

Service Plan | Sunday 8 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 on 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 to love and good deeds.

Optional Song

You Alone Can Rescue - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Song

The Wise Man - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Video (approx. 11 minutes)

Suffering (Part 4 - God's ultimate plan is NO suffering) - [Overview with discussion Q's](#)

Quiz Worx Video - [Link](#)

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

Bible Readings

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

Gracious Father, thank you for your Word, the Bible.

As we hear you speak to us today, may we learn about Jesus, grasp his truth, and have grace to follow in his footsteps. **Amen.**

[1 Kings 21:17-29](#)

¹⁷ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ¹⁸ "Get up and go to meet King Ahab of Israel, who is in Samaria. He's in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. ¹⁹ Tell him, 'This is what the LORD says: Have you murdered and also taken possession?' Then tell him, 'This is what the LORD says: In the place where the dogs licked up Naboth's blood, the dogs will also lick up your blood!'"

²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, "So, my enemy, you've found me, have you?"

He replied, "I have found you because you devoted yourself to do what is evil in the LORD's sight. ²¹ This is what the LORD says: 'I am about to bring disaster on you and will eradicate your descendants:

I will wipe out all of Ahab's males,
both slave and free, in Israel;

²² I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have angered me and caused Israel to sin.' ²³ The LORD also speaks of Jezebel: 'The dogs will eat Jezebel in the plot of land at Jezreel:

²⁴ Anyone who belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and anyone who dies in the field, the birds will eat.'"

²⁵ Still, there was no one like Ahab, who devoted himself to do what was evil in the LORD's sight, because his wife Jezebel incited him. ²⁶ He committed the most detestable acts by following idols as the Amorites had, whom the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites.

²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put sackcloth over his body, and fasted. He lay down in sackcloth and walked around subdued. ²⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹ "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? I will not bring the disaster during his lifetime, because he has humbled himself before me. I will bring the disaster on his house during his son's lifetime."

[1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13](#)

¹⁷ But as for us, brothers and sisters, after we were forced to leave you for a short time (in person, not in heart), we greatly desired and made every effort to return and see you face to face. ¹⁸ So we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹ For who is our hope or joy or crown of boasting in the presence of our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed you are our glory and joy!

³ Therefore, when we could no longer stand it, we thought it was better to be left alone in Athens. ² And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith, ³ so that no one will be shaken by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. ⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we told you in advance that we were going to experience affliction, and as you know, it happened. ⁵ For this reason, when I could no longer stand it, I also sent him to find out about your faith, fearing that the tempter had tempted you and that our labor might be for nothing.

⁶ But now Timothy has come to us from you and brought us good news about your faith and love. He reported that you always have good memories of us and that you long to see us, as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and affliction, we were encouraged about you through your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you stand firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God for you in return for all the joy we experience before our God because of you, ¹⁰ as we pray very earnestly night and day to see you face to face and to complete what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you.

¹² And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone, just as we do for you. ¹³ May he make your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen.

Creed

In these words from Philippians 2:6-11, let's acknowledge together what God has done for us, through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jesus Christ, in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.**

Sermon

Dan Budd - [1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13](#)

Optional time for discussion or reflection

Prayer

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

Dear Dear Heavenly Father,

We revere you as our Sovereign Lord. You alone have created all that there is, and your creation was very good. Through Satan, the deceiver, we have spoilt the world because we don't honour you as Sovereign over creation and sovereign over our lives. We bless you because despite our disobedience, you have reached out to love us, by sending Jesus to take the punishment that was justly ours. We thank you that now, we who accept that Christ died for us, can live in a good relationship with you.

In your Word, you entreat us to not only have faith in you, but act in ways that show we live for you. Help us be bold in our faithful service of you, so that our actions reflect our deep love of you with all our heart, and mind, and soul and strength.

We thank you for your continued provision of all that we need, especially in these difficult times. You give us strength to work and time to rest. We have food to eat and a roof over our heads. We have family to love and friends to enjoy. Of all you give us you ask for an offering in return, that we may have opportunity to revere you, to rejoice in being in your presence and so you may bless the work of our hands. We thank you that we can bring our offertories to you as an indication of our love for you and our reliance on you to provide for us in the future. Help us to be generous to the work of this church so that the amount needed each week will be forthcoming. We thank you for the progress with the church building and ask that you would continue to oversee the provision of a resource that can be an effective asset for bringing people to know you.

We pray for the work of the gospel in peoples' lives:

- In the lives of our church children
- In the lives of the school children who are part of our scripture classes
- In the lives of our young people in youth groups
- In the lives of our congregation members in growth groups
- In the lives of those who oversee us pastorally

Give the leaders of these groups wisdom, compassion, understanding and patience as they minister to their groups. Let your word be central to all they teach, and your Spirit active in the hearts of all concerned. Be similarly active in the lives of those involved in overseas mission, particularly the French family in Spain as they battle doing missionary work in a COVID landscape. We thank you for Karen Laird's safe return from Ireland and pray for your guidance for as she settles back into life in Australia.

