

**WELCOME TO  
PENSURST  
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**October 11, 2020**

# **Nehemiah; “Out of the Ashes!”**



**Today:  
“A New City; A New Nation”**



## On-line Preaching Program

### Current Sermon Series: **Nehemiah; “Out of the Ashes!”**

What's the future hold for us? Can we rebuild our world out of the ashes of the Covid-19 pandemic? Can grief be a springboard to greater faith? These are some of the questions we will explore in this 12-week series of sermons.

Oct 11	<b>“A New City; A New Nation”</b>	Nehemiah 11:1-2, 21-36
Oct 18	<b>“Dedication”</b>	Nehemiah 12
Oct. 25	<b>“All in Vain?”</b>	Nehemiah 13

**Please note:** A shorter version of these sermons will be preached **one week later** in our ‘live’ church services.

## New Sunday Services

**Two new church services are now being run on Sunday mornings:**

- ♦ From **9:00am - 10:00am** an *English-only* service will be held which will include 2 hymns, a Bible reading, a short sermon and Holy Communion.
- ♦ From **11:00am - 12:00am**, we will have an entirely *bi-lingual* service with 2 songs, a Bible reading, a short sermon, and prayers. Holy Communion will be served just once a month. For families, there will be a simple *Children’s Program* offered in the hall during the sermon and prayer time.

**Booking your seat:** Due to 4m2 rule of social distancing, our church can only hold **50 people**. Therefore, **everyone** (including children), must **‘book’** their seat in advance for the service you choose. (This is the only way to control the numbers at our services and assure that we have all the necessary contact tracing details.) Online reservations will open each Monday at 9am and close 1 1/2 hours before that service begins.

**(Please arrive 15 mins before the service session to allow enough time for these check-in procedures.)**

## Live-Stream of 11am Bi-lingual Service

Over the past two weeks, Doris has been successfully experimenting with putting a ‘live-stream’ service of the 11am Bi-lingual service up on YouTube. If you are interested in watching the service live, please go to our website ([www.penshurstanglican.org](http://www.penshurstanglican.org)) for the YouTube link. A recording of this service will also be available through our website.

Due to time constraints, the sermon will be shortened. For those who want the longer version of the sermon, you can still find it on our website as an audio (MP3) file.

## Welcome back to Sunday School!

We will be starting Sunday School again on **Sunday 18 October**, using Godly Play. Godly Play introduces children to Jesus through stories, wondering and experiencing.

Next Sunday after church I will tell the story, *The Mystery of Christmas*, to show you how we can do Godly Play within the Covid-safe guidelines. All Sunday School teachers are welcome, as a refresher. All parents and church members are welcome, especially if you've never seen Godly Play and have wondered about it. You will be able to register for this session on the church website, when you register to come to church.

Merilyn (on behalf of the Sunday School team)

## What is the Holiness of God?

**The holiness of God** is a term used in the Bible to describe the completely pure and utterly all-powerful goodness of God, radiating out from Him like an energy. In fact, God's holiness is so overwhelming, that it can actually be dangerous to approach. Take, for example, the story of Moses and the burning bush. As Moses approaches the burning bush (which as we know is the presence of God), God tells Moses to take off his shoes because he is on *holy ground* and warns him not to come any closer.

Later on in the Bible, we see incredible stories of God's holiness expanding out from the tabernacle and, then, from the temple, purifying people and things that were otherwise impure. Ezekiel even has a vision where the holiness of God pours out from the temple like a river, revitalizing and purifying all the land with which it comes into contact.

**All these examples of the expanding holiness of God, purifying impure people and things, lead us to Christ.** Christ, who is God's holiness in human flesh, goes out into the land, healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out demons. Jesus is the embodiment of God's holiness purifying every impurity with which He comes into contact.

The point is that God's holiness is a powerful force that must be welcomed into our lives, for it is a gift from God, personalised in the presence of God's Holy Spirit, sent to heal a broken and impure world. Best of all, as followers of Christ, **God's holiness now resides in us as well**, purifying us and making it our mission to go out and spread the holiness of God to all the world.

## Please pray!

### Pray for our new Rector

The **Rev. Phill Read** has been appointed to be our new rector. He and his wife, Colette, along with their two daughters, will start their ministry with us on December 20, 2020.

Please pray for Phill and Colette as they come to Penshurst during this very unusual time of Covid-19 and begin their ministry amongst us. Pray also as they leave their current church and settle into a new community.

Bart and Phill will be meeting several times before Phill's actual start date to ensure a smooth hand-over of ministry.

### Pray for the Mandarin-speaking Congregation

Now that a new rector has been appointed, it will be up to him to appoint his assistant. In our bi-lingual and multi-ethnic church, this is a very important appointment! Please pray for Phill as he begins to consider candidates for the position. Pray that he may be wise in his choice and make it in full consultation with the Mandarin-speaking cell leaders.

### Pray for our Missionaries

**David Lakos**, senior chaplain at St. George Public Hospital in Kogarah.  
**Elizabeth McDougall**, Special Religious Education (SRE) teacher at Penshurst Girls High

**Andrew and Julie** (with their three children) in Indonesia.

**Michael Duckett** at Macarthur Indigenous Church in Campbelltown.

**J\_\_\_\_\_ and M\_\_\_\_\_** (and their children) preparing to serve with SIM in Asia.

## PAC Online Banking

Since our church services have been cancelled until further notice, please give your offering by direct debit using the banking details below:

**Westpac Bank, Mortdale**  
**St Johns General Fund**  
**Account BSB: 032167**  
Account No: 870821