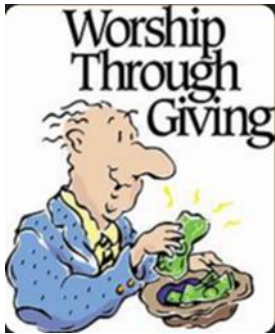
The newsletter email address is bathurstucanews@gmail.com . Please send items by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month

Please send news or information for the website to allanwray@hotmail.com

Mowing Roster

14 September John, Max

5 October Brian



Many Ways to Give:

There is now a Tap and Go facility in the church foyer where you can give to various options with your card.

To pay invoices issued, to donate to the work of the Church, donations to the Organ Fund, etc:

For electronic remittances only @ UFS:

BSB: 634634 Account No: 100019125

Account Name: Bathurst City - Working Account

Narration: Please indicate why the funds are for.

For cash or cheque deposits @ Reliance Bank

BSB: 882000 Account No: 300003447

Account Name: Bathurst Uniting Church

Narration: Please indicate what the funds are for by asking the teller to enter it into the Bank system.

For Giving Direct and Offertories:

Please see Deb Mina if you wish to set up a regular Direct Debit or Periodical Payment.

BSB: 634634 Account No: 100027964

Account Name: Bathurst City - Giving Direct

Narration: None is required as these deposits are completely anonymous

Bathurst Uniting Support Services (BUSS)

For the work of BUSS as a General Donation or for a Specific Program being run by BUSS

BSB: 634634 Account No: 100049962

Account Name: Bathurst City – BUSS

Narration: Please indicate what the funds are for, or if you wish to make an anonymous donation a narration is not required.