



NEWSLETTER

23 - 29 September 2024



Worship Services Sundays 9am

Church Council held our first meeting this week and the following members were elected as office bearers: Chairperson - Cathy, Secretary - Samson, Treasurer - Anne. We look forward to working together to serve God's church here at North Rocks.

Fellowship Event - Save the Date

Our next fellowship event is planned for Saturday 12 October. We will meet at 8.45am outside Old Government House for a walk around Parramatta. If it is wet the event will be cancelled.

Summary of Church Council Meeting

- A Congregational Meeting will be held in the near future. The tentative date is 19th October but this will be confirmed shortly.
- We will be supporting Christmas Bowl & Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child this year. More details will be shared in next week's newsletter.
- We have been invited by West Epping UC to join in their Colourful Cultural Event on 26 October. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

NRCC 2024 Calendar

Sept	
27	Craft Group
Oct	
11	Games Night
12	Fellowship Event at Parramatta Park
20	Commissioning of Church Council

Craft Group @ 10 am-noon Fridays

Bring along your latest craft project and join us for morning tea and a chat. 10am each Friday in the church.

Community News and Notices

Protect SRE in our Public Schools

If you would like to see SRE continue in our schools please click on the image for more information and to sign the open letter.



Jazz at Ebenezer returns!

A great night supporting a wonderful cause - building fresh water wells in West Papua! Share with your contacts and invite people along for a great night!



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

Read 2 Samuel 22:1-51.

David felt the same emotions you may be feeling today—loneliness, despair, and fear. But even though he struggled from time to time to trust God (see 1 Samuel 27:1), deep down David longed to please the Lord. He had a heart after God's heart. And the God who sees into the depths of your heart and mind is the one who will honour you for that desire—a desire clearly displayed in David's sacred song in 2 Samuel 22.

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, . . ." (2 Samuel 22:2-3). Over the years, David discovered that no matter the situation, the Lord never stopped watching over him, never refused to restore him. The same can be said for you. During the difficult times of life, the Lord's wings are sheltering you (see Psalm 91:4). If you know the Lord Jesus Christ, His Spirit is within you to empower you and to strengthen you.

Did you notice how David referred to God as "my rock, my fortress and my deliverer"? He knew the Lord personally. David knew the Lord's heart, and the Lord knew his. Friend, you are not merely a number to God. He knows the very hairs on your head (see Matthew 10:30), and He has designed you for an intimate, personal relationship with Him.

As your rock, God will steady you in the midst of life's earthquakes. He will anchor you when storms threaten to blow you away. As your fortress, God will give you shelter from your assailants. He will blunt the attacks of your enemies. He will hide you from those who seek to do you harm. As your deliverer, God will save you from yourself. He redeems you from the raging power of sin. He saves you from the roaring lion. And He will save you from the second death.

David prophesied about the coming of Jesus (see Psalms 22 and 110), and today we have Him. Jesus is the provider of everything we need—and what we need most is Him (see Luke 10:41-42). He is the Saviour who secured our salvation—a gift of immeasurable grace—and that is why with David we can lift our voices and proclaim, "I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies" (2 Samuel 22:4).

Prayer: Father, You are my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer. I will run to You and find shelter from the storms of life. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies" (2 Samuel 22:4).

Prayers for this Week

For Our Church:

- Pray that we listen, speak, and act with grace, always seeking God's will in our actions
- Pray for wisdom in decision-making, unity of purpose, and a heart for the well-being of our church, especially during this time of transition. Pray for the newly appointed office bearers of the Church Council and the congregational meeting, that they will be filled with wisdom, unity, and effective service during this transition.
- Pray for the preachers, service leaders, music team, sound team, and everyone involved in contributing to our services, that they may be Spirit-filled and guided in their roles.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.
- Pray for those preparing for the HSC.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for Christians facing persecution in the Middle East, asking for God to grant them strength, protection, and encouragement in their faith amid the violence and displacement they endure.
- Pray for the Parramatta Nepean Presbytery and the churches without ministers, seeking God's guidance, provision, and effective leadership during this season. Ask for the right individuals to be called to serve these congregations, and for strength and unity within the churches as they carry out their mission and service.
- Pray for Tearfund, Samaritan's Purse, and YWAM, asking for God to empower and uplift their missionaries, and that their efforts in spreading the Gospel will bear abundant fruit. Prayer for the missionaries we support: Mike and Jacky Hammond, Bill and Sandra Callister, and Richard and Lindsey Parker, asking for God's blessing on their work.

For Australia:

- Pray that political leaders at every level—federal, state, and local—are guided by integrity, wisdom, and unity in their decision-making for the benefit of the people and the nation.
- Pray for strength and resources within the healthcare system, so it can effectively meet the needs of all individuals, particularly those facing challenges in mental health and in rural areas.
- Pray for relief from economic pressures affecting the people, that policies will be enacted to alleviate the cost of living and support financial stability for those in need.
- Pray for solutions to the housing affordability crisis, that more people may find safe and affordable homes, and that the housing market becomes more accessible for those seeking housing.

For the World:

- Pray for world leaders to govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion. Ask that they seek solutions fostering harmony and cooperation among nations.
- Pray for the resolution of ongoing conflicts, including those in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Syria, and other affected regions.
- Pray for help for those affected by political issues, conflicts, and environmental changes that are causing large-scale migration and refugee crises. Ask for relief and support for those in need.
- Pray for the elections in America, that they may be fair and transparent. Ask for wisdom for the candidates and for voters to choose wisely, leading to healing and unity in the nation.

E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(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 922 312 / revdeborahyun@gmail.com

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Samson Leung Treasurer: Anne Crabb
Alex Chow, Nicole Critchley, Jenny Keyte