

# THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

# 34 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

## Good morning!

*Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 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.



**Isaiah 64:1-9**  
***Longing for the Saviour***



Photo: Swapnil Dwivedi on <https://unsplash.com/>

## **Isaiah 64:1-9**

### ***Longing for the Saviour***

There have been so many challenges around the world this year with COVID: social distancing; reduced numbers at gatherings, including church; face masks; a six-day lock down that was shortened to three; hand sanitiser; self-isolation; quarantine; ... — to name a few.

It could be said that there is a longing in society for things to return to 'normal.'

Although the focus of the message for Advent Sunday is on the Presence of God in our lives every day, there is an aspect of the spiritual/faith journey where the very Presence of God within us brings about a "Longing for the Saviour." And I think that longing doesn't just relate to a future event such as Christmas or the second coming of Jesus, but a longing for the now, for the 'is' of the "Lord God Almighty, who was, and **IS**, and is to come." (Rev. 4:8)

Life is challenging! Whether there was a pandemic or not, there are things that occur in life, good and not so good, that provide opportunities for us to draw closer to our Lord. Sometimes, there are invitations from God, if we listen, to respond even if our response is sitting quietly in the stillness of the early morning, or the early evening, or bedtime, or ... — I'm reminded of Jesus' own response to his Father: "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (Luke 5:16)

Here's a question to think about, one that can be pondered regularly:

What is the invitation from God, for you/me, at this point in time?

And as you ponder, a question to ask God:

What would you have me do at this time Lord?

Blessings

David McAvenna

**Pastor David Prior will be returning  
from holidays on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

Sunday Services

Until further notice all services will be pre-recorded and available to be down-loaded on Sunday morning:

[https://www.youtube.co/results?search\\_query=the+vines+uniting+church](https://www.youtube.co/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church)

## **KEY POINTS UPDATE:**

### **A different NOVEMBER at The Vines.... NO Strawberry Fair!**

Through November, in lieu of our annual Strawberry Fair, there is an opportunity for you to contribute with “Love Offering” of money, if you wish.

“Strawberry” marked envelopes are available in the foyer .....& donations can be placed in the offering basket.

We are all thankful for many years of fun & successful Strawberry Fairs.

### **Christmas MARKET has also been cancelled.**



**Remember OUR key MESSAGE:**

**“Connect with people  
and Choose Life”**

**‘Cos to grow stronger during Covid  
we *have* to pass on God’s Love.**