



Helping people take the next step toward Jesus

# Welcome

Babylon has fallen



Revelation 18

GATHERED WORSHIP BOOKLET

SUNDAY JANUARY 29th 2023

[wpcrc.org.au](http://wpcrc.org.au)

## **We're so glad you are with us today!**

Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in His living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

During our service, most weeks, we share in a discussion time after the Sermon. This is one way we can allow the message to penetrate our hearts and encourage one another with what we have heard. Please feel free to just listen to the discussion in your group should you feel uncomfortable to share.

We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

We have a cry room off to the side of the church for parents with infants and a designated colouring-in space for young children at the rear of the auditorium. During School term we also run a Sunday School for primary school aged children.

We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this booklet, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you.

Please stay after the service and join us for coffee and fellowship.

## **Prayer**

We have several places in our worship service where we pray. If you have a prayer request, please fill in your request with your details (if you would like us to contact you) on the last page of this booklet, and place it in the offering bag. Our prayer team will pray for your request.

## **Order of service**

**Call to Worship - Welcome**

**Song - Salvation belongs to our God**

**Song– My life is in you**

**Children's Talk - Sarah Pretorius**

**Offerings–Peter Williams**

**Reflection song during Offering– “The perfect wisdom of our God”**

**Prayer over Offering- Peter Williams**

**Announcements– Peter Williams**

**Congregational Prayer– Peter Williams**

**Song - Oh father my father**

**Song - Be thou my vision**

**Scripture Reading– Adri Pretorius**

**Scripture: Revelation 18 (CSB)**

**Sermon - Babylon has fallen**

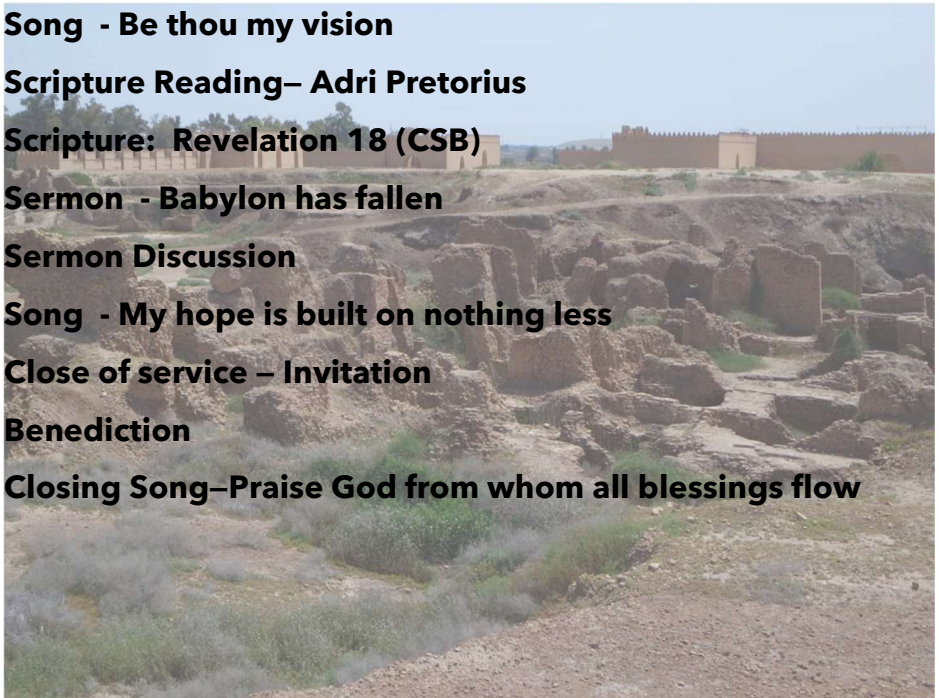
**Sermon Discussion**

**Song - My hope is built on nothing less**

**Close of service – Invitation**

**Benediction**

**Closing Song–Praise God from whom all blessings flow**



**Today Pastor Chris Pretorius will be preaching.**

**Duty Elder : Peter Williams**

**Sermon Title : Babylon has fallen**

**Reading : Revelation 18 (CSB)**

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1) What was most impactful from today's message?
- 2) What does the fall of Babylon in Revelation 18 symbolize
- 3) How does the message of Revelation 18 apply to our present-
- 4) Who in your life would most benefit from hearing this message?
- 5) How does the imagery of Babylon in Revelation 18 connect to the historical Babylon and its significance in the Bible?
- 6) How does the mourning of the merchants and shipmasters in Revelation 18 reflect the impact of Babylon's fall on the economic system?
- 7) What can we learn from the warnings against being complicit in the sins of Babylon in Revelation 18?
- 8) In what ways does the triumph of God over Babylon in Revelation 18 offer hope for those suffering under oppressive systems?
- 9) How can we practically apply the message of Revelation 18 to our own lives and communities today?

**Sermon Notes**



## **Welcome**

We welcome Lauren Devenish as she undertakes a ministry internship as the Youth Worker at Wonga Park CRC. Her internship has two purposes:

- To support our Church and parents in the discipleship of our youth (primarily by running the Super Dash youth program)
- Her own spiritual growth, particularly with regards to working in Ministry

Lauren works on Thursdays and Friday nights. During the rest of the week she studies at Melbourne School of Theology and does some teaching and tutoring of school students.

She is passionate about seeing young people grow in their relationship with Jesus!

