

Charman Uniting Church

News Letter

1st November 2026 Vol 7 No 39 Pentecost 23

JC Penny – the "Golden Rule Store"



I am sure that all of us have shopped at J.C. Penney at some time or other, but I want to tell you something that you probably did not know about Penney's. It used to be known as "the Golden Rule store". In fact, when Mr. Penney first started, his first several stores were called that.

Mr. Penney did not like to use the word "employee." He called those that worked for him, "Associates". He treated them just as well as he would like to be treated, too. He was able to take a general store in 1902, and build it into a multi-billion dollar business, because he actually lived the Golden Rule. Mr. Penny tried his best to always treat people like he wanted to be treated. He treated them with love, respect, kindness, understanding and encouragement.

Do you try to treat others in your life like this – or not? Our normal instinct is to think that we would be nicer to others if they would show these attributes to us, isn't it? But, that's the Problem. Jesus didn't say, "Treat people with the same Respect that they treat you." He said, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do to them." And for us to be able to do that, we must love our fellow man.

MATTHEW 5:43-44 tells us, "You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' I tell you, 'Love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you." That is how Jesus lived on this earth, and if we are Christians, we must strive to be like Christ. How will the world know that we are Christians? They will not know that by reading a sign over our doors. They will only know that by the love we have in our hearts for other people.

Andrew Murray said, "My relationship with God is part of my relationship with men. Failure in one will cause failure in the other." John Ashcroft said, "The most important thing my dad taught me is that there are more important things than me." There is an old saying that goes, "A pat on the back is only a few vertebrae away from a kick in the pants, but the results are much better."

There was a man once sitting by a tree near a creek, reading his Bible. Something caught his eye and he looked to see a scorpion caught between two roots of the tree. The man reached over to help the scorpion loose, but each time he tried to grab it, the scorpion tried to sting him. A man who was standing nearby watching this said, "Don't you know it is the scorpion's nature to sting? Why don't you just forget it and let it die there?"

The man smiled and looked up and replied, "Should it be necessary that I change my nature to accommodate someone else's nature? The scorpion may sting, but I help, that is my nature." When God's love fills your heart, you cannot help but share it – with all things.



Jesus knew there are two ways of giving. One way is to give in hopes that you will get something out of it. That is like the man who bought his wife a ping-pong table for her birthday. He knew she wanted it, but he expected to use it as much as she did. In effect, he didn't just give to her, he gave to her with the expectation that he would have it, too. When we give with expectations of getting something back, we aren't really giving in the first place.

The other way is to give with absolutely no expectation of getting anything back. That is what Jesus is talking about. That is the best way to show your love is to freely give, just because you want someone else to be fulfilled in some way. You sacrifice your own feelings for someone else's feelings.

There is a story of a young boy who had been invited to attend a friend's birthday party and was eagerly awaiting the day he could go. On that day, however, there was a near blizzard outside, and his father thought it was too dangerous for him to walk the short 3 blocks to his friends house, and it was much too dangerous to drive the boy. The little boy reacted tearfully and begged his father to let him go.

Finally, the father recanted and gave his permission. The boy bundled himself up started walking down the street. The wind and snow blew so hard against him that what should have only taken 10 minutes took nearly an hour. Finally, the boy got to the house. As he rang the doorbell, he looked back to see the shadowy figure of his father disappearing into the snow. His father had followed every footstep to make sure the boy was safe.

It is all about sacrifice, isn't it? When we are able to sacrifice what we want; what we need; what we think; so that we can freely give to someone else what they want or need, we have proven ourselves successful as a Christian.

A farmer must sow his seeds before he is able to reap a crop. Likewise, we must sow our seeds before we can reap our crops. The difference is the seed a farmer uses might be corn or wheat.

The seeds we sow are the seeds of love from our hearts, and the crop we reap are the rewards of God's love for us



Bruce Ball *is a retired Pastor at living at Coolidge, Arizona*

Read more at -> SermonCentral

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Monday 30th November to Sunday 6th December.

CHARMAN UNITING CHURCH

313 CHARMAN ROAD CHELTENHAM

BRING YOUR TREE AND YOUR DECORATIONS BETWEEN 2PM AND 5PM ON SATURDAY 28TH OR SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER AND BE PART OF THE INAUGURAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.

YOU MAY LIKE TO DECORATE YOUR TREE IN A TRADITIONAL STYLE OR IT MAY HAVE A FUN THEME THAT RELATES TO YOUR BUSINESS
OR YOUR GROUPS ACTIVITIES
OR YOUR FAMILY'S SPECIAL INTEREST.

WE WANT TO SEE AS MANY DECORATED TREES AS POSSIBLE AND WE WANT AS MANY PEOPLE TO VISIT AS POSSIBLE.

FREE ENTRY FOR TREES AND VISITORS.

