



FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH

March 2026

Cross Cultural Worker

Freda Tong 0431 876 328

Pastoral Care Leader

Dr Greg Jacobs 0403 229 541

Minister Rev. Sanghyeon Nam

Church Office 0466 277 649

www.forestvilleunitingchurch.com

Facebook: Forestville Uniting Church

Instagram: forestville_uc



Our Mission

*Welcoming all generations in our culturally diverse community
to Know, Love and Serve God*

FROM SANGHYEON'S DESK

The Season of Lent: A Journey of Spiritual Recalibration

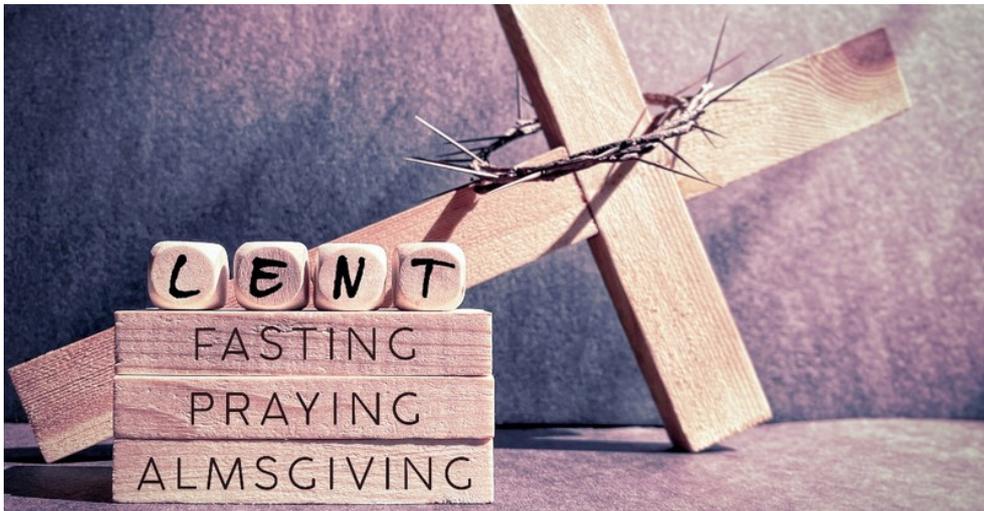
Lent is the forty-day liturgical season of preparation preceding Easter, tracing its linguistic roots to the Old English *lencten*, meaning "springtime". It serves as a spiritual pilgrimage, mirroring Jesus' forty-day fast in the Judean wilderness. While the season technically spans forty-six days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, the six Sundays are traditionally excluded, functioning as "mini-Easters" that offer a glimpse of resurrection joy amidst a period of solemnity.

Historically anchored by the three pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, Lent has evolved within the modern Australian context. It is no longer viewed merely through the lens of rigid legalism but as a holistic pursuit of intentionality. For many contemporary believers, fasting extends beyond dietary restrictions to "digital fasts" - the deliberate silencing of social media to reclaim mental and spiritual margin. Prayer is reimagined as a commitment to silence and *Lectio Divina*, while almsgiving translates into active social justice, often through initiatives like *Project Compassion*.

Theologically, Lent is a season of *memento mori* - a visceral acknowledgement of our mortality and the reality of human brokenness. It begins with the imposition of ashes, reminding us of our frailty, and culminates in the profound silence of Holy Week. For the church, this is a period of "spiritual pruning"; we shed the distractions and ego-driven pursuits that hinder our relationship with the Divine.

Ultimately, Lent is not an exercise in earning grace through self-mortification. Rather, it is an invitation to cultivate a "wilderness heart" that is receptive to the transformative power of the Resurrection. By stripping away the superficial, we ensure that our Easter celebration is not merely sentimental, but a deeply grounded response to the triumph of the Cross.

We encourage you to use the 'Lent Bible Reading Guidebook' (available online and in-person) to spend time each day meditating on the Lord's sacrifice and victory during Lent.



Our church Facebook, Instagram and Homepage

Through Facebook, you will be able to access our church's news and share online fellowship with various people. Please search on Facebook for "Forestville Uniting Church" and on Instagram for "forestville_uc"

Sanghyeon's day-off

A reminder that Sanghyeon has a day-off every Wednesday. The church office opens Tuesday to Saturday (Not Wed) from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

Sanghyeon's leave

Sanghyeon will be on annual leave between 9th - 18th March. Please address any concerns in his absence to Pastoral Care Leader, Greg Jacobs or Cross-Cultural Worker, Freda Tong.

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

As the new school year began, we took time during our service on Sunday, 1st February, to remember and pray for the children and grandchildren of our church family as they embark on their studies.

On Sunday, 22nd February, we held our first Multicultural Service of the year, led by our Chinese congregants. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the preparations, with a special word of appreciation to our Chinese members and those who have long supported our Cross-cultural ministry.