Get in touch with Lauren via her email [youth@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:youth@wpcrc.org.au)

**Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer, God heeds prayer, God answers prayer, and God delivers by prayer.**  
**Edward McKendree Bounds**

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That as we go into this year we will do so with boldness  
praising the name of God our Father for he leads us into his paths  
of righteousness.

*I will thank Yahweh with all my heart; I will declare all Your  
wonderful works. I will rejoice and boast about You; I will sing  
about Your name, Most High. (Psalm 9:1-2 HCSB)*

Let us praise our Lord and God for walking with us through this life  
and carrying us when things get tough.

Give thanks to our heavenly Father that Maria has come through  
her back operation well and that she is now in rehab, pray that she  
will soon be well enough to go home.

Please continue to pray for Martie and Johann Schachtner, pray  
that Martie will be healed from her cancer and that Johann and the  
family will receive the strength that they need.

Please continue to pray for Heather Linde as she goes through her  
treatment for breast cancer, pray that the Lord will uphold her and  
heal her.

Please continue to pray for Ina du Plessis that she will be healed  
from her illness and pray for Thinus will have the strength to  
support his wife.

Please pray for Lauren Devenish, Peter Williams and Annemarie  
Van Zyl as they take up their God given tasks in our church  
community. Pray that they will be given the wisdom, strength and  
courage they need as they seek to give honour to their heavenly  
Father.

Pray for our nation especially as the controversy continues to rage  
over the date of Australia Day, pray that people will come to realise  
that this will never be resolved until we are all prepared to forgive  
the past and work together for the future.

Please pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters. Persecution of Christians is on the rise in at least 18 countries, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, due to growing jihadism and nationalism, according to a report released by a Catholic group that examined human rights violations against Christians in 24 countries. An analysis of the persecution of Christians in 2020-2022, compared with 2017-2019, shows that the situation for Christians has become worse, or "slightly worse," in at least 18 countries, said the report released by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). These countries include Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Mali, Sudan, Nigeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Russia, North Korea, China, Vietnam, India and Qatar, according to the report. Around the world, more than 360 million Christians live in places where they experience high levels of persecution just for following Jesus, that's one in seven believers worldwide. The ACN said its report was presented to the U.K. Parliament with a keynote address by Nigeria's Bishop Jude Arogundade, whose Diocese was targeted by gunmen who killed more than 40 people at a packed Sunday service on Pentecost Sunday last year. Bishop Arogundade said, "no one seems to pay attention to the genocide" taking place in swathes of Nigeria's Middle Belt. "The world is silent as attacks on churches and their people have become routine. How many corpses are required to get the world's attention?" he was quoted as saying. African countries saw a sharp rise in terrorist violence from non-state militants, with more than 7,600 Nigerian Christians reportedly murdered between January 2021 and June of last year, the report said, adding that in May, a video was released showing 20 Nigerian Christians being executed by Islamist terror group Boko Haram and Islamic State's West Africa Province.



In Asia, "state-authoritarianism" was behind the worsening oppression in North Korea, where religious beliefs and practices are routinely and systematically repressed, it said. The report also noted that religious nationalism has triggered increasing violence against Christians in the region, with Hindu nationalist and Sinhalese Buddhist nationalist groups active in India and Sri Lanka, respectively. The report noted that India witnessed 710 incidents of anti-Christian violence between January 2021 and the start of June, "driven in part by political extremism." It cited an example of a mass rally in Chhattisgarh state last October, where members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party applauded as right-wing Hindu religious leader Swami Parmatmanand called for Christians to be killed. In the Middle East, the report said, a migration crisis threatened the survival of some of the world's oldest Christian communities. In Syria, the Christian population declined from 10% to less than 2%, falling from 1.5 million just before the war began to around 300,000 today, ACN said, adding that while the rate of exodus is slower in Iraq, a community that numbered around 300,000 before the 2014 invasion by ISIS had halved to 150,000 by the spring of last year. At this month's G20 event centred on religions' role in helping solve global problems, the Most Rev. Bashar Warda, the Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil, warned that Christianity in Iraq was "on the very edge of extinction." During his remarks the archbishop stressed that "sectarian violence" was a significant problem in Iraq. The country suffered the rise of an Islamic State stronghold during the last decade in which thousands of Iraqi religious minorities were killed or forced to flee their homelands. "Without an end to this sectarian violence, there is no future for religious pluralism in Iraq, or anywhere else in the Middle East he said.

Warda added, "As I share with you this experience, I pray that you will find in our story a clear warning to you all." He noted that after around 1,900 years of existing in the region, "we Christians of Iraq now find ourselves on the very edge of extinction." There is "a fundamental crisis of violence within Islam" that "can no longer be ignored," he said, adding that it "continues to affect the entire Middle East, Africa, Asia and beyond." The report includes information from ACN and other local sources, provides firsthand testimony, compilations of incidents, case studies and country analysis on the extent to which Christians are targeted around the world. Open Doors USA's 2022 World Watch List, which looked at incidents reported between Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021, found at least 5,898 Christians were killed (24% increase), 5,110 churches were attacked or closed, 6,175 Christians were arrested without trial, and 3,829 Christians were kidnapped.

**Source:** *Christian Post*

First Prayer Meeting for this year

Tuesday 31st January–7.30 pm at Church

All Welcome





Preparations are well under way for our next Selah

Prayer and Worship Service.

All Welcome so please join us on

Sunday 12th February

At 7pm.

### **Contact**

If you would like further information about anything you have heard today please contact

Pastor Chris Pretorius 0423 889 913 or our

Youth Worker (Intern) - Lauren Devenish 9722 1044 or our

Church Administrator–Michelle 0488 777 517

Or we have a full list of Contacts on the Bulletin Board in our Church Foyer.

## **Giving– Our giving is an act of Worship**

In our church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation.

The second offering goes toward various Christian causes.

This week our second offering will go towards the Gems/ Cadets Ministry.

If you would like to support this work you can do so by in Church giving—Simply add your offering to the bag or bank transfer

BSB 063 167 ACC 1015 8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering “Sun 1” or second offering “Sun 2” in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app:

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

## **SECOND OFFERING**

Cadets and GEMS are Christian organisations, run by volunteers, with a programme that is created especially for boys and girls respectively from ages 9 to 14 or 15. At both, we teach youth about God, complete badge work, create crafts, play games, sing songs, make new friends and go on camps and outings. The vision of is to see children actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others by equipping and encouraging them to live out their faith.



29th January–Maria Knol

30th January–Pastor Chris Pretorius

30th January– Maria Smedes

30th January–Lucretia Aitken

### **What's happening this week at WPCRC**

#### Sunday 29th January

Worship Service 10 am (in person and online)

#### Tuesday 31st January

Prayer meeting at Church–7.30pm All Welcome

#### Sunday 5th February

Worship Service 10am (in person & online)

Timothy Gray Ordination–3pm at Geelong CRCA

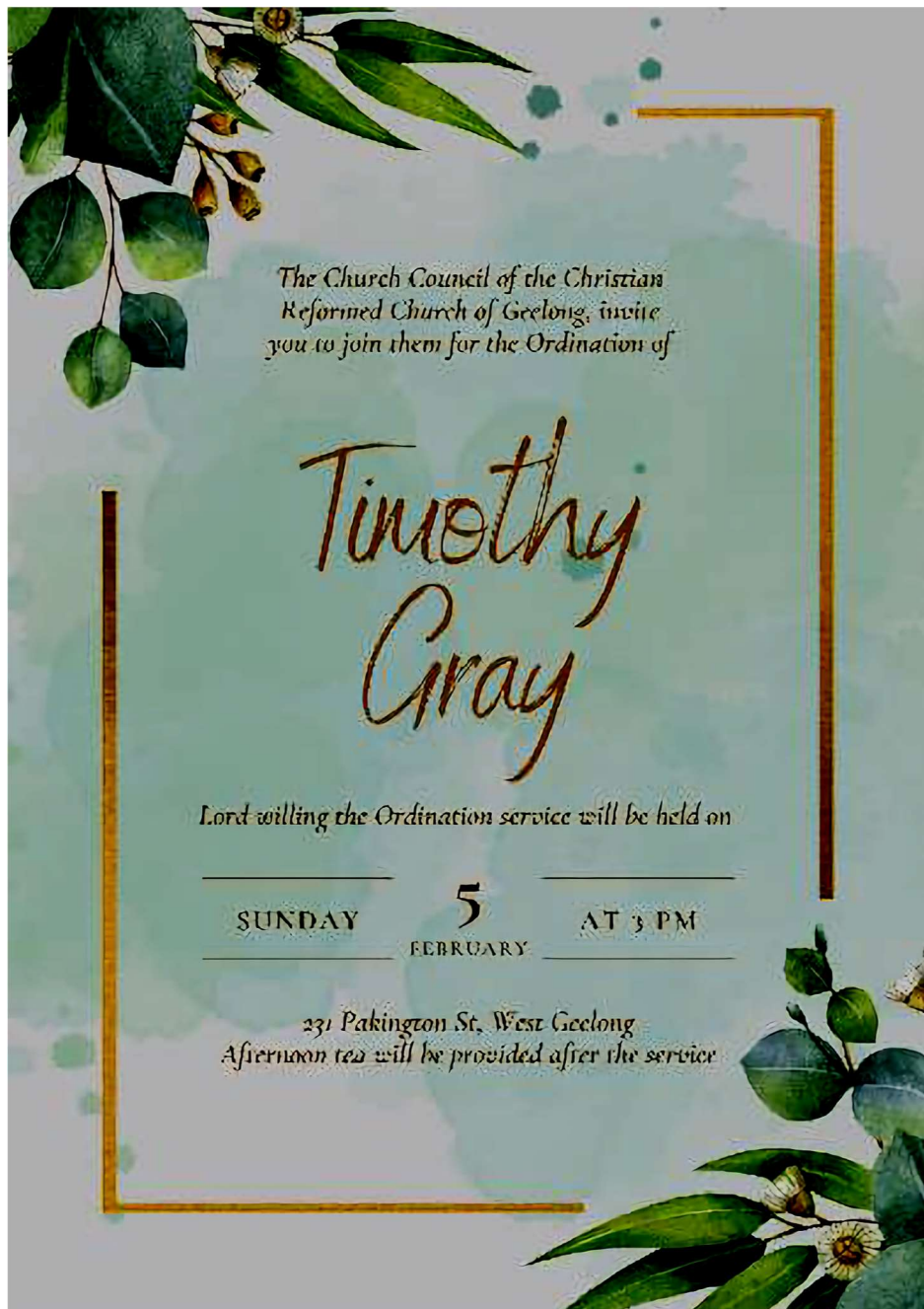


### **Coffee Roster**

Today : Volunteers required

Sunday 5th February : Herman Linde & Jack O

## Open Invitation



Last Sunday we were privileged to witness the Baptism of little Joshua Bergh and welcome him into our Church family. Thank you To Riaan and Lariza (and all their helpers) for inviting us all to join in the Celebrations.





## **Deacons**

Our Deacons help to serve our church and the wider community both practically and financially. Financial gifts for the Deacons are always appreciated and will go towards supporting people in and outside of our congregation.

The Deacons account details are as follows

BSB: 063-167 Acc. 1015 8372

Joy van Veen	Dale Reed
0409 199 840	0412 216 300

Sandra Stork	Annemarie Van Zyl
0418 592 206	0410 276 022

### **WISDOM FROM THE WEB!**

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from C to a B, study your Bible a little each day, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car." The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible every day, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that and noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair." (You're going to love the Dad's reply) "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went.....?"





## ***Prison Fellowship Australia*** **WE GET THROUGH.**

It is the 23rd of December and I know that you have been busy coordinating, shopping, wrapping and getting your Angel Tree gifts to the kids whose mum or dad can't be with them this Christmas. We appreciate your patience this year as we started out a little bumpy and with some confusion. It is only when you get to the end of the list and you sit back and see just how impacting your Angel Tree gift is.

***With each gift, phone call, email and contact, we believe that all our prayers and God's love is in each one of those. Every contact is a connection.....every seed sown is for God's kingdom.***

Prison Fellowship thanks you for your partnership with us in the Angel Tree ministry and in the ministry of the Gospel to people in Victoria who are struggling in many ways.

***Angel Tree Team Victoria***

## **Growth Groups**

We believe that Growth Groups are the lifeblood of a disciple growing church community. We have several growth groups that meet during various times throughout the week. Each Growth Group is similar in that we meet together to pray for non believers and for each other, we study scripture and we support one another. We would love each of our members to be a part of a growth group. If you would like to join please contact our administrator by emailing [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au)

### **Monday night** (online)

Contact :Herman Linde  
0411 069 808

### **Monday night** (online)

Contact :Leon & Anjali de Beer  
0474 335 446  
0460 671 271

### **Wednesday night**

Young Adults  
Contact: Kasha Schubert  
0450 012 177

### **Wednesday night** (online)

Contact: Chris Pretorius  
0423 889 913

### **Wednesday night**

Contact: Adri Bennie  
0425 727 949

### **Thursday mornings**

Contact: Wendy Harrison  
0407 801 630

### **Friday night Parent Group**

Contact : Neil Bester  
0425 569 149

Contact: Martin van der Merwe  
0458 908 148

Last Sunday we were privileged to witness the Commissioning of our new Youth Worker– Intern

Lauren Devenish.

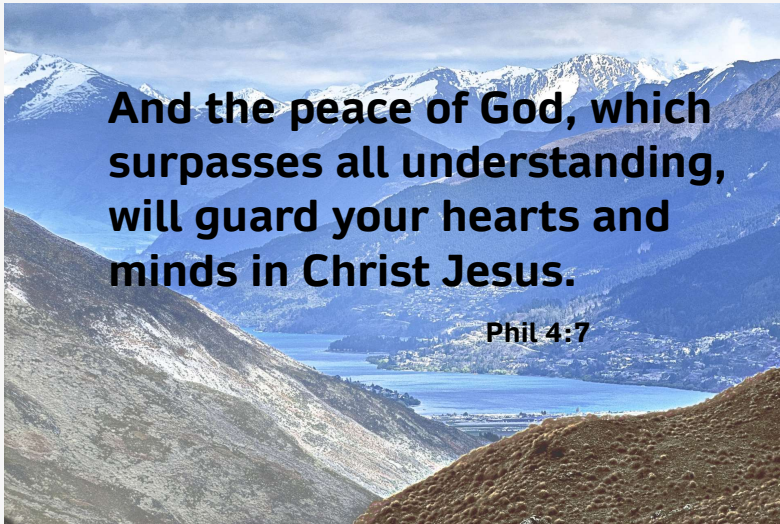
We thank Our Lord for her willingness to work with our Youth this year and know that she will be a blessing to us at Wonga Park.



We were also privileged to welcome Annemarie van Zyl as a Deacon and hope that she will enjoy her new role. We also are thankful that Peter Williams agreed to and has been installed as an Elder again for another 3 year term.



Thank you for joining us today



### **Connect with us**

Your name :

Contact number :

Contact email :

Prayer Requests :