



The Grapevine 11/4/2021

The Vines Uniting Church

152 Reynell Road Woodcroft SA 5161

Rev. David Prior

Mobile: 0403 991 475

Email: davidjprior@bigpond.com

Church Office: (08) 8322 8661

Email: thevinesunitingchurch@gmail.com

Website: <https://thevinesunitingchurch.com>

SERMON: Thomas and Doubt - John 20:19-31

Thomas, called the twin, was one of the 12 disciples who followed Jesus from the outset. After the horror of the crucifixion and the disappearance of Jesus body from the tomb... he was the only one who missed out on witnessing the Risen Christ stand among the other disciples; ironically while they all hid in Jerusalem rather than make their way to Galilee as Jesus had told them to.

Thomas had spent 3 years with Jesus, only to miss the first and possibly last appearance of Jesus to the disciples. Surely after 3 years of sacrifice Jesus could have had the decency to have waited until Thomas had returned (easy to see how self-pity and rejection could build). We get a sense of how angry Thomas is in this verse:

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

This is a pivotal point: "would Thomas allow his hurt to get in the way of his connection with the Risen Christ?" Would he simply leave the church/disciples and become bitter because he felt hurt? Or would he risk faith despite the pain?

What about us? How many times has pain, rejection, hurt, doubt got in the way of faith? We all know people whose doubt (pain, grief) has meant they have avoided addressing key areas or issues in their lives. For some they have dismissed God all together because of their experience with Christians and the church.

So what does this scripture about "Doubting Thomas" help us to discover about God and ourselves?

Rev DJPrior

OUR MISSION:

To be a vibrant, growing community of faith,
reaching out in God's love,
bringing others to Christ.



Doubting Thomas



LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

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

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

HUMANITIX BOOKINGS

Thanks to those who are using the Humanitix site to do their weekly bookings.

Please note that there is no need to fill in the Covid sign in sheet in the church foyer if you are booked in on Sundays, just get your name ticked off on the Humanitix list and use your phone if you have one to do the QR code.

Bookings can be done from 11am on Sunday to 3 pm on the following Friday. Please contact Colleen if you have any queries.



Peace be with you...

Remember OUR key MESSAGE:
Connect with others and Choose life
'Cos to Grow stronger through COVID
We have to pass on God's love!



Next week:

18th April Easter 3:

Strategic Planning: Rev Mark Schultz

Our Children's Church....Sessions are held fortnightly, during the services at the Church.

See the table below for the scheduled weeks.

18/04 Sunday 18th April

2/05 Sunday 2nd May

16/05 Sunday 16th May

Kristen Waters and Renjini Samuel

Children's
CHURCH



Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church

Rev. David Prior	Minister/Elders' Convenor Church Council Chairman	0403 991 475 davidjprior@bigpond.com
Lynn Ellison	Small Groups Coordinator	
Colleen Farmer	Administrator	0430 646 844
Leon Magrin	Mission & Outreach / Food Parcel Ministry	8322 3658
David McAvenna	Worship Team	8322 7154
John Norton	Church Treasurer	
	Stewardship - Offering Envelopes	8381 1727

Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer

by 12 noon Wednesday

poppy@adam.com.au