

# Service Plan | Sunday 1 August

- This service is designed for use in a small group setting, so will function differently with only 1 or 2 people. Feel free to adapt it to suit.
- It will be helpful if one person leads the gathering, and introduces each section using the suggested words, or take turns! There are some things to say together as well (in bold).
- You can access the songs and sermon by clicking on the links where they are found in the outline.

## ***Introduction***

We have come together as the church of God to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, to encourage one another to hold fast to the hope he has given us, and to spur one another on to love and good deeds.

Psalm 105 says:

*“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell about all his wonderful works!”*

Let’s now sing together:

## ***Optional Song***

Let Your Kingdom Come - [Link](#)

## ***Optional Kid’s Song***

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Jesus Christ is Now Alive - [Link](#)

## ***Optional Kid’s Video*** (approx. 9 minutes)

Suffering (Part 3 - God understands suffering) - [Overview with discussion Q’s](#)

Quiz Worx Video - [Link](#)

Kids’ Activity sheets are here: [Ages 2-4](#) | [Ages 5-8](#) | [Ages 9-12](#)

## ***What’s Happening***

Church News - [Link](#)

Message from the Archbishop - [Link](#)

## **Nicene Creed**

Video - [Link](#)

## ***Bible Readings***

The following, or another prayer may be said before the Bible readings

Open our hearts to receive your word, that we may know you better and be thoroughly equipped for every good work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[1 Kings 21:1-16](#)

Some time passed after these events. Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard; it was in Jezreel next to the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. <sup>2</sup>So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, “Give me your vineyard so I can have it for a vegetable garden, since it is right next to my palace. I will give you a better vineyard in its place, or if you prefer, I will give you its value in silver.”

<sup>3</sup>But Naboth said to Ahab, “As the LORD is my witness, I will never give my ancestors’ inheritance to you.”

<sup>4</sup>So Ahab went to his palace resentful and angry because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had told him. He had said, “I will not give you my ancestors’ inheritance.” He lay down on his bed, turned his face away, and didn’t eat any food.

<sup>5</sup>Then his wife Jezebel came to him and said to him, “Why are you so upset that you refuse to eat?”

<sup>6</sup>“Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite,” he replied. “I told him, ‘Give me your vineyard for silver, or if you wish, I will give you a vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I won’t give you my vineyard!’”

<sup>7</sup>Then his wife Jezebel said to him, “Now, exercise your royal power over Israel. Get up, eat some food, and be happy. For I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.” <sup>8</sup>So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal. She sent the letters to the elders and nobles who lived with Naboth in his city. <sup>9</sup>In the letters, she wrote:

Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people. <sup>10</sup>Then seat two wicked men opposite him and have them testify against him, saying, “You have cursed God and the king!” Then take him out and stone him to death.

<sup>11</sup>The men of his city, the elders and nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them, just as it was written in the letters she had sent them. <sup>12</sup>They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people. <sup>13</sup>The two wicked men came in and sat opposite him. Then the wicked men testified against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth has cursed God and the king!” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. <sup>14</sup>Then they sent word to Jezebel: “Naboth has been stoned to death.”

<sup>15</sup>When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, “Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite who refused to give it to you for silver, since Naboth isn’t alive, but dead.” <sup>16</sup>When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite to take possession of it.

## **[1 Thessalonians 2:1-16](#)**

For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our visit with you was not without result. <sup>2</sup>On the contrary, after we had previously suffered and were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our exhortation didn’t come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive.

<sup>4</sup>Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts. <sup>5</sup>For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives—God is our witness— <sup>6</sup>and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others. <sup>7</sup>Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nurtures her own children. <sup>8</sup>We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. <sup>9</sup>For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers and sisters. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. <sup>10</sup>You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers. <sup>11</sup>As you know, like a father with his own children, <sup>12</sup>we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup>This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe. <sup>14</sup>For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, since you have also suffered the same things from people of your own country, just as they did from the Jews <sup>15</sup>who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and persecuted us. They displease God and are hostile to everyone, <sup>16</sup>by keeping us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. As a result, they are constantly filling up their sins to the limit, and wrath has overtaken them at last.

**Christian Standard Bible (CSB)**

The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

## *Sermon*

Jim Douglass - [1 Thessalonians 2:1-16](#)

## *Devotional/Sermon Reflection*

Wendy Philpott - [1 Thessalonians 2:1-16](#)

## *Optional time for discussion or reflection*

## *Prayer*

**Informal time of prayer or you could use the prayers below:**

Dear God and Lord of heaven, we thank you for calling each one of us into your wondrous light. We thank you for revealing yourself to us through your Son and for the gift of your word to the world. Help us be passionate about seeking you out and be wholehearted in our desire to serve you, not for our glory, but for yours.

Thank you, gracious God, for all you provide for us; leisure, health, nourishment, shelter and relationships. Help us to be ever mindful of your love, care and provision for us and look to you as the Father Creator and lover of our souls.

We pray for the world and the ongoing Coronavirus epidemic. We think particularly of those isolated through lock-down, that they will be conscious of your love and presence. We pray for those in positions of responsibility who make decisions and the front-line medical staff. May you guide and protect them and enable them to focus on you.

We pray for the ongoing building work on the Church site, that work will resume safely and, when complete, many in the community will be drawn to hear the good news of Christ's death and resurrection, and respond positively to that message.

We pray for those financially impacted by the lock-down, that their thoughts will focus on you. May we be aware of, and eager to help those around us who need support, especially in light of increasing restrictions in the Macarthur region, affecting work and relationships.