FESTIVAL HOURS

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 1PM TO 5PM

THURSDAY & FRIDAY 3PM TO 7PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 1PM TO 5PM



“A driver has been rescued by two bystanders, including an ABC reporter, from his sinking car in floodwater north of Brisbane”


The sinking car with Will swimming to the rescue

The man drove his four-wheel-drive at speed through water on Buchanan Road at Morayfield. The car stalled and started to sink. ABC reporter Will Murray and Daniel Hainey swam out to the car and pulled the driver out of the vehicle.

About 170 millimetres of rain has fallen in the area since this morning. Speaking after a shower and some lunch, Murray said he was relieved everyone was OK. "I saw him drive in and immediately his car started floating downstream so I rang Triple Zero," he said. "On the phone the operator asked me if I could see the driver and if I thought he could get free. "Initially I could see him, but he disappeared from my sight within seconds so I made the call to jump in."

Murray said he handed the phone to his colleague, camera operator Liz Pickering, and started swimming towards the sinking car. "When we got to the car we tried to open the closest door, no luck, then got on the back of the car with the thought to break the back window," he said. "I thought to try the passenger side rear door first and put my feet against the car and pulled as hard as I could and with some luck the door swung open. "I think water rushing in helped create some pressure to force the door open."

Murray said the driver was then able to make his way to the open door, and the rescuers pulled him to safety and shallow waters. "All three of us gave each other a big hug and were just so relieved," he said. "It was very scary, but happy every-one is safe and relieved it is OK. "I just witnessed how quickly it can go south and it is terrifying. Please don't drive into floodwaters."

Mr Hainey, who rescued the man alongside Murray, said he was out with his family when he saw the ute but did not realise someone was inside until the window moved. "The car began to slowly sink deeper and deeper, and that's when I thought, 'Oh no, this is not looking good', so I started swimming in there," he said. Mr Hainey said the driver was "very, very lucky". The Queensland Fire Department advises all residents not to swim in floodwater. ”Saved that man’s life”

Pickering was on scene filming overlay footage of the flooded road when the incident occurred.
She captured the incident on video as the men rescued the driver from the vehicle. “The pair of them definitely saved the man’s life” Pickering said. "No doubt about that." Murray said emergency services arrived about 10 minutes after the rescue. "We were chatting with the man and he was saying he didn't see the signage and didn't realise how deep it was," Murray said. "I had no idea how deep it was and that's the lesson we keep hearing, isn't it, that you can't tell and you really couldn't; it didn't look particularly severe."But as you can see in the vision, the car completely disappears, it's clearly very deep in the middle there."

Speaking about being called a hero or a lifesaver, Murray quickly diverted attention to the men and women who work for emergency services. He said he has a greater respect for the work they do. "The adrenaline is still very, very high. I don't know how people do this regularly," he said.


He made it !

Click on the **NEWS** image to see the article and watch dramatic video of the rescue

From our Barbara Allan!

Will Murray , **our nephew** and an ABC reporter ,was recently sent to do a seemingly straight forward story reporting on the floods North of Brisbane and instead ended up (heroically) rescuing a driver from a sinking car.

Will, a modest young man , did a feature report for the ABC later that day after, as he said, his heart rate had dropped back nearer normal.

He was surprised and intrigued to receive a phone call that evening from The New York Times .Subsequently that evening the rescue was also reported on the BBC, AlJazeer, The Times of India ,and was even seen on the Austrian news by our niece who was viewing from Innsbruck.

