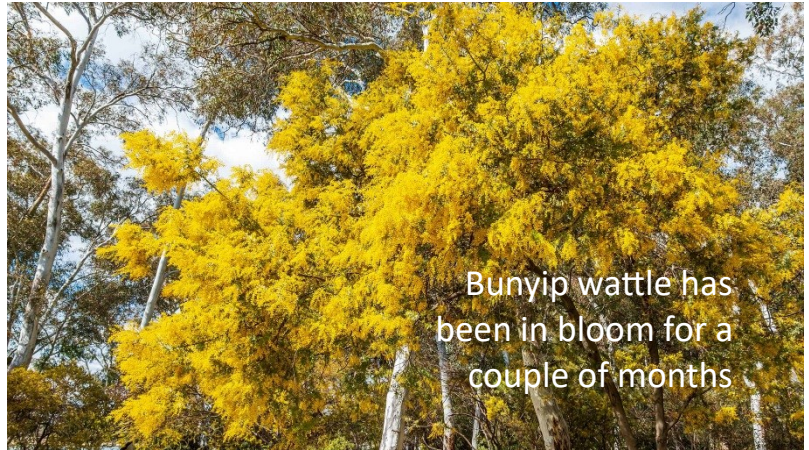




*The following reflection was written by Rev Jay Robinson,
Presbytery Minister Team Leader.*

*- reprinted from Presbytery of Port Phillip East
Weekly News Letter*

Spring – A Season of New Beginnings



Bunyip wattle has
been in bloom for a
couple of months

I don't know about you, but there is a new feeling in the air. There is something wonderfully hopeful about the beginning of spring. After the shorter days, colder mornings and bare branches of winter, we begin to notice signs of change. The days become longer, blossoms appear, gardens begin to stir, and there is warmth in the air that was not there before. Spring reminds us that change often begins quietly.

A tiny green shoot appears where the ground seemed empty. A blossom opens on a branch that looked lifeless. Birds become busy preparing nests. What seemed dormant begins to awaken. Perhaps there is something here for us as the people of God.

Church life can sometimes feel like winter. There are seasons when energy is low, numbers decline, familiar people are no longer with us, and things that once worked well no longer seem to bear fruit. We can find ourselves wondering what the future might hold. Yet the Christian story continually reminds us that God is the God of new beginnings.

The prophet Isaiah records God saying: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

That is a wonderful question for us at the beginning of spring: **Do you not perceive it?** What might God be bringing to life among us? Perhaps the new thing is not dramatic. Perhaps it begins like the first shoot of spring—small enough to be overlooked.

It might be a new person who walks through the church door. A conversation over morning tea. Someone discovering a gift for ministry. A congregation trying something different. A connection with the local community. An unexpected opportunity to offer hospitality. A willingness to listen to voices we have not heard before.

Spring invites us to pay attention. It also reminds us that new growth does not mean simply returning to what was there before. The garden that emerges this spring will not be exactly the garden of last spring. Some plants have disappeared. Others have grown. Seeds have travelled. New life emerges in unexpected places.

Jay Robinson (Presbytery
Minister – Team Leader)



Perhaps congregational life is like that too. Our calling is not necessarily to recreate the church of yesterday. Our calling is to discover where God is bringing life today. As members of the Uniting Church, we are a pilgrim people—always on the way. We trust that Christ goes before us, calling us into new relationships, new possibilities and new ways of sharing God's love.

So this spring, perhaps we might look around our congregations with fresh eyes. Where do we see signs of life? Where is compassion growing? Where are relationships beginning? Where are people discovering hope? Where might God be inviting us to plant something new? Not every seed will grow. Not every idea will flourish. But we plant because we trust the God who gives the growth.

As gardens awaken around us this spring, may our congregations also awaken to hope, to possibility, to our neighbours, and to the presence of God already at work among us. For the God of resurrection is always bringing life from unexpected places.

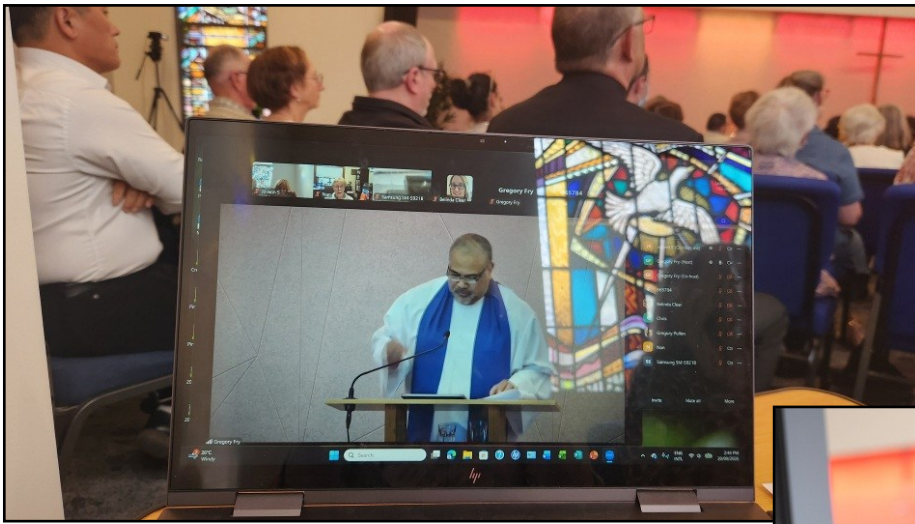
And perhaps, even now, something new is beginning to spring forth.

The "after party" .. Photos by Alan Moyle and Jo-ann Stenton



Left:
A beautiful
floral arrange-
ment thanks to
Jenny
Bartholomeusz





Left: Jo-ann Stenton's "Zoom view" of the service

Below: Project Manager Rina Neustroski explaining a finer point of the design



Above: Every function needs a fully functional kitchen - ours worked perfectly!





