

Forgiven!

October 2023

Mark 2: 1-12



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH



Worship Information

9.30 am Sunday Morning

Please join us afterwards for **morning tea** & a chat downstairs in the hall.

You are also welcome to receive **prayer ministry** following worship at the front of the church.

Online Giving

We are thankful that people at TUC are generous givers in more ways than one: giving their time, sharing their gifts and donating financially.

We take up an offering during each worship service on Sundays.

These funds are used for the continuation of ministries at TUC.

These days, many of us don't carry cash, so you may like to set up an ongoing, direct-transfer offering through your bank using these details:

National Australia Bank
(NAB)

Uniting Church Toowong
General Parish Fund

BSB: 084424

A/c No: 508563314

Get in Touch

Matt Smith | Lead Minister

0409 917 729 | matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au
Please note Matt is not available on Tuesdays.

Clare Hankamer | Families Pastor

0432 861 841 | c_hankamer@hotmail.com

Jason Brown | Next Gen Pastor

0412 255 269 | jason@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Boram Lee | Office Manager

3870 9684 | info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Madeline Kim | Ministries & Communications Coordinator

madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Dianne Hubbard | Care & Connect - Pastoral Care

dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com

Will Stewart | Church Council Chair

walswdes@gmail.com

Kate Green | Congregational Chair

kategreenqld@gmail.com

Sue O'Brien | Congregational Secretary

sobrien868@gmail.com

Toowong Uniting Church

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Phone: 3870 9684

Email: info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm Tue, Wed and Thu

www.toowongunitingchurch.org

   @ToowongUnitingChurch

One of the greatest things God has done...

Have you ever wondered whether the God who created the universe would take an interest in you?

Would he care about your family, work or school life? What about your health issues or mental and emotional struggles?

Some people think God is like some cosmic clockmaker who created the world and is now happy to sit back and let it click on. They would say He's not really interested in us or our little problems.

Maybe he's like an old man with a long beard who is far off in the distant and irrelevant to our everyday concerns. He might be watching us but it's "from a distance" as the song Bette Midler says.

The good news that we have as Christians is that God is very interested in each of us. He loves everyone and he is very close to us especially in our times of need. Psalm 34:18 says,

The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart,

If you were to stop and write down all the things that God has done for you, you may find you have quite a long list.

The hymnwriter Johnson Oatman Jr. wrote

**When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.**

God has given us so many blessings that sometimes we forget to thank Him for.

Our theme of "Forgiven" reminds us that one of the greatest things God has done for us is to forgive us.

No matter what we have done or how messy our past is, Jesus promises us forgiveness through the shedding of His blood on the cross.

The Psalmist says "**as far as the east is from the west**, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." Ps 103:12

AS we gather each week for worship let's come with a spirit of thanksgiving as we share on the theme "forgiven" and let's remember that our God is close and His great blessing is that "There is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus" Romans 8:1



Jason Brown Next Gen Pastor

Jason joined TUC in mid-March as the Next Gen Pastor to lead the Youth and Young Adults ministry.

He has diverse experiences having studied law, reggae music and ministry works.

Contact Jason

0412 255 269

jason@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Bible Readings

Here are our Bible readings for the next few weeks. You might like to read along at home!

1 Oct: Hebrews 10 : 1-18

8 Oct: Matthew 18 : 21-35

15 Oct: Psalms 51

22 Oct: Luke 15 : 8-31

29 Oct: Mark 2 : 1-12



Journey from Pity to Compassion and Empathy

Over coffee, a couple of weeks ago, my companion and I discussed the difference between pity, sympathy, empathy and compassion. On further consideration, I concluded that, particularly in a Christian context, the distinction is quite significant:

- Pity can sometimes be passive and distant; sympathy is similar but entails a more heartfelt and relational response.
- Compassion and empathy serve as bridges between the initial feelings of pity and sympathy to a more connected response grounded in the love and selflessness taught by Jesus.
- Empathy is seeing another person's pain and feeling from inside what the pain might be like, enabling the recipient to feel valued and understood. Compassion is empathy in action, embodying Jesus' urging to "love your neighbour as oneself" and being moved to take tangible measures.