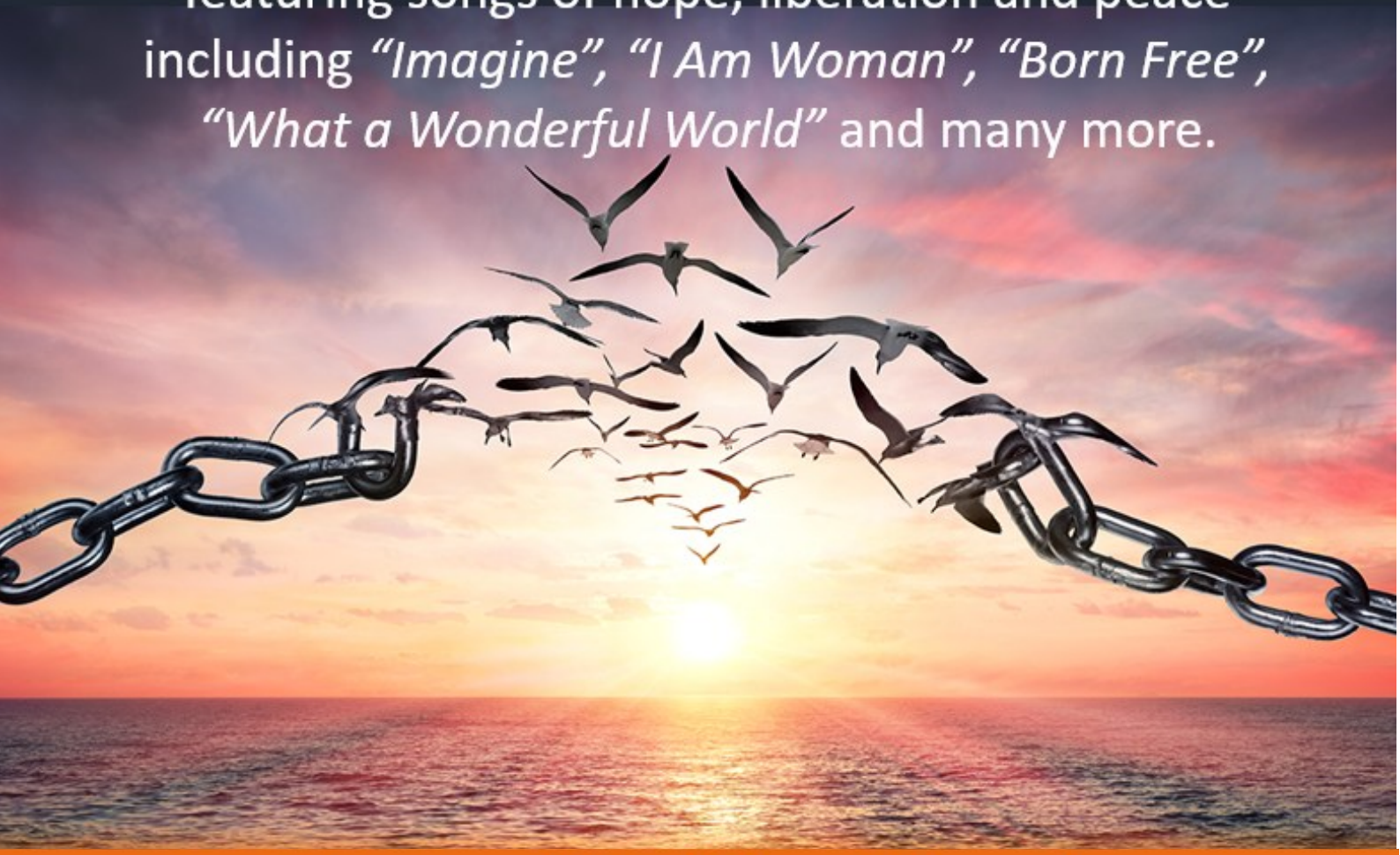
Will believes the reason the story has not only gone viral on U tube but also globally , is because , **in this world of hurt and destruction, we are all looking for Good News stories .**

Trek Musicals Presents

TREK To FREEDOM

An aspirational musical journey towards a better future in an ever-changing world,

featuring songs of hope, liberation and peace including *"Imagine"*, *"I Am Woman"*, *"Born Free"*, *"What a Wonderful World"* and many more.



Ormond Uniting Church
Sunday 8th November 2pm

In support of Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Tickets:Adults $25, Con. $20 at the door or
https://www.trybooking.com/DQGON

For more info speak with Dianne 0413 750 089.



Bible Readings November 2026 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

Sunday 1st	Pentecost 23	Joshua 3:7-17	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
Sunday 8th	Pentecost 24	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Psalm 78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Sunday 15th	Pentecost 25	Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Sunday 22nd	Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 100	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
Sunday 29th	To Be Advised				

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. **www.crosslight.org.au** Print copies of CROSSLIGHT are available at the entrance of the Charman Church.



Prayers of the People



We pray for all in need especially -

Nan McArthur and family
Peter Aumann & Family
Alannah and children Sophie, Harvey and Austin
Peter & Rubia
Lyn's family—*friend of Costellos*
Matilda
Cec Bartholomeusz
Robyn
Pat
Adie & Ally
Katherine's cousin David & Family
Tina, friend of Joan Wood
Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their daughter, Rachel
Maria
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz
Anita and Kingsley
Joyce Curnow
Stuart - addiction struggles
Helen & Earle Hosking
Grace & Van Rensberg
Joan's friends Robyn & Jemma
Kath Tondorf
Susan Hoskin
Karen
Helen Cole
Barry
Adrian
Gloria, Samson & Family
Mark
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
June and Grace Fairbank

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.
Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881** Payee "UCA Cheltenham Mentone Parish"

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - Please bring your donations, especially non perishable food to the church and we will arrange for their distribution.

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au
Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**

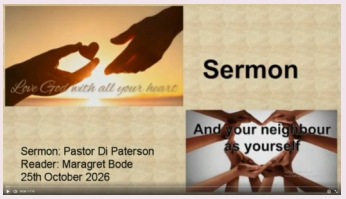


OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **over 200** sermons and service preludes

This week's video – "Love God with all your heart" Pastor Di Paterson 25th October 2026

*Click on image or **HERE** to view*



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am *(virtual doors open 9:45 am)*



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on https://zoom.us/support/download
Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09
Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784
You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.



Oh no …. …







My wife had terrible headaches whenever I cooked with wheat, barley or rice.

She was really suffering from my grains.

