

Websites with Lectionary Listing and Links

The Revised Common Lectionary: A Vanderbilt Divinity Library Online Resource <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu> (includes links to relevant Christian art)

The Text This Week: Lectionary, Scripture Study and Worship Links and Resources <http://textweek.com> (extensive links to a range of resources)

Websites with Commentary on Lectionary Passages

Bill Loader's Home Page <http://www.billloader.com>

Howard Wallace's Home Page <http://hwallace.unitingchurch.org.au>

With Love to the World, a quarterly Uniting Church publication, provides daily commentary on all lectionary readings, along with other associated texts. WLW brings good scholarship to readers to help make faith meaningful in daily life. Hymn suggestions and other resources are included. To subscribe go to <http://www.withlovetotheworld.org.au> (*Paid Print Subscription*). With Love to the World now also has Apps available on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

Websites with Lectionary based liturgies, sermons and worship activities

Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources (Nathan Nettleton) <http://www.laughingbird.net>

Liturgies Online (Moiria Laidlaw) <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au>

Mustard Seeds (Ann Scull) <http://www.seedstuff.blogspot.com/>

The Billabong (Rev Jeff Shrowder) <http://thebillabong.info>

Together to Celebrate: Contemporary Christian Music Resources for Worship (Rev David MacGregor) <http://www.togethertocelebrate.com.au>

Sermons, Liturgies, Prayers, and Articles, from a post-liberal, progressive perspective. Rex A. E. Hunt, a retired UCA minister, is a leader in the progressive religion movements in Australia and New Zealand. www.rexaehuntprogressively.com

Roots - Worship and Learning Resources for the Whole Church. Ecumenical resources for worship from UK groups including Methodist, Church of England and United Reformed Churches. To subscribe go to <https://www.rootsontheweb.com> (*Paid Print and Digital Subscriptions*)

Podcasts covering Lectionary topics

"By the Well" A preacher's guide to the lectionary with Fran Barber and Robyn Whitaker,

Podcast – <https://bythewell.com.au/>,

Community FB page for further discussion – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455941231724262/>

"Tea with Two Revs" Join Revs Ann and Amanda over a cup of tea and a chat about what's coming up in the lectionary. <https://growingfaithdownunder.wordpress.com/>

How are Sundays identified in this table?

Sundays and other days which are special "Feast Days" are simply identified by their name (eg. Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Christ the King). Otherwise, Sundays are identified by the number of Sundays after the start of a Season

(Epiphany 2, Easter 3, Pentecost 16). It is important to note that sometimes one of the Sundays after a Season starts has its own name but it is still counted for the purposes of counting Sundays in that season (eg. Pentecost 1 is named Trinity Sunday, but it is also the first Sunday after Pentecost, so the next Sunday is Pentecost 2). A long standing practice in some Christian traditions counts all the Sundays which are not in a special season (ie. those after Epiphany and after Pentecost). This count of Sundays in "Ordinary Time" (from the same root word as "ordinal" thus meaning "counted time") varies depending on when Easter lands in the year. We indicate this number in brackets in case it is useful in reading lectionary resources from traditions who identify Sundays in Ordinary Time.

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Calendar and Lectionary

of the UNITING CHURCH Year A 2022 - 2023

'The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which it hears the Word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated...'

The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these...'

Basis of Union (1992 Edition), paragraph 5



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

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Lectionary Notes – Year A, focus on Matthew

One of the notable features of the New Testament is that it is not one book but a collection of books. Within that collection, Christians, who are named after our allegiance to Jesus the Christ, may be especially interested in those books that deliberately set out to tell the story of Jesus. We know them as Gospels, a name deriving from Old English words meaning 'good' and 'story' or 'talk', a translation of the Greek εὐαγγέλιον, Latinized as *evangelium*, and meaning 'good news'.

That four books tell the story of Jesus' life, teachings, death, and resurrection are particularly noteworthy. Since the earliest days of the church, there has been discussion about why there is more than one such account in the canon of the New Testament and, conversely, why other similar books are not included. Without wanting to re-litigate the arguments of the early church in the development of the canon, the task for the modern preacher is to decide what it means for us today that we have four such accounts of Jesus' life within our Scriptures. The idea that this is primarily about providing extra information – 'filling in the gaps' in one account from another – might lead to an instinct to harmonise the four gospels, trying to draw together one 'complete' picture of Jesus' life drawn from the four sources. However, even in the church's earliest days, this harmonising project was not generally looked upon favourably. A much more constructive approach sees that each of the gospel writers was constructing an account for a particular time and audience to address specific concerns and explore particular theological ideas that were of interest to the writer's audience(s). The contemporary reader or preacher might ask, 'What is the unique picture of Jesus I gain from this gospel? How is it similar, and how does it differ from the other gospels? Are any of this gospel's specific themes and emphases especially relevant to our current context and circumstances?'