We pray for our country as our governments struggle with managing COVID outbreaks. Help our health authorities and political leaders make wise decisions to stem the spread of the virus. Help them communicate clearly so all parts of our community can understand the risks and how to manage them. We especially pray for those who are suffering with loss of employment in lockdown. Help our broader community to meet their physical and emotional needs at this time. Grant us all patience and may your saving grace be known in the midst of adversity.

Help us rejoice in you. May our gentleness be evident to all. You are near, help us not to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving let us present our requests to you. And may your peace, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Notices

[Jim Douglass](#)

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

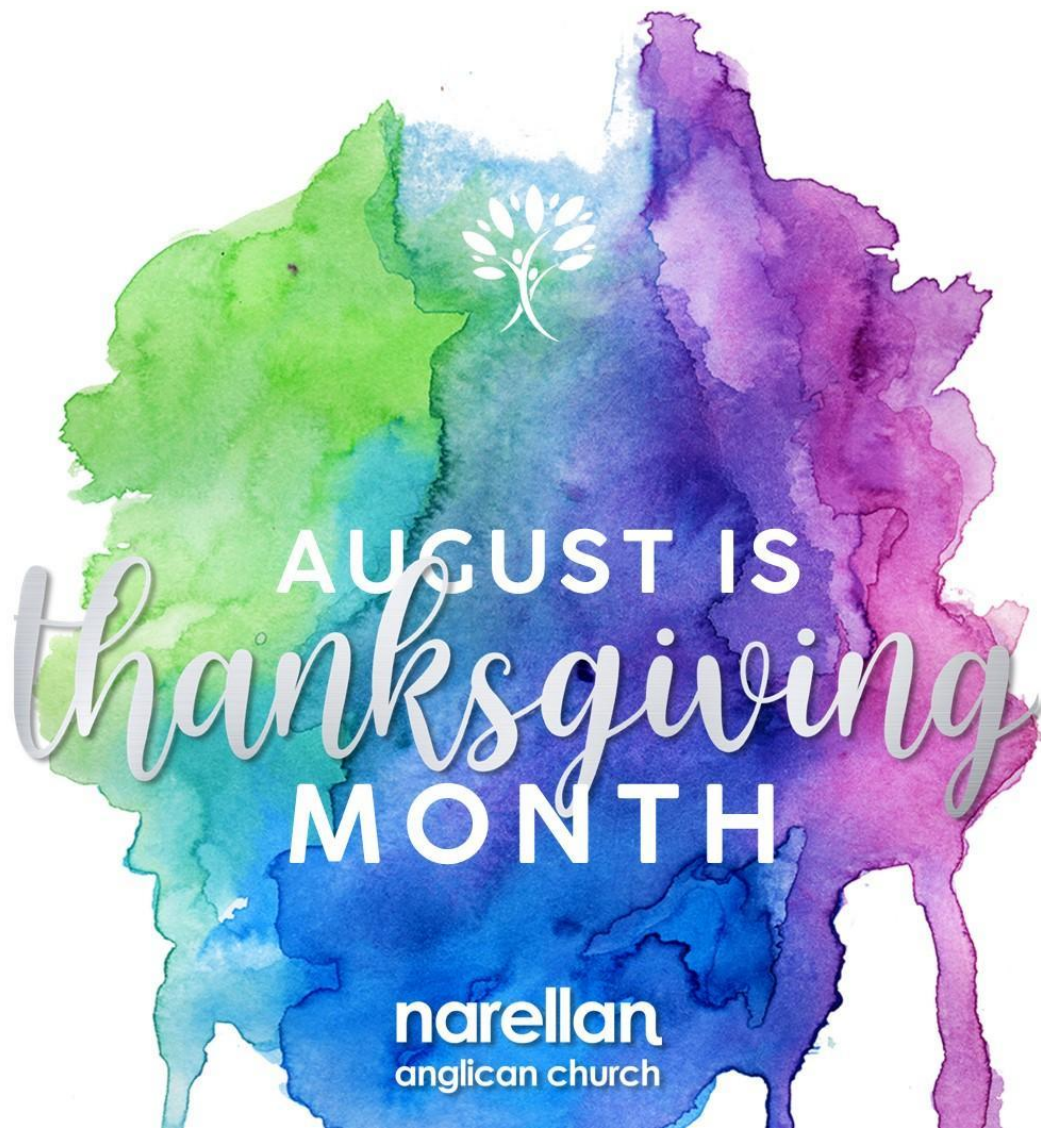
We Are One - [Link](#)

Concluding Prayer

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

July Offertory Update

July Budget: \$28,097 | Actual Giving: \$25,827



Comments? Questions? Feedback?

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and keep up to date on what is happening!