We bring before you those who are unwell at this time, (especially Stefan Bull, previous Assistant Minister) and those struggling physically and mentally. We pray that you will bring peace where there is division, healing where there is illness, and a strong confidence in you as God, and that heaven waits for those who place their hope in Christ Jesus.

We pray for the ongoing work of our missionary partners in these difficult times. May your message of repentance and forgiveness through Christ be heard, and many respond humbly to your love in faith and trust. Today we pray for the work of FOCUS Military Ministry to the Australian Defence Force in Canberra.

Father God, help us to take your word seriously and not be swayed by the values of the world, to be diligent in praying for those we know and eager for opportunities to spread your good news to others. Enable us to be regular in reading your word and connecting with our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially in these difficult times. Amen.

### *Lord's Prayer*

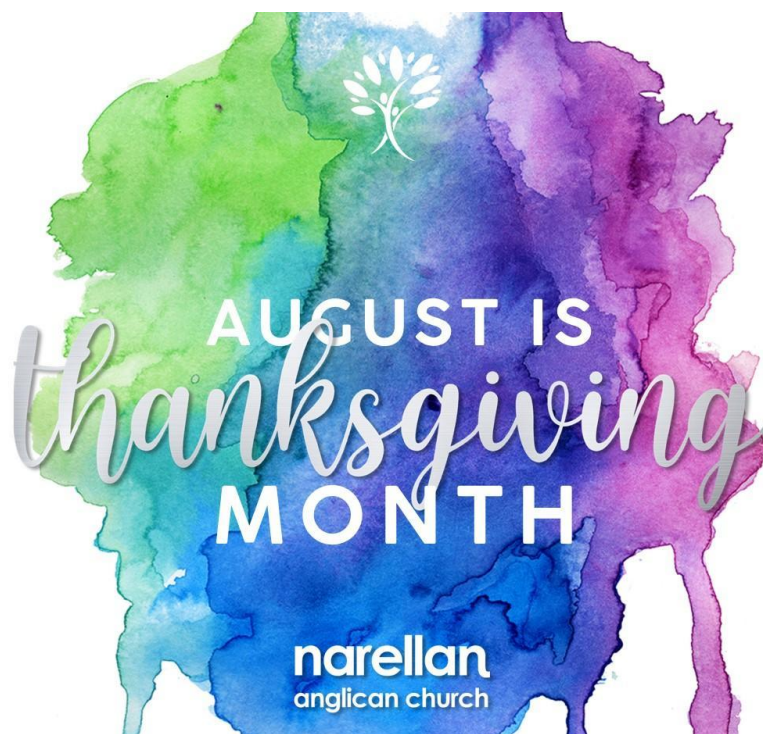
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

### *Optional Song*

**Undivided - [Link](#)**

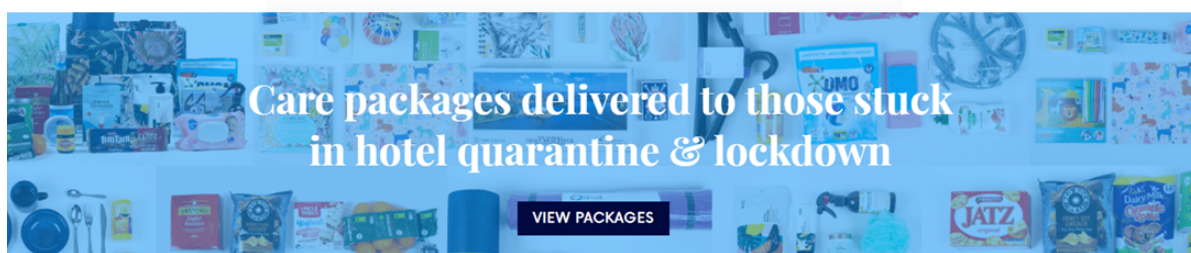
## *Concluding Prayer*

Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.



Don't forget that next Saturday the 7th of August is our Thanksgiving Dinner, which will again be an online event. The first part of the evening will focus on giving thanks: the kids will be on first from 5:45-6pm, but then everyone can [join us online](#) from 6-7pm. We will have updates on high school Scripture, university ministry, and some small but exciting changes to our ministry team for 2022.

Before the night we'd love for you to share what you're thankful for, including an optional picture or video. You can do that [here](#).



Paula and Garry are working together to provide care packages to missionaries who are in hotel quarantine. A package has already been send to Karen Laird and another family in quarantine, with more on the way we'd like to support. If you would like to know more about the packages, you can find details at [quarantinecare.com.au](http://quarantinecare.com.au). If you would like to support this program, you can make a donation to the church using the reference 'quarantine'.



FINDING GOD IN  
**OUR LONELINESS**

**FREE EVENT!**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2021**  
**ONLINE 9.00 - 10.30AM (AEST)**  
WITH LYDIA BROWBACK

Because we're all feeling the lockdown blues, and because the topic of loneliness is such an important one right now, Single Minded has decided to make their upcoming webinar ('*Finding God in Our Loneliness*' with Lydia Browback) **absolutely free**. All the information [is at their website](#).

*Lydia Brownback is the author of numerous books, including [Finding God in My Loneliness](#) (published by Crossway) and a regular contributor to The Gospel Coalition. She'll be helping us consider how God redeems our loneliness and uses it in our lives to draw us closer to himself in Christ Jesus. While there will be some focus on loneliness and singleness, this webinar is designed to be helpful for single and married Christians alike.*

The  
Cross  
You



August edition of Southern  
is now available online.  
can get it [here](#)

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You can let us know [HERE](#)

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and keep up to date on what is happening!