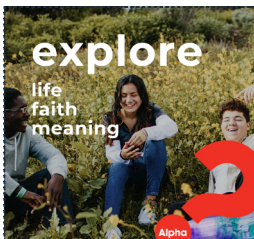
“You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”
Colossians 3:12

THE OFFERINGS: SEPTEMBER 2023

PROJECTED BUDGET
\$18,500

GENERAL OFFERINGS
\$11,457.50

PLANT
\$9,030



Alpha Training
at Toowong UC

**Thursdays from
October 5
@7pm, Church Hall**

We are excited to introduce Alpha at our church in 2024. To prepare ourselves, we will be starting **Alpha discussions** and training sessions from term 4 to equip potential leaders for Alpha groups. Therefore, we would like to invite **anyone who is interested in learning about Alpha** or is **keen on participating in organising Alpha sessions** exploring life, faith, and meaning.

Please join us for our first Alpha training on **Thursday, October 5th, at 7 pm in the church hall.**

Two quotes to consider

“Compassion pulls us out of ourselves and into the heart of another, placing us on holy ground where we instinctively take off our shoes and walk in reverence.” (Judy Cannato, Field of Compassion.)

“Love that transcends the ego is love that heals. When we lose ourselves for the sake of love, we shall find ourselves capable of real love.” (Illia Delio, O.S.F., Compassion: Living in the Spirit of St Francis)

A question for each of us

How can I best display empathy or compassion in a situation of care which I am experiencing?

Dianne Hubbard

Care & Connect Coordinator





Clare Hankamer Families Pastor

Clare oversees KATS and Youth and runs the Thursday Playgroup. Clare has a PhD in Horticulture with significant experience in both church and community youth work in the UK and Australia.

Contact Clare for details
0432 861 841
c_hankamer@hotmail.com



Leopards

Preschool- Grade2



Lions

Grade3- Grade5

Youth Group

Junior Youth

Grades 6 - 8

Senior Youth

Grades 9 - 12

What happens at Children's Ministry?

- Children are encouraged to get to know God and to talk to Him
- Children grow in confidence to read and learn about God's word for themselves
- To help them do this, high-quality, approved, curriculum-based material has been chosen
- Teachers are passionate about sharing God's love with young people in a caring and supportive environment
- Children learn in a creative, thoughtful and play-based session

How can you as a parent or carer, help your child enjoy this time?

- **Come as often as you can** so that your child has continuity, knows what to expect and most important of all can make great friends!
- **Ask them about** what they learn and what they have experienced
- **Lean on God to help you:**
 - **Talk to God together** - A suggestion would be to pray with your child at bedtime after their bedtime story.
 - **Celebrate** - Enjoy time together and thank God for it.
 - **Read the Bible together** - read a Children's Bible story each night as part of the night time routine or together as a family.
 - **Grow with your children** - all these things are easier when your child is small but I urge you to continue these things throughout their lives; see them as not just a child's routine but as **your** routine. Your children will learn from you, as they mature into teenage and then adulthood, that friendship with God is a lifelong adventure.

Next Generation Ministry

JUNIOR YOUTH



EVERY SECOND SUNDAY
DURING THE SERVICE



8 OCT

22 OCT

5 NOV

19 NOV

3 DEC



SENIOR YOUTH

EVERY SECOND FRIDAY
6.30PM - 9PM, CHURCH HALL



6 OCT

20 OCT

3 NOV

17 NOV

1 DEC

TUC SAFE SPACE

- ALL ARE WELCOME -

SEMESTER 2 DATES

CONTACT AMELIA FOR MORE INFO

02/09	CRAFTERNOON
16/09	THE RUTHLESS LIMITATION OF HURRY PART 2
30/09	MOVIE NIGHT
14/10	THE RUTHLESS LIMITATION OF HURRY PART 3
28/10	FIGHT HUSTLE END HURRY
11/11	END OF SEMESTER/YEAR PARTY

Prayer Ministry at Toowong Uniting Church

WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETING

OUR TUESDAY ONLINE ZOOM PRAYER MEETING IS MOVED TO WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 8:30.

Call to pray for our church and our community. Please let us know how we can pray for you. It's our privilege to pray for each other and as a church, we go to prayer as a matter of first resort.

Please contact Matt for prayer support.

TOOWONG
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OPENHOUSE

Prayer is for everyone

Every Wednesday
6.30pm - 7.30pm
Church House



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Can we pray with you?

Prayer Ministry After the Service

Please come forward at the end of the service on Sundays to receive prayer for particular needs or issues.

