

Church Family News, August 2023



Hobart Baptist Church, Sunday 27 August

Join us as we continue the sermon series *reCreation: Past, Present and Future* with Stephen Baxter bringing this week's message.

SERMON: Un-Original Sin

BIBLE READING: Genesis 3:1-8

WATCH: LIVE on YouTube at 10.00am Sunday

A Q&A session with the speaker takes place after the sermon each Sunday. To join, text a question to **0491 070 718**.

Stay on after the service for fellowship over morning tea, enjoy a coffee from Esteem and stay on for BYO lunch.

Kids' Church (Primary school aged kids) and **HBC Youth** meet during the service.

Please forward questions regarding room hire/use to Kelvin Smith (kelvin@citynetworks.org.au).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



AUGUST

Operation Christmas Child: In August the team are collecting 'something special'. See below for more details.

SUNDAY 27th – 6:00-8:00pm, Long Table traditional Pakistani banquet.

WEDNESDAY 30th – 7.15am, Prayer for the City. Your Church (29 Charles St, Moonah).

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 10th 10am. Worship service followed by a **Special Church Members' Meeting**. ALL WELCOME.

MONDAY 11th – 7:30am, Men's Breakfast.

SUNDAY 17th 10am. Sanctuary Sunday

OCTOBER

SUNDAY 15th – 22nd, National Baptism Week. More details below.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 18th – 9:30am – 3:30pm, EmpowHer Day of Courage. Earlybird bookings close 30 August! More below.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

RECREATION: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, UNTIL 10 SEPTEMBER

The early chapters of Genesis give us a small glimpse into how God intended the world to be. However, in the light of the discoveries of modern science, and the magnificent photographs of the universe by the James Webb telescope, it seems existing interpretations of Genesis are no longer adequate.

Can we find in Genesis a story big enough to answer the deep question of today? Is it big enough to encompass all of life for every human being? The answer is yes.

For more information, [visit the sermon page here...](#)



SPECIAL CHURCH MEMBERS' MEETING

A Special Church Members' Meeting will be held on Sunday 10th September following the 10am Service. All welcome.

The meeting will consider an application for membership by George Elkhair, by transfer from Burnie Baptist Church.

Information on other agenda items will be forthcoming shortly.

NATIONAL BAPTISM WEEK

This year, along with other Baptists Churches, and supported by Crossover Australia, we will be celebrating National Baptism Week in October.

This is a great opportunity for churches, youth groups, small groups and ministries across Australia to celebrate, explore and offer baptism.

There will be more information in coming weeks as we lead up to this, but if it is something you have been considering, or would like to know more about, now is a perfect time to ask.

Talk to one of our Pastors TODAY.

**NATIONAL
BAPTISM
WEEK** **October
15-22**

ESTEEM COFFEE

Esteem coffee is open 7.30am – 2.00pm weekdays. If the Esteem sign is outside, good coffee awaits inside! Toasties and croissants also available.

HBC support for the coffee shop is essential. Drop in for a coffee, invite a friend, and spread the word far and wide. Esteem is a unique coffee shop and the space is great for a relaxed friendly catch up with people – so what is not to love about it!? See you there!

Kelvin has a couple of lovely volunteers, but more would be really helpful as the turnover has a long way to go before it generates enough income to cover costs and wages.



THE LONG TABLE



Hi Everyone,

The Long Table is on again! Farah is from Islamabad, and loves to cook all things Pakistani: Chicken curry, Spinach chicken curry, mince with potato and green peas, Biryani, Pakistani Pulao chicken, Naan bread, Roti, Seviyan Pakistani dessert....

This community meal assists Farah to get a Hobart City Council temporary food license for a year so she can cater for us multiple times.

Cost is \$40 per person, cash or card with square machine.

Only 40 seats for this meal are available, so please contact Kelvin early if you would like to attend.

Roqaya will also bring some Afghan treats at another Community meal on Sunday 10th September. