



WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



13 September 2026

This Week's Service:

Preacher:

Chris Pretorius

Elder on duty:

Martin van der
Merwe

Prayer Leader:

Martin van der
Merwe

Bible text:

Acts 2:1-13

Sermon Topic:

The Power and
Purpose of the Holy
Spirit

Bible Reader:

Lorensz

Children's Talk:

Joseph

Coffee:

Neil & Nicky Bester

Giving

Today's Second Offering:

Missionaries 1:
Brendan Meyerink

August Budgeted

giving:

\$17,610

Actual Giving:

\$18,895

THANK YOU!

Today we are in Acts 2, which is traditionally called Pentecost. The word Pentecost exists because this event happened fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. So the disciples were still waiting. Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem. So they stayed, praying together, and I think it is likely that they felt a bit unsure as to exactly what they were waiting for.

But then suddenly the Spirit of God came and a sound like a rushing wind filled the house. Tongues of fire rested on each believer. Ordinary Galileans began speaking in languages they had never learned. Jerusalem was full of pilgrims from every nation, and the crowd gathered, amazed, confused, some sneering that the disciples were drunk.

Peter stood up and preached. He took them straight to the prophet Joel. God had promised to pour out his Spirit on all people, and here it was, happening in front of them. Peter preached Christ crucified, Christ risen, Christ exalted to the right hand of the Father. He preached repentance and forgiveness. Three thousand people were baptised that day. Imagine if that happened today!

Now we can think of this event as the day that the church was born. Before this there were only disciples and a handful of followers, but here the Spirit of God was poured out on many ordinary people and He turned weak and frightened people like Simon Peter into preachers and evangelists.

This same Holy Spirit still lives and empowers every believer today. It is this same Spirit that gives us the words we need when we feel like we don't know what to say, and it is the same Spirit that still changes us from weak and frightened people into people who preach the Gospel and share the good news of Jesus.

God is still doing the same work He started back in Pentecost through us today. I guess the question is, are we ready to be sent?

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR



Dates for upcoming services:

13 September:

4:00pm - Worship Service

27 September:

4:00pm - Worship Service

BOTH CHURCHES

17 September : Prayer meeting 7:30pm

20 September: The Lord's Supper

3 October: Working Bee

10 October: Christian Reformed Churches
Ladies day @ Wonga Park

VISITING OR NEW TO WONGA PARK OR MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH?

Jenna, our community engagement worker, would love to meet you and answer any questions you have about our Wonga Park church community.

Feel free to contact her on
0403650398.



CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES
LADIES DAY

OCTOBER 10TH 2026 10AM-3PM

WPCRC

251 YARRA RD, WONGA PARK VIC
3115

**“GARDENS IN BABYLON:
FAITH WHEN GOD SAYS WAIT”**

With Our Guest Speaker, Lauren Palmer

PRAYER POINTS

Personal prayer points

Help us, O Lord, to bring you glory in the prayers of praise, thanksgiving and petition we bring before you.

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

For help to walk closely with God and devote ourselves to all that is good in his sight. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. (Acts 2:42 CSB)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for opening our eyes to all that he has done for us through our Lord Jesus and accepting us into his kingdom.

Congregational prayer points

Please pray for Michael van Veen who spent some time in hospital over the last week or so, give thanks that he is home again and pray that he will recover quickly.

Please continue to pray for Steve and Maralin Miller, especially Maralin as she is going through a particularly difficult period.

Please continue to pray for our church council, pray that the Lord will grant them all the resources they need and that they will be granted wisdom in all their decision making.

International prayer points

Please continue to pray for our nation, pray that our governments will lead us with integrity and honesty both here and on the international stage.

Please continue to pray for all those affected by natural disasters and man made conflicts, pray that in their darkest times God's light will shine through.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Iran.

The United States is targeting Iran's economy and countries that do business with the regime. Inside Iran, the economic crisis is reaching a critical point, and ordinary citizens are paying the price. The country's currency, the rial, has plunged to a record low, while inflation is running at 87%. There are reports that it's even harder for the church, which is being targeted on other levels by the regime.

John Cerniglia, president of SAT-7 USA, tells us that Christians in Iran are facing intense persecution and significant economic hardship due to the ongoing conflict. Despite these severe challenges, he says the Church is showing remarkable resilience and even experiencing spiritual growth. Cerniglia notes that Christians are showing great strength during the ordeal. "The church is responding with great spiritual maturity. People are worshiping together.

They're praying for each other. They're helping their neighbours even as they're starving themselves, lacking food for their family."

He mentions that while this level of hardship is difficult for Americans to comprehend, Iranian believers are prepared for it because "Jesus reminds us to expect this as we choose to follow him." He reports there's even an increased interest in the Gospel as people face the fear of death during the war. "In times of conflict, in times of war, in times of poverty, people are drawn to the Lord,"

Cerniglia tells CBN News. SAT-7 continues to provide daily satellite broadcasts into Iran, reaching an estimated 500,000 people, as well as hosting private Zoom meetings for fellowship, worship, and Bible study.

Source: CBNNews

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Thursday the 17th of September at 7.30pm.

SERMON NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



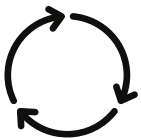
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



Personal
application
for your life



Theme of
passage



How does it
fit with other
passages in
the Bible



Who will you
tell about
what you have
learnt?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Acts 2:1-13

- Read verses 1-4 together. What is the setting? Who is present, and what had they been told to do before this day arrived?
- Verse 1 says they were all together in one place. Why does that detail matter? What might have kept them apart, and what kept them together?
- What does obedience look like when you have been given a task but not yet the means to do it? Where are you waiting on God at the moment?
- Read Genesis 2:7 and Ezekiel 37:9-10. What does God's breath do in each passage? How does that shape the way you read the wind in verse 2?
- Fire marks God's presence all through Scripture. Read Exodus 3:1-5, Deuteronomy 4:24 and Leviticus 10:1-2. What did fire signal about approaching God? What has changed in Acts 2 so that fire can rest on people without destroying them?
- Read Genesis 11:1-9, then verses 5-11 again. What connections do you see between the two passages? What does that suggest about God's purposes for the nations?
- Verse 11 says the crowd heard the magnificent acts of God declared in their own languages. What is the Spirit given for, according to this passage? How does that compare with what people commonly assume the Spirit is for?
- Verses 12 and 13 record two responses to the same event. Why might the same words produce wonder in one person and mockery in another? Have you seen both responses in your own conversations?
- Read on to Acts 2:37-41. Three thousand people repent after one sermon from a man who had recently denied Jesus. Where does the power in that moment actually sit?
- The Spirit who filled the disciples fills believers today. What difference would it make to your week if you truly believed your words about Jesus carry that power? Name one person and one opportunity.

HELPING HANDS

	13 September	20 September	27 September
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Martin	Kasha	Peter W
Prayer Leader	Martin	Herman L	Peter W
Music Leader	Inge	Brendina	Nelleke
Children's Talk	Joseph	Inge	Nicky
Bible Reader	Lorensz	Roger	Nelleke
Welcoming	Joy	Ina	Anne
Sound	Justin	Nina	Nicolas
Visuals	Isaac	Salme	Isaac
Broadcasting	Michael	Christo	James
Coffee	Niel & Nicky Bester	Mahdi, Justin, Kasha	Roger & Janette Fernando