

Coronavirus...a Biblical Reflection

Covid-19. SARS. Pandemic. Many people are troubled by events that are unprecedented in their lifetime. Some will naturally turn to the Bible looking for answers, as well as comfort and guidance. This is a worthy exercise when it is done within and understanding of the limitations of scripture. **"What does the Bible say about Coronavirus?"** is a question that is trending.

It is not hard to find plenty of answers to this question on the internet. But it is disturbing to see much of the material online and in the media that is just sensational rubbish.

In reality, the Bible says nothing about Coronavirus or viruses generally. Nothing about bacteria, germs, nor even advice to avoid sneezing on others or cover your mouth when you cough or anything like that. While there are instructions about washing, they relate to ritual purity rather than health and hygiene in the modern sense.

So why is that? There is a simple explanation. The authors of the biblical texts lived at a time before any human being understood the causes of illness in those terms. They lived in a prescientific age, and we should not expect them to address our precise concerns, much less do so in our terms.

I can understand the temptation to try to fit the Bible and modern medicine or science together. But the results are rarely if ever satisfactory, and sometimes they are downright appalling. If you press those who disseminate biblical claims related to Covid-19

whether they mean that God invented diseases and introduced them into the world as punishment (presumably continuing to guide their evolution so that new deadly strains emerge to plague generation after generation of human beings), they will likely say no.

The biblical authors were writing in a prescientific age, and so they not only don't use those terms, they do not think in those terms or have a concern about the technical or scientific issues we are tackling now to address the problem.

If you link your faith to finding Coronavirus in the Bible, you may deceive yourself into momentary illusions that bring false comfort. You will pay the price later when the broader claims prove false, as they have time and time again. You'll be making a crisis worse by adding, on top of the illness itself, a long-term negative effect on your own faith and that of others.

I would encourage you to stop looking for specific predictions about Coronavirus in the Bible and "finding" them where they don't really exist, and instead to focus on the Bible's more central and far clearer teachings. So where is the Coronavirus in the Bible? It is covered by the teaching of Jesus to love your neighbour as yourself, and to do to others what you would want them to do to you.

Paul Inglis, Dayboro Uniting Church

PRAYER—O God, help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Uniting Church Dayboro

CIRCLE *Bulletin*

1st May to 31st May 2020



Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



We are a warm & welcoming Church who
LOVE Jesus, LOVE each other and
LOVE Dayboro District
Giving HOPE for the future

Our worship, our communion table & our fellowship are open to all.
Rather than tell you how to live, how to think or how to vote, we simply offer
you a place where you will be loved & accepted,
and where you can grow in the grace of God.

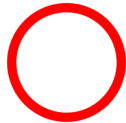
Uniting Church Dayboro

Church Celebrating 120yrs of worship October 2020

Sunday Service Link

<https://vimeo.com/dayborounitingchurch>

Welcome to New Worshippers & visitors



Please contact your Circle of Care Hosts or Pastor Dan if you would like them to check
on any of our Church family/or Dayboro Community members that you may be
concerned about.



Lectionary Readings:

'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

May 3 2020 Easter 4: Acts 2: 42-47, Ps 23, 1 Pt 2: 19-25, Jn 10: 1-10

May 10 2020 Easter 5 Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Pt 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

May 17 2020 Easter 6 Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Pt 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

May 21 2020 Ascension Day Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Eph 1:15-23 Lk 24:44-53

May 24 2020 Easter 7 Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11

May 31 2020 Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b or Acts 2:1-21 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Jun 7 2020 Trinity Sunday Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20

OFFERING

Thank you to all of our church members who have been, or have started, contributing their offering electronically this year.

In January we had 11 individuals/families contributing their offering electronically which brought in \$1576.

In March we had 15 individuals/families contributing \$1,977.

In April we have 17 individuals/families contributing \$2,236 (estimated).

This is going to make a huge difference to our end of year results if the April figures continue.

If we don't have any unexpected lumpy expenditure in 2020 (eg. For repairs), we will still have funds at the end of the year.

Regards, Jenny Treasurer DUC

To give electronically (new):

BSB 704640 Account: 22046043 Reference: Offering

Birthdays to celebrate

1st May	Gloria Nugent
6th May	Lilly May Bohan 9 years old
8th May	Gigi Carter 3 years old
9th May	Lorelle Costelloe
14th May	Ann Turner
20th May	Nikki Boyd
22nd May	Karen Krarup
29th May	Flynn Bohan 13 year old
31st May	Laraine Kay Denny
31st May	Myles Perry 4 years old
4th June	Ollie Warschau 13 years old



Pantry Parcel News: We have ceased the pantry parcels and will restructure the program when this pandemic is over. The pantry recipients have all been notified of this action and thanked us for our generosity. We have advised them to contact Encircle at Strathpine if they require help. I have also spoken to Encircle and they are aware of our circumstances. It has become too difficult to shop for the parcels during this time. If you know of anyone who you think requires help, please advise Danny and he will follow it up. Lions and the Sherriff's fund have also been notified. The pantry is run by Dayboro Anglican, Dayboro Catholic and Dayboro Uniting.

Please like us on our facebook page. There is lots of news and interesting items to catch up on. Our weekly sermons are also uploaded to our page.



@dayborouniting

Our Web address is

www.dayborouca.com.au