

NEWSLETTER

16 - 22 November 2026

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

The Weekly Word

with Rev Dr Rod Benson, Sunday 22 November 2026

This Sunday honours Christ the King, the last Sunday in ordinary time before Advent. So it is appropriate to consider kings temporal and eternal as we prepare our hearts and anticipate the start of the holy season of Advent next weekend.

On Tuesday at Westminster Abbey, King Charles III officially inaugurated the 12th General Synod of the Church of England. In his speech, he highlighted the values of justice, mercy, faith, patience, humility and love, encouraging Synod members to be guided by these virtues in their work. Like it or not, Charles is the King of Australia too, an earthly monarch whose words in this instance offer a fine summary of the moral teaching of King Jesus.

The Gospel text for today is Matthew 25:31-46, where we encounter an utterly more powerful, glorious and majestic King, seated on a throne and surrounded by people from all nations. And this King performs a strange act, in keeping with his authority: observing those around him, he separates the “sheep” from the “goats.” The sheep inherit the reward prepared for them from the beginning of time and gain eternal life (vv. 34, 46); the goats hear the terrifying words, “Depart from me, you who are cursed” (v. 41).

It is a sobering eschatological vision. The fate of the sheep and goats does not derive from their nature or culture but their actions. To make it personal, we *become* sheep or goats through our moral choices and the habits that come to define our destiny. If we want to claim a share in the King’s glorious future life with all its relief, abundance and tranquillity, then we need to model our lives on the example of Jesus, praying that God will graciously cause “one of the least of these” (v. 40) to cross our path. When the moment arrives, we will know what to do and how to respond, serving others as though we were serving Jesus himself. It’s that simple.

May God richly bless you this week.

Rev Rod

Christmas Services

We are looking for people who would like to help organise the special Christmas services for 24 Dec (6.30-7.30pm, possibly preceded by a community barbecue), and 25 Dec (9.00-10.00am). If you have creative ideas, or would like to help on the night, and would like to join the team please talk to Rod.

Would you like to meet with Rod?

Rod is available to meet with people for a pastoral conversation or prayer, either at the church or at a cafe. If it is easier he can come to you. Please phone him to work out a time.

Previous Sermons

If you have missed any of our previous sermons you can listen to them on our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/@nrcc6214 or read them on Rod's blog at https://rodbenson.com/

Dates for your Diary

November	
14	Community Garden
21	Women's Morning Tea
28	Community Garden
29	First Sunday of Advent
December	
1	Church Council Meeting
5	Fair Trade Market
12	Community Garden
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day

Wednesday Morning Prayers - Rod will be leading early morning prayers on Wednesdays at the church from 7am. The session will last about 30 minutes. All are welcome

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Community News and Notices

For more information about Mainly Music please click here



Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

Uniting Church Assembly: https://uniting.church/news/
NSW & ACT Synod: https://nswact.uca.org.au/
Parramatta Nepean Presbytery: https://pnp.uca.org.au/

Reflection of the Week

Elijah turned the tide in his nation though he was only one person with limited resources. The widow made a difference by making her last cake for God's man and not for herself (see 1 Kings 17:13). God puts unique service on the hearts of His people and blesses that obedience as they submit to His sovereign will.

Often, God's strategies make no sense to us because, unlike Him, we have limited vision. When God took Elijah into the heart of enemy territory, God knew that was the last place King Ahab's soldiers would look for him. God also knew that going to Zarephath would save Elijah from starvation though common sense said there was famine. More importantly, God showed Elijah that He cared about the Baal-worshiping widow and her family.

God often has multiple objectives as He operates on many fronts simultaneously. If we follow His lead, we will be blessed and may become instruments of blessing for others.

Has God ever prompted you to do something that made no sense at the time but was His sovereign will? Is God asking you now to move out of your comfort zone with people, your career, or your finances? Is He moving your heart to explore new territory in ministry or in your relationship with Him?

You may not understand why God is leading you in a particular direction, but you can trust the one who sees what you cannot. His plans are never limited by your resources or restricted by your understanding. What looks like a small act of obedience may have consequences far beyond what you can imagine. The widow could not see what God would accomplish through her simple act of faith, but God used her obedience to sustain His prophet and display His faithfulness. When you obey His leading, you are placing your life in the hands of the one who knows the beginning from the end. You can trust Him with the results—both for your spiritual growth and for His Kingdom.

Prayer: God, I often do not understand Your ways, but I will obey Your calling because I know that You can see what I can't. I trust that You will bless me and use me to bless others as I obey You. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance" (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray for our congregation as we discern God's plan for our church.
- Pray for those involved with planning our Advent and Christmas services.
- Pray for the JNC, for wisdom in discernment, unity, patience and guidance, to bring clarity to the process of calling a minister to our church.
- Pray for Rod, for wisdom in his leadership and discernment in his decisions.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for the churches and other organisations and missions of the newly formed Central Presbytery.
- We pray for protection, strength, and comfort to be with those around the world who suffer for their faith.
- Pray for those in mission as they reach out to those who do not yet know you. We pray especially for the missionaries we support - Mike & Jacky Hammond, Richard & Lindsey Parker, and Bill & Sandra Callister.

For Australia

- Pray for those who are struggling with the cost of living.
- Pray for reconciliation between all who call Australia home.
- Pray for wisdom for leaders to make decisions for the good of all Australians.

For the World

- Pray for the people of Nepal following the flash floods.
- Pray for peace for those living in areas of increased conflict. May they know the hope that can only be found in God.
- Pray for Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

***E* - give** (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)
Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Ministry Leaders

Transitional Supply Minister: Rev Dr Rod Benson / 0412421678 / rod@northrocks.org.au

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Jenny Keyte Treasurer: Mike Hammond
Samson Leung Quentin Napier, Sue Vasilevska