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REFERENDUM SAUSAGE SIZZLE

**Saturday
October 14th
9AM - 3PM**

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
SIGN UP TO OUR ROSTER IF
YOU ARE ABLE**

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES, PLEASE
CONTACT ANTHONY AT
anthony.ede@gmail.com



outback
futures
TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH

COMBINED WORSHIP WITH KOREAN CONGREGATION

**SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER
10.30AM START**

Followed by a multicultural lunch



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Safe Ministry with Children

As we embrace the Safe Ministry with Children Policy to cultivate a culture of shared guardianship within our community, we kindly request all volunteers to participate in safety training as they begin their volunteering journey and consistently throughout.

It's important to note that:

- all volunteers are required to complete **Module 1** every 2 years.
- Additionally, volunteers engaged in **activities involving children** are kindly asked to complete an **additional course, Module 2**, every 12 months.

If you know you need to take the training or renew your certification, please refer to the following dates for upcoming face-to-face sessions.

- **Sunday 8th October**
2.30pm - 5.30pm
@ Indooroopilly Uniting Church
- **Saturday 4th November**
9am - 12pm
@ Bremer Brisbane Presbytery Office
(13 William Street, Goodna)

To rsvp or for any questions, please contact Madeline madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Sunday Roster: October 2023

	8 Oct	15 Oct	22 Oct	29 Oct	5 Nov
	9.30 am	10.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am
Speaker	Matt	Phillip Suh	Matt	Matt	Matt
Kids' Talk	tbc	Clare H	tbc	tbc	Communion Jo R, Ben R, Kate G
Reader	Karen N	Chloe M	Eve N	Cameron B	Kabir S
Pastoral Prayer	Rob H	Sarah S	Cassie L	Rob H	Ross H
Prayer Ministry	Barbara F	Laurel A	Karen N	-	Laurel A
Elder	Ben R	Jo R	Wendy B	Di H	Ben R
Door	Will S Kabir S	Sue O Warwick B	Jane T -	Karen N -	Georgina W Nadia A
M'Tea	Narelle W Eve N	Di H Georgina W	Nadia A Brendan T	Wendy B Warwick B	Karen B Asher W
Coffee Machine	-	Hanum L Luke T	-	Hanum L Rosanne G	-
Offering Counters	Rob J Kelvin W	Rob L Nadia A	Jane T Rob J	Kelvin W Rob L	Nadia A Georgina W
Tech Team	data: - sound: Asher camera: Kelvin	data: - sound: Cameron camera: Sam	data: Kahlia sound: Adrian camera: Luke	data: Madeline sound: Mitch camera: Kelvin	data: Bill sound: Asher camera: Eli
Music Team	Luke, Josh, Boram	Hanum, Mitch, Brad, Adrian G	Liz, Eli, Yohannes	Renata, Josh, Keira, Jordan	Adrian Z, Richard, Brad, Adrian G

COOINDA
MOTHER DAUGHTER RETREAT

Join us for a wonderful weekend to strengthen your relationship and take time out together!

OCT 27 - 29

COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND
\$150 per person (twin share)
Girls in Year 6-9 and their mum/significant female adult

Register online using link below
<https://brushfire.com/sua/motherdaughter/556915>

SUA Australia

Express in your way
Submit your creative reflections to madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au
photo/video/poem/painting/etc all welcome

Toowong's Got Talent

October 2023

- 3 Tue** Term 4 begins
- 6 Fri** Senior Youth
- 8 Sun** Junior Youth
Volunteer Safety Training
@Indooroopilly UC
- 14 Sat** Referendum BBQ Fundraiser
- 15 Sun** Combined service with Kor
Congregation & BBQ
- 18 Wed** Church council
- 20 Fri** Senior Youth
- 22 Sun** Junior Youth
- 29 Sun** Connect Brunch

November 2023

- 3 Fri** Senior Youth
- 4 Sat** Volunteer Safety Training
@Bremer Brisbane Presbytery office in
Goodna
- 5 Sun** Junior Youth
- 15 Wed** Church Council
- 17 Fri** Senior Youth

Weekly Events

Prayer Meeting

8.30 - 9.30 am Wednesdays on Zoom
contact Matt:
matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Openhouse Prayer Meeting

6.30 - 7.30 pm Wednesdays
In the church house
during the school term
in the church house
contact Jason:
jason@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

English Conversation

9.45 - 11.45 am Mondays
during the school term, in the hall
contact Maria:
info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Bible Study - Women's Group

7 - 8.30 pm Tuesdays
During the school term
At Kate's house
contact Boram:
info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Playgroup

9.30 - 11.00 am Thursdays & Fridays
during the school term, in the hall
contact:
Thu - Clare: c_hankamer@hotmail.com
Fri - Pam: p_bennett@live.com.au

