

ONLINE SERVICE

7 June 2020

Welcome and Notices

Amanda Fairs
viola

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Young at Heart
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: Matthew 10:1-15
Suzanne Hart

Sermon

Following Jesus' Way, Route Marker #2
Matthew 11:1

Prayers of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Amanda Fairs
viola

Benediction



NOTICES

7 June 2020

Wednesday 10 June

1.30 pm Covenanted Prayer Time

Sunday 14 June

11 am Way Markers in Matthew.



Streaming online during COVID-19

blackburnpc.org.au or

www.facebook.com/blackburnpresbyterian/

For your prayers this week:

Congregational members:

Bernard and Hilary HAWKINS



and



Matt & Kate VINICOMBE on Groote Eylandt
minister through CMS to the indigenous
community.

MEMBERS who wish to continue their freewill offerings may use the banking details at the bottom of this page or post to our Treasurer. Vic Ansell, 59 Queen St Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555.

GARDENIA ST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
53 Gardenia Street,
Blackburn 3130

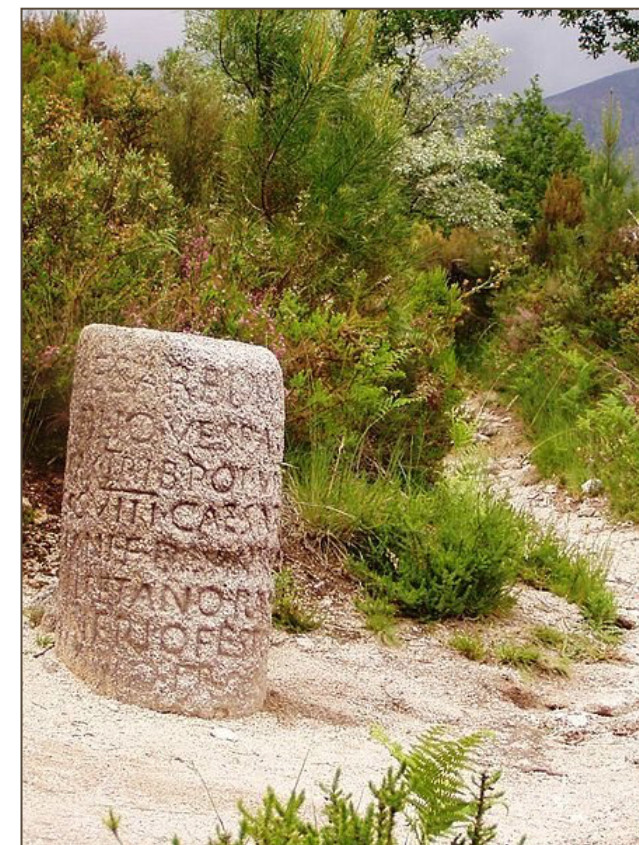


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Treasurer: Mr Vic Ansell 5447 7118

Electronic Banking Details: ANZ Forest Hill,
Account name: Blackburn Presbyterian Church
BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

GARDENIA ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLACKBURN

7 June 2020



Roman Wayside Marker

WELCOME

Human rights defenders faced huge challenges, including arbitrary arrest, detention and prosecution as a means of silencing them while freedom of expression was censored with draconian laws. Millions of indigenous forest dweller families were threatened with forced eviction. Women were not adequately protected from sexual and domestic violence, harassment and discrimination. There was a serious lack of accountability for murders and other attacks carried out by vigilante mobs against hundreds of people based on their religious, ethnic, caste and gender identities.



Amnesty International, 2019

Opposition to Christianity has reached unprecedented levels in India. Hindu organisations are assertive and aggressive, declaring that India belongs to Hinduism and no other religion should be tolerated. Branches of government openly support Hindu extremist groups, allowing and even encouraging the persecution of Christians. Police will rarely intervene when Christians are harassed.

Believers in tribal societies face high levels of persecution. They can be denied access to drinking water, threatened, banished or even killed for their faith. While persecution is strongest for converts, Hindu extremists have increased their hostility towards any person not of Hindu faith. Social hostility continues to increase throughout India. Sharing the gospel is increasingly difficult as Christians are monitored online and in their communities. It is almost impossible for a church to be built or renovated. Despite this, many Indians are coming to faith.

Open Doors, Australia

Following Jesus' Way

Route Marker #2

Sermon Notes

We noted that Matthew has placed the first of five wayside markers at the close of Jesus' 'sermon'. Each marker follows a block of the Lord's teaching; a new kind of Torah. The markers are:

7:28 When Jesus had finished these words...

11:1 When Jesus had finished teaching his disciples...

13:53 When Jesus had finished these parables...

19:1 When Jesus had finished these words...

26:1 When Jesus had finished all these words...

Over the next weeks we will briefly explore the other four blocks of Jesus' teaching to which Matthew has drawn our attention.

7:28 is the first marker. We have already explored the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) which parallels Moses giving the Law on Mt Sinai. The key ideas are 'fulfilment' and that Jesus' authoritative words turn this world's values upside down.

The climactic story of two house builders leaves us with questions. "What kind of 'house' are we building? "Are Jesus' words just 'incidental' to our lives, or are they the foundation?"

11:1 is the second marker. It concerns the teaching of chapter 10 which Jesus has been addressing to his disciples. In particular we notice:

Disciples are named. Crowds followed Jesus, but so far Matthew has only named five (Matthew 4:18, 9:9). Now a core group of twelve disciples is named, and they are called 'apostles'. They are known and named, the very hairs of their head are numbered (10:30).

Apostle comes from the Greek verb ἀποστέλλω meaning 'to send'. This core group is intentionally foundational. They had been travelling with Jesus, marvelling at his teaching and his healing. But now they are to be 'sent out'. For them, daunting indeed, but see also 28:10.

Twelve is also significant. Israel (formerly Jacob) had twelve sons and they became the foundation of Israel's Twelve Tribes. By selecting a core group of twelve Jesus is laying the foundation of a restored Israel. Gentiles have already appeared in Matthew, but for now the

Matthew makes sure that as we read his account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we see the connections with everything that has gone before. "Fulfilled" is one of Matthew's characteristic verbs: such and such happened "that it might be fulfilled." Jesus is unique, but he is not odd.

Better yet, Matthew tells the story in such a way that not only is every thing previous to us completed in Jesus; we are completed in Jesus. Every day we wake up in the middle of something that is already going on, that has been going on for a long time: genealogy and geology, history and culture, the cosmos-God. We are neither accidental nor incidental to the story. We get orientation, briefing, background, reassurance.

Matthew provides the comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all the parts of our lives – work, family, friends, memories, dreams – also completed in Jesus. Eugene Peterson *The*

mission is "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (10:6).

Healing. The twelve are "to be healers, restorers, people who will bring life and hope to others not grand status to themselves" (NT Wright). To ensure this the details of their approach is very specific - no cash, no money bag, accept hospitality where welcomed, move on where not welcomed.

Division awaits them, like sheep among wolves. (10:16) They will encounter hostile opposition. We are used to a tolerant and laissez faire society. Even today loyalty to Jesus still engenders hostility, even violence. We pray week-by-week for countries where this opposition is still real. This week India.

The Son of Man. The strange event of the 'coming of the Son of Man' (10:23 compare Daniel 7:13) will happen before the mission is completed. In Daniel this figure moves from earth into the divine presence. Is this Jesus' Ascension? Most likely.

Identity with Jesus is very close, and is what defines a disciple. A cup of cold water to a disciple is as if to Jesus.

Courage. "Fear not" says Jesus. x3 (10:26,28,31)