On Saturday, 28th February, the Cross-cultural ministry hosted 'Different Taste,' a program launched late last year. It was wonderful to see so many in attendance, enjoying Mika's demonstration of Taiwanese cooking and sharing the meal together. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped organise and run the event.



WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Please check the noticeboard & table in the church entrance for brochures and information...

Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday, 1st March in church, at home via Zoom or with the paper version of the Order of Service. As the first Sunday of April falls on Easter Sunday, it has been decided to bring forward our April Holy Communion to Sunday, 29th March.

Holy Week We will be observing Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on 29th March and continuing through to Good Friday. Our Good Friday service will be held at the church on Friday, 3rd April, at 9:00 am. We encourage everyone to attend this service with a prayerful and reverent heart as we meditate on the way of the Cross and our Lord's sacrifice.

Leaders' Meeting on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm at the church.

3F Everyone is welcome to join us on 10th March at 2pm in the church hall for a video presentation of Greg and Robyn's travels to Western Turkey. More detailed information will follow each month but here is our programme for the year ahead...

10 th March	Video of Western Turkey with Robyn and Greg
14 th April	Morning Tea in the Park
Saturday 16 th May	Ceilidh - Marion's Scottish Dancing and Singing
9 th June	Excursion to Manly Quarantine Station
14 th July	Cinema
11 th August	NSW Art Gallery
8 th September	Lunch at the Boat House, Palm Beach
13 th October	Cinema
10 th November	Christmas Lunch

Men's Bible Study (MBS) MBS will be held on Monday 23rd March at 7.15 am at the church hall. We ask for your prayers for MBS and the participation of those interested. Contact: Rev. Nam.

Wild Swans Bible Study and English Conversation Classes Tuesdays at the church during the school term. Bible Study from 9.30am followed by ESL from 11.00am. Contact Freda for more information.

Kids @9 Sunday School learning and fun for all children. Come and join in the activities during term time.

Play Group Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am for children (0-5 years of age) and carers. Lots of fun and time to meet and share with young families.

Morning Worship Service for Chinese Worship; Prayer; Scripture Reading in Chinese with Christian faith, we embark on the road of experiencing God again in the busy and lonely daily life.

Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:00am at the church chapel.

Wild Geese will meet on Friday, 27th March at 7.30pm at Gill's home.

Offerings The need to support the Church and its work in the community continues. EFT, cheque and cash donations can be made in the Offering Pouch on Sunday mornings or as listed below:

<p>*By Direct Deposit (internet transfer) Reference: "Offering" FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH BSB 634 634 Account 100018395</p>	<p>*Cheques made payable to Forestville Uniting Church can be sent to FORESTVILLE UNITING CHURCH PO BOX 264 FORESTVILLE 2087</p>
--	--

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

- Our journey through Lent. Lord, renew our hearts, deepen our compassion and strengthen our commitment to follow You, reflecting Your light, humility and selfless love in all we do.
- Healing across divisions around the world.

- Pray for our congregation's members who are facing physical, mental, and spiritual struggles and those who find it difficult to meet at church for various reasons - Mary Ettl.
- Pray for our church leaders and seek volunteers for our church ministries.
- Pray for our cross-cultural ministry, Freda Tong and Tuesday programs - Bible Study, ESL, Thursday session and 'Different Taste'.
- Pray for our church ministries - Tuesday English classes, Wednesday Playgroup, the Prayer meeting, 3F fellowship, SRE Men's Bible Study.
- Pray for our community - Forestville. May God's grace and the gospel of Jesus Christ be shared with our community

ROSTERS

Date	Flowers	Readers	Int. Prayer	Sunday School	Stewards	Morning Tea
1 Mar	Ruth Seymour	Rosemarie Pursell	Freda	Robyn/Dot	Helen/Nick	Robyn C & Rosemarie
Lent 2 Gn 12:1-4a Ps 121 Rom 4:1-15, 13-17 Jn 3:1-17 or Mt 17:1-9						
8 Mar	Esther Osborne	Stephanie & Dan Chan	Alan Mann	Robyn/Dot	Stephanie & Dan Chan	Ruth & Esther
Lent 3 Ex 17:1-7 Ps 95 Rom 5:1-11 Jn 4:5-42						
15 Mar	Mika	Deirdre Dundas	Sandra Rim	Sophie/Victoria	Alan Mann	Robyn & Dot
Lent 4 1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 23 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41						
22 Mar	Helen Gill	Marianne	Lily	Helen/Nick	Mei Bao	Yuru & Stephanie
Lent 5 Ez 37: 1-14 Ps 130 Rom 86-11 Jn 11:1-45						
29 Mar	Joan Andrews	Marion Hesketh	Pat Thompson	Sophie/Victoria	Robyn Cohen	Helen & Nick
Palm Sunday Is 50:4-9a Ps 118:1-2,19-29 Phil 2:5-11 Mt 21:1-11						
Editorial: Victoria Brownlee thebrownleefamily@bigpond.com and Helen Gill helennickgill@gmail.com						