



NEWSLETTER

22 – 28 January 2024

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Epiphany 4

Worship Services Sundays 9am

- **Meet with the Minister**

Deborah plans to be at the church office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from about 10am - 2pm. She would love you to come and meet with her. Please phone her (0424 922 314) before you come to make sure she is available.

- **Lenten Bible Study**

We plan to have Bible study material available during Lent. You might like to use this in your current Bible study groups, or if you are interested in meeting with a new group over Lent please let Deborah know.

Dates for your Diary

Community News and Notices

Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

NSW & ACT Synod: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/>

Reflection of the Week

Loving like Jesus

Read John 13:34-35.

"A new command I give you: Love one another" (John 13:34a). At first, we might think, "How is this a new command? Didn't Jesus already identify the first and second most important commandments as loving God and loving our neighbours?" (see Matthew 22:35-40). Thankfully, Jesus gives us the answer in the very next sentence: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34b). That's what's new. No one had ever experienced a love like Jesus' love. His love is beyond any the world has ever known. Then Jesus teaches them, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples" (v. 35). Friends, we are to love as Jesus loved. We will truly be seen as His disciples when we become like Him.

Before Jesus shares this imperative with the disciples, He gives them a clear picture of the kind of action that exhibits His unparalleled love. In the middle of their meal, Jesus gets up and washes each of His disciples' feet. Back then, people were either barefoot or wore flimsy sandals, and they walked everywhere on dirt roads where animals also tread.

In those days, the job of foot washing always fell to the lowest servant in the house. And yet Jesus, the King of kings, the Alpha and the Omega, grabs a towel and begins scrubbing toes. That's amazing enough. But Jesus knows Judas has already agreed to betray Him (see Luke 22:3-6; Matthew 26:14-25). And yet Jesus washes his feet.

Truth be told, all the disciples abandon Him in just a few hours. And yet, Jesus "loved them to the end" (John 13:1). His is not mortal love. His love is not self-serving nor possessive. Christ's love is a brand-new, supernatural love, unmatched in all the world. It's a love we, as His disciples, are called to practice.

However, we cannot manufacture this kind of love. We can only love like this when we allow God's love to flow through us, which requires total dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

There's nothing easy about this kind of love. But when we keep before us the tremendous gift of God's grace—all that God has forgiven us—we will be ready to extend that same grace to those around us.

Prayer: Father, Your humility and love are astounding. May I live out this incredible love to others by the power of Your Spirit. I want to be a conduit of Your love to those You bring into my life. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). *to truly studying Your Word. Guide me, give me discernment, and show me areas where I need to grow. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

"Blessed is the one . . . whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night" (Psalm 1:1-2).

E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayers

If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn, or Pastoral Care Team.
Robyn: 0424 791 916

Ministry Leaders

Supply Minister: Rev. Deborah Yun / 0424 922 314 / revdeborahyun@gmail.com

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Steve Turner Treasurer: Anne Crabb
Andrew Head, Hilton Petters, Jacky Hammond, Sue Vasilevska

Team Leaders

Worship: Cathy Nelson Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike
Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska Mission: Steve Turner Sustainability: Bill Vasilevski