Some scholars believe the gospel of Matthew was written at a time when the Christian community was distancing itself from an increasingly rabbinic form of Judaism. In that setting, this gospel's focus on Jesus' interpretations of the law and the prophets, and the robust arguments with and condemnation of the 'scribes and the Pharisees', could be seen as a way of establishing the importance of maintaining Jewish heritage to an increasingly gentile Christian community or as an apologetic making the case that the way of Jesus was the true fulfilment of Jewish commitments and practices. Perhaps it functions in both these ways at once.

Most scholars also place the gospel of Matthew within a time period when there was significant upheaval for the Jewish community in Palestine, with the repercussions of the first Jewish Roman war (AD 66-73) and the destruction of the Temple reverberating throughout their society.

If this is the setting for the gospel of Matthew, then it may have much for us to ponder in an age when political polarisation is rife, where interfaith dialogue is critical and where the spectre of global warfare hangs closer to us than for many years. I encourage preachers in this year of Matthew to explore some of the resources listed on this leaflet and thus to wrestle with the messages of Matthew in a way that will enable listeners to follow better the Christ to whom Matthew witnesses.

Rev Lindsay Cullen

National Consultant, Assembly Resourcing Unit

Commentaries and Resources on the Gospel of Matthew

* Barclay, William, *The Gospel of Matthew Vol 1 and Vol 2*, Westminster John Knox.

* Culpepper, R. Alan, *Matthew: A Commentary*, Westminster John Knox.

* Hare, Douglas R.A., *Matthew Interpretation Series*, Westminster John Knox.

* Long, Thomas G., *Matthew*, Westminster John Knox.

* Wright, N.T. *Matthew for Everyone, Part 1 and Part 2*, Westminster John Knox.

* *Feasting on the Gospels – Matthew, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2*, Westminster John Knox Press.

Commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew in Korean

Chun, Kyungyun, *The Theology of Matthew*, Hankook Sungseo Hakhui: Seoul, Korea, 2003.

Park, Su-Ahm, *Commentary on Matthew's Gospel*, Christian Literature Society of Korea, 2004.

Jang, Heung Khil, *Commentary on Matthew's Gospel (for preachers)*, Korea Institute of Biblical Studies, 2008.

Resources to use with the Lectionary

* *Lay Leaders Liturgy* (subscription). MediaCom Education Inc., Adelaide

* *Seasons of the Spirit™ curriculum* (subscription). MediaCom Education Inc. Adelaide

* *Words for Worship* subscription. MediaCom Education Inc., Adelaide

* *Bringing the Word to Life Year A*. MediaCom Education Inc, Adelaide.

* *Together in Worship and Prayer Year A*, MediaCom Education Inc. Adelaide.

* *Abingdon Preaching Annual 2023*, Abingdon Press

* *Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary year A*. Abingdon Press

* *Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, Abingdon Press

* *Will Willimon's Lectionary Sermon Resource Year A, Part 1 and Part 1*. Abingdon Press. Nashville.

* *Acts for Everyone*, N.T. Wright Westminster John Knox

* *Advent for Everyone, Matthew: A daily devotional*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox

* *Isaiah 1–39, Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*, Seitz, Christopher R, Westminster John Knox

* *Connections: Year A*. Westminster John Knox

* *Everyday Connections: Reflections and Practices for Year A*

* *Feasting on the Word Year A, 4 volumes*, Westminster John Knox.

* *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion and Lenten Companion*. Westminster John Knox

* *Preaching God's Transforming Justice: A Lectionary Commentary Year A*, Westminster John Knox Press

* *Isaiah 1 - 39*, Walter Brueggemann, Westminster John Knox

* *Isaiah 40 – 66*, Walter Brueggemann Westminster John Knox

* *Isaiah for Everyone*, John Goldingay, Westminster John Knox

* *Isaiah 40–66 Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*, Paul D, Hanson, Westminster John Knox

* *John for Everyone*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox

* *Fulfilling the Law and the Prophets: The Prophetic Vocation of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew*, Matthew Anslow, Picwick Publications, an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers. 2022

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