

Announcements

December-January editions of ConneXions and Challenge are now available.

Today:

- 9.00-9.20am: Prayer meeting.
- 9.30am: worship – Gary Ware.
- 5.30pm: evening fellowship – Fresh Hope Dawning (Psalm 3).

Next Lord's Day:

- 9.00-9.20am: Prayer meeting
- 9.30am: worship – Gary Ware
- Bring & share lunch after morning worship.
- 5.30pm: evening fellowship – Psalm 4.

Bring & Share lunch next Lord's Day. Please join us and bring a main course and dessert to share.

All Age Sunday School resumes on 5th February. For adults the two classes started in Term 4 last year – Getting to the Heart of Parenting and Church History Survey – will continue in Term 1 this year.

Church Camp: Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th March at Karnkendi. Speaker: Darren Middleton, Pastor, North Geelong PC, on *Revelation: Heaven Opened* - making sense of the seals, trumpets, dragon and whore! Brochure now available.

TEAR Christmas gifts totalled \$852.00

Church membership: if you trust in Christ alone for your salvation, are regularly gathering with MGPC and are currently not a church member you are invited to speak to one of the pastors or elders about membership.

Church Contacts

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Gary Ware's online blog/journal: <http://mgpcpastor.wordpress.com>

www.mgpc.org.au



...growing God's family...

Lord's Day, January 22, 2012 AD

Standing Firm

2 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 3: 5

"Welcome", as you worship with us today

Order of Service

*Please speak to God before the service and to everyone else afterward.
Those who are able are invited to stand for the items marked **

9.20am Prelude to Worship

Gathering God's People

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

In love and in grace

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Announcements: Roger Bannister

9.30am Worship

Call to worship:

Responding To God's Presence

**Prayer of Confession:*

Song of Assurance: It's Your blood

/over...

***Assurance:** 1 John 1:9
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

***Affirming our Faith:** The Apostles' Creed

***Praise:** Glory be to the Father

Experiencing God's Word

Bible Reading: Isaiah 36:1 - 22

Chapters 36-39 are an historical bridge connecting the two halves of Isaiah, chapters 1-35 and 44-66. They record the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy, that the Assyrians would surround Jerusalem but that the LORD would then deliver a remnant of His people by destroying the besieging army. The narrative begins about 715 B.C. Much of this content can also be found in 2 Kings 18:13-20:19.

***Praise:** My soul finds rest in God alone (Psalm 62)

Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 3:5

Sermon: *Standing Firm* – Gary Ware

1. Called.

2. Standing firm.

3. Obtaining glory.

Responding To God's Grace

How does God want me to respond to His word?

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer: Roger Bannister

Tithes & free will offerings

Visitors are not obligated to give an offering. Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

Blessing

*** Praise:** Jesus is Lord

Next Lord's Day:

- Continuous reading plan: Isaiah 37:1- 38
- Passage for preaching: 2 Thessalonians 3: 6 – 18
- Songs: From heaven you came; I praise you, Lord; O the splendour of his greatness; God whose almighty word; O the deep, deep love of Jesus; The mighty power of his works.

Words Worth Thinking About

"The death of Jesus Christ is the ultimate expression of divine love: 'God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8). Yet the Bible also says that the aim of the death of Christ was 'to demonstrate [God's] righteousness, because in the forbearance of God he passed over the sins previously committed' (Romans 3:25). Passing over sins creates a huge problem for the righteousness of God. It makes him look like a judge who lets criminals go free without punishment. In other words, the mercy of God puts the justice of God in jeopardy.

So to vindicate his justice he does the unthinkable – he puts his Son to death as the substitute penalty for our sins. The cross makes it plain to everyone that God does not sweep evil under the rug of the universe. He punishes it in Jesus for those who believe."

— John Piper

The Goal of God's Love May Not Be What You Think It Is

(Minneapolis, Minn.: Desiring God Ministries, October 14, 2000)

<http://firstimportance.org/2012/01/the-ultimate-expression-of-divine-love/>