

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 13 June 2021

Welcome and Notices  
Mr Keith Ferres, Session Clerk

Hymn 31  
God moves

Prayer of Invocation

The Bible Project  
Acts 8-12

Bible Reading: Acts 8:4-25  
Bennie Locke

Hymn 187  
Gracious Spirit

Sermon: Acts #6  
A Samaritan Pentecost!

Prayer of Intercession  
and  
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 194  
Breathe on me

Benediction



## NOTICES

13 June 2021

Website: [www.blackburnpc.org.au](http://www.blackburnpc.org.au)

Wednesday 16 June 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting.  
Sunday 20 June 11 am Divine Service. Acts #7  
All Welcome. Covid safe practices.

### For your prayers this week

Congregational members:

**Will and Joan Renshaw**



and



**Andrew Adams** who is with  
Pioneers in Japan. Earlier this  
year he preached for the first time in Japanese. Pray for  
encouragement in student work especially during Covid.



## GARDENIA ST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

53 Gardenia Street,  
Blackburn 3130



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Account name: Blackburn Presbyterian Church  
BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

## WELCOME GARDENIA ST.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## BLACKBURN

13 June 2021



Peter's conflict with Simon Magus  
by Avanzino Nucci, 1620  
[No prizes for spotting Simon]



## The Samaritan PENTECOST

It is testimony to the power of Jesus' parables that the adjective most commonly connected with the word Samaritan in the public mind is "good".

In ancient Israel Jewish hostility to Samaritans resembled Jewish hostility to Palestinians today. As today, it was a mutual antipathy.

Who were the Samaritans?

### 1. Samaritan People

The Samaritans began with a tribal split after the death of Solomon, 1000 years before Jesus.

Ten of the 12 tribes formed Israel. The other two, centred on Jerusalem, formed Judah.

In the 8th century BC Israel, in the north, was defeated by Assyria, and subjected to exile and resettled by others, and their gods. Faith in Yahweh was heavily compromised.

In the 6th century BC Judah too was subjected to captivity by Babylon. They clung onto faith. After 70 years they returned and rebuilt the temple. They felt they were the Jews.

### 2. Deacon Phillip

Phillip was one of the deacons selected to serve the needs of the Greek and Hebrew widows in Jerusalem. In the chaos following

Stephen's death the believers were scattered, but talking about Jesus! Phillip went north into Samaria.

Telling of Jesus the Messiah (= *Christos*) was accompanied by healings and wonders.

Many believed and were baptised. Could this really be happening? Could hated Samaritans believe in Jesus as the Messiah, and rejoice in Him?

### 3. Peter and John (8:14)

Luke tells us that Peter and John "were sent" to see what was happening.

Their presence and prayer for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit provided a kind of "Samaritan Pentecost".

### 4. Simon the Magician

Skilled in magic, Simon thought he could buy the power of the Spirit. Peter strongly rebuked him. The Spirit can't be bought or sold! To pursue this is today called *simony*.

What authenticates the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life? What evidence of the Spirit do we seek today?

It was the summer of 1952. An uncle of mine was doing medicine at the University of Melbourne. He came home for a holiday to Singapore my birthplace. On board the ship he met an Australian, by the name of Archie Crow, in the uniform of the Australian Defence Forces, with his wife Audrey.

Back in Singapore my grandmother and family invited them for dinner one night. Friendship began, they were invited to the beach to picnic with us. I was still finishing my studies at senior school.

Years later I was given a private scholarship to study in Australia and later met and married a local girl - after the magic happened - it's called falling in love.

We were blessed with two children, first an adorable daughter who later did very well at PLC and university, the other was a son who also did well at school - Scotch College. Our daughter Desiree later became a gynaecologist and our son Damian grew up to fly the A380 Air Bus for Qantas.

When Damian was still at Scotch we discovered there was an Archibald Crow who was a chaplain at Scotch. I then wondered if it was the same

Archie we met back in Singapore.

I decided to ring the school and ask the receptionist if I could speak to Archie Crow. She said very curtly to me, "You mean the Reverend Archibald Crowe?" and I said "Yes the Rev Archibald Crowe" and much to my delight, yes, it was the Archie Crow that I knew.

I was having my chicken nuggets, chips and latte in Hungry Jacks one afternoon when a very smartly dressed couple walked in. I always admired well and smartly dressed people. I plucked up enough courage to go to go up and say hello to the couple to compliment them.

Later I was told by the gentleman that they had just come from the Presbyterian Church in Blackburn. I was so delighted that there was one in Blackburn! Later I found my way there one Sunday to attend the service. The couple was none other than Keith and Bennie!

Then at Blackburn Presbyterian Church I also discovered one Rev Graham Bradbeer who was a close associate of the Rev Archibald Crow. [And who taught Damien. Ed.]



Myanmar (Burma) is 87% Buddhist. The identity of the ethnic Burman majority is tied to Buddhism. Christianity is portrayed as a foreign religion. Most Christians are from non-Burman ethnic minorities including the Chin, Karen and Kachin. Ethnic minority Christians are offered free education at Buddhist schools, but all pupils must study and practise Buddhism. Those who officially convert will have their national identity cards amended to their new religion and be guaranteed a government job.

For decades, the military-controlled government has brutally oppressed Christian and Muslim ethnic minority groups. Hundreds of thousands of them have been displaced, often by aerial bombardment, and many are living in IDP (internally displaced persons) camps.

In 2020, about 100,000 ethnic Kachin, who are predominantly Christian, remained scattered across 138 IDP camps where, in crowded conditions with little sanitation, they were at great risk from coronavirus. The "persecutory intent" and "ethnic cleansing" tactics used by the Myanmar Army against the Kachin were condemned in a 2018 United Nations Human Rights Council Report. Barnabas Fund 2021

The Myanmar crisis triggered by the military presents ASEAN with the biggest test in its history. The bloc's usual commitment to non-interference is a non-starter: this is not an internal matter for Myanmar but a major human rights and humanitarian crisis which is impacting the entire region and beyond," said Emerlynn Gil, Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director for Research. "The crisis initiated by a murderous and unrepentant Myanmar military has engulfed the country, and will cause severe aftershocks - humanitarian and more - for the entire region, particularly if the military can continue to commit serious violations and crimes with complete impunity.

Amnesty International 2021