

THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

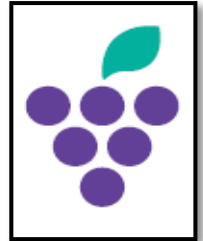
25 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

Good morning!

Saturday 19th September 2020



The GRAPE: It is a solitary thing and yet even in isolation it has come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.



#1 Faith is like...A mustard seed - Matthew 17:19 - 23



FAITH IS LIKE... A MUSTARD SEED.

If faith is a seed then it needs to be planted in the ground to grow.

NO good having your faith SEED on the mantel piece.

Nothing happens there.

NO good leaving it in the garage...

It doesn't grow in the dark.

NO good giving it to someone else to look after.

Q. What about Pot Plants I hear you say... seeds grow in them!

Well yes, this is true. As you know I do not have a green thumb... let alone a green thumbnail... but I can grow succulents. In fact I planted some succulents in a giant pot. After about 4 years the Pot Plant was full and looking unhealthy so I decided to repot them into a bigger pot. I got a shock when after 30 mins of digging I got the succulents out and the entire pot was root bound... no dirt, no potting mix... only roots. No wonder the plants looked unwell.

Pot plants can be a metaphor for faith, because while it is nice for me to put plants into a pot for my convenience, i.e. moving them around, the reality is that plants grow best in the ground. Maybe having Pot Plant faith leads us to think we can gain some control in our lives, down to choosing the pot (nice blue, with a little sparkle of yellow), something small and safe, easily transferrable, no real challenges, just a nice cosy environment?

But pots also curtail growth, because they create an artificial environment... not reflecting reality. At times we all get into denial, and try and not address what is happening in our lives... but Jesus' promise to us is that we only NEED SMALL FAITH to grow and flourish.

Q. What sort of soil (life) would you describe your faith growing in?

Barren, lush, rocky, pot plant etc

Q. Are you ever tempted to adopt a Pot Plant approach to faith: trying to control what is going on by either denying or ignoring?

Is there a pattern?

Q. You only need small faith to grow in TRUST and Confidence in God's love... is it time to REPLANT yourself?

20th SEPTEMBER 20 INTERIM WORSHIP:

TIME: 09.30am Service Sunday morning (45 mins ish)

Max attendance 51 people (includes Worship team)
(No singing by congregation).

The Leadership and Worship teams are constantly reviewing and exploring what works best at Sunday Services and again, we thank you for your feedback and patience.

Service - Recorded and LIVE STREAMED onto Vines Web page.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Tickets for the service on Sunday 27th September can be booked through **Humanitix** from 3pm on Sunday 20th, until 11 am on Friday 25th Sept. If you **NEED HELP** with booking, please contact:

Colleen - H: 7220 7383 M: 0430 646 844
or Judy – H: 8322 0892 M: 0402 249 324

To book, please Google Humanitix, click on "events", and in the box that says "search events", type in; "The Vines Uniting Church". The event will then appear for you to click on and book your tickets. There's no need to print out your tickets.

Should you need **TO CANCEL** your tickets, please let Colleen or Judy know by **4 pm on Thurs 24th September**, (unless there are unexpected circumstances), to enable them to rebook the tickets.

Please do not attend the Sunday Service if you are at all unwell.

Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

"Phone a Friend and Choose life"

'Cos you can't catch the virus over the phone...

But you can pass on God's love!



UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer Season of Creation Prayer

Creator God, you move across our world, bringing light, new life and hope.

We give you thanks for the beauty of your creation, the intricate and interconnected web of life.

*We give you thanks for the sacred earth, the air and water,
for the oceans that teem with life,
the rain that refreshes and sustains life,
the water that we drink that maintains life.*

Christ Jesus, you come to bring renewal and reconciliation to the whole of creation.

*We pray for all those places, creatures, and plants that are suffering,
as humans exploit your Earth and its resources.*

Forgive us for the destruction we have caused.

Guide us into the way of respect and care for the Earth and all living things.

We pray that you will renew our resolve to participate with you in the healing and renewal of our earth.

*May your Holy Spirit strengthen us with courage,
to be bearers of your creative and life-giving presence in all the Earth.*

Amen.

Join us for online tea and coffee after church again this Sunday

At **11.00 am** tomorrow, **Sunday, 20th September**, we will again catch up for VIRTUAL coffee and tea after Church. Visitors welcome!

Please refer to this week's Grapevine for more information

CHECK <https://thevinesunitingchurch.com>

Sunday School @ Church - 20 September

Please note there will be **NO ZOOM chat** this week as the children are able to attend Sunday School... PLEASE BOOK IN.

Please note there will be no Sunday School during School holidays.

Grace and Forgiveness