Left: Wendy Adams of St Leonards Brighton Beach expressing her thanks to Jo-ann

Below: The audio visual team much relieved that all went well



Above: Jenny Collins lighting the Christ Candle earlier in the service

Below: The photo display organised by Jo-ann Stenton was a highlight of the day





Left: Jo-ann on Zoom duties ably assisted by her daughter Kerri-Ann, with Project Manager Rinna Neustroski looking on



Above: So good to see Kath Tondorf at the opening





Thank goodness that's over!





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

Sunday 4th	Pentecost 19	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9 12-20 Is 5:1-7	Psalms 19 Psalms 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Sunday 11th	Pentecost 20	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23	Philippians 1:4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Sunday 18th	Pentecost 21	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalms 99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Sunday 25th	Pentecost 22	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

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



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

We pray for all in need especially -

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..

BayCISS Collection Contributions - change of delivery arrangements

Many thanks to those who continue to support BayCISS with donations. Goods especially non perishable food should be brought to the church where they will be distributed along with Family Life contributions

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 Emmerge 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 -

*"Plan Pack & Journey into the Unexpected" Pastor Di Paterson
27th September 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>

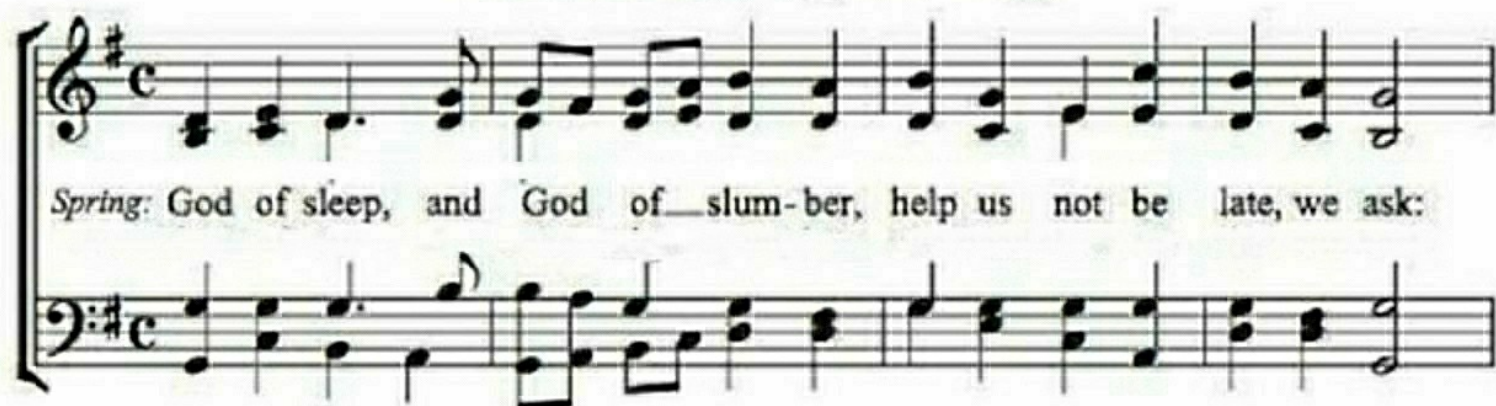
Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

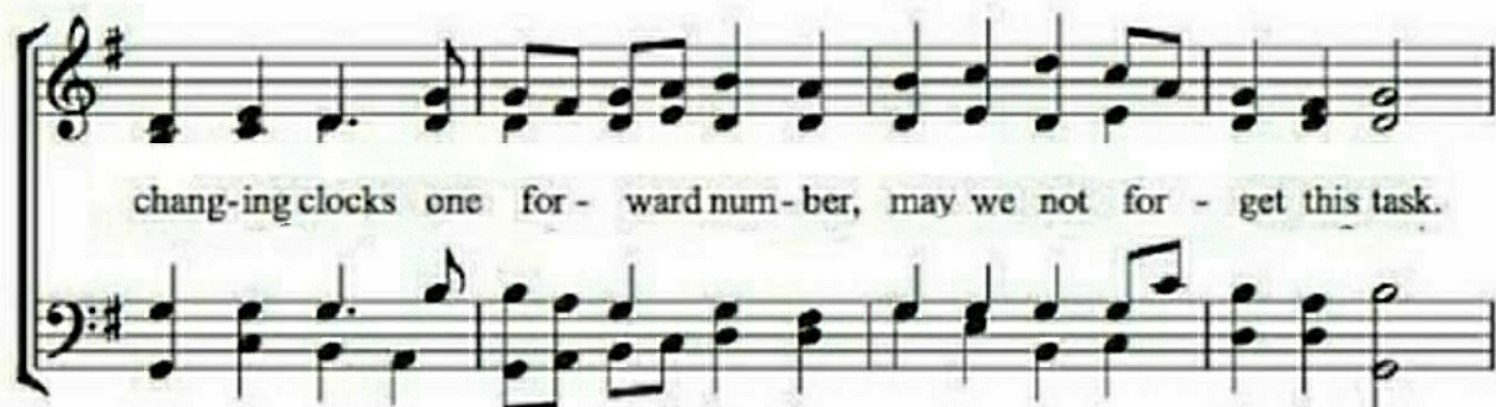
Sunday Church
on Zoom



Time Change Song



Spring: God of sleep, and God of slum-ber, help us not be late, we ask:



chang-ing clocks one for - ward num-ber, may we not for - get this task.



Choir di - rec - tors, preach - ers, teach - ers, all will bless your ho - ly



name, if to Sun-day church on time we came.

WORDS: Dean McIntyre, 1995
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
87.87.89

