



## Seacliff Uniting Church Online Worship & Electronic Resources



27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you are keeping safe and well and managing to adjust to the new circumstances in which we find ourselves.

The restrictions put in place to try and stop the spread of Covid 19 (Coronavirus) has meant we, as a church, have had to reflect on how we keep the life of a Christian community going at this time. The Church Council have been very proactive in attending to these matters particularly in the areas of pastoral care and worship. For the time being most pastoral care will need to happen electronically: phone, text, email etc.

The worship life of Seacliff will continue, albeit in a different way. Also attached to this email you will find a short order of service, a message (sermon) and some thoughts on which to reflect. This is a quick and immediate response to the situation. Within the next week we hope to be able to offer the same sort of shortened service via video. Two of our tech people, Ray and Arthur, have been conferring on this and by next Sunday we expect a video to be available on line. As you will need computer access for this I will still send out the printed material for those who are not able to utilise that facility. Details will come when the video is available on how to access it. I thank Ray and Arthur for their assistance.

Please note that **if you do not want to receive this printed material** each week, could you let Rosemary know and she will remove you from the mailing list for this purpose. You will still receive other Seacliff communications.

At the end of the service there are questions for reflection and thoughts to ponder. To continue with some sense of community I am inviting people to share their reflections with others. The easiest way to do this seems to be via email using the 'Reply All' button. To facilitate this I will set up a group email for this purpose. **If you wish to be part of this email group** even if it is just to receive the comments others make without necessarily having to comment yourself, please let me know. I will renew the thread each week with each service so that the email doesn't become too enormous.



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As you watch the video you might like to do so at the usual worship time of 9:30 on a Sunday morning knowing that others will be doing so as well. It has been suggested that maybe you'd like to dress in your 'going to church clothes' as you watch.

While the virus situation is serious it has at the same time produced some good humour. Maureen passed onto me four reasons to do 'virtual church' (watch online). Firstly, no parking problems; second, you can fill your coffee anytime you like; third, you can watch in your pyjamas; and fourth, you can mute the minister at any time!

They say that necessity is the mother of invention and perhaps it is also the mother of adaptation. We are in new and uncharted territory. But that does not mean we are aimlessly adrift in it. God is with us all. The world and the Church have been through difficult times before and come through them. Often in the challenge of these times when it can no longer be business as usual, new, innovative and exciting developments occur. Take, for example, the header on this letter. In case it hasn't struck you the words at the top form the acronym S.O.W.E.R. Thank you to David for that. God's creative Spirit will guide our reflecting on these times and I am sure that many good things will emerge that will live with us when the virus situation is past and enhance our way of being and doing church into the future.

As always, if you need someone to talk with in these times do not hesitate to ring me or a friend in the congregation. We are still here for and with each other.

Peace

Gary Stuckey (Rev)

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