

not the Christian's home, and so we shouldn't expect it to provide us with home comforts. That is not to say we shouldn't be grateful for the good things we do have here and now. I thank God that I still live in a country with greater freedoms than, say, China. I thank God that I live in a time and a place where I have access to good healthcare, that I have a job I enjoy, and that I have a loving family. I pray that such things will continue for me and also be the same for others.

But I'm also aware that the world is fallen, that the gospel doesn't promise me the life of ease and comfort I currently have, and that my calling (and the calling of all Christians) is to live faithfully in the time and place I've been set. When things in this world go awry, or when I'm faced with changes that bring suffering to me or to my loved ones or to society at large, I must not despair, I must work to the best of my ability to right such wrongs, and I must also remember that the real meaning of my life (and others' lives) is not found in the here and now but in the hereafter. Suffering here and now may at times be terrible, even unbearable, but it's never meaningless. No, it finds its meaning in the life, death, resurrection, ascension, and return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The world in which we live seems set to be entering a new, chaotic, uncharted, and dark era. But we should not despair. We need to prepare ourselves; be informed; know what we believe and why we believe it; worship God in a manner that forms us as true disciples and pilgrims, intellectually and intuitively; and keep before our eyes the unbreakable promises that the Lord has made and confirmed in Jesus Christ.

This is not a time for hopeless despair or naive optimism. Yes, let us lament the ravages of the fall as they play out in the distinctive ways that our generation has chosen. But let that lamentation be the context for sharpening our identity as the people of God and our hunger for the great consummation that awaits at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Collect

Almighty Father you have given your only Son to die for us sinners, and to rise again for our justification – grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in purity of living and truth: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



St Luke's Anglican Church Emerald
Cnr Ruby & Theresa St.
Phone – 4982 1802
Email – emerald@anglicanchurchcq.org.au
Website – stlukesemerald.org.au

Jesus came and stood among them and said 'peace be with you' [John 20:19]

Easter 2

7th April

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Easter 3

14th April

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Living in Realistic Hope

Carl Trueman – TGC, July 2022.

In the strange new world that the church finds herself, we need to respond to this present age by avoiding the temptations of despair and optimism. To fall into the former would be to fail to take seriously the promise that the church will win in the end because the gates of hell shall not prevail against her. To engage in the latter is simply to prepare the stage for deeper despair later. And both will feed inaction, one out of a sense of impotence, the other out of naivete.

There is an alternative. Last year, in a conversation with my friend Rod Dreher, a journalist and Orthodox Christian, I commented on the bleak outlook of much of his writing and alluded to him as pessimistic. He laughingly rejected the adjective. "I am neither pessimistic nor optimistic," he said, "but I am hopeful." And hope, of course, is not optimism. Pollyanna was an optimist, as was Mr. Micawber. Optimism is the belief that everything will be fine if everyone just sits tight and waits.

Christian hope, however, is realistic. It understands that this world is a vale of tears, that things here are not as they should be, and that, in the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, all life death does end. This world is

A guide for our prayers during the week

Monday

Our diocese and the gospel

- Bishop Peter
- Other parishes
- Dean for Cathedral – Rev. Ross Nicholson

Tuesday

Our church and the gospel

- Children and youth
- Families
- Seniors
- Ivy, Larry, Chris

Wednesday

Our community and the gospel

- St Luke's Op Shop
- Blackwater
- Emerald Churches

Thursday

Our nation and the gospel

- Prime minister
- State and local government
- Religious Freedom legislation

Friday

God's world and the gospel

- Islamisation
- War and poverty
- Persecuted Church
- CMS and ABM

Saturday

Ministry and the gospel

- Bible Studies
- Food for Body and Soul
- Wardens and Parish Council

Dates to Remember

9 April	Parish Council meet at 4.30 pm
13 April	Overflow Sale
20 April	Working bee from 8 am
27-28 April	BCA – Mike Uptin
25 May	Lay Preacher training
	Springsure 1-5 pm
26-29 May	Clergy Conference

	7 April	14 April
Service Leader	Dianne	Donna
Welcome	Alan	Alan
Power Point		
Read		
Prayers	Daniel	Dianne
Sunday School		
Morning Tea		
Shop		Donna, Dianne
Mowing	Daniel	

The BCA Prayer

Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land. We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society.

Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known.

Grant that, through the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, through caring service and by support for young people, the message of your redeeming love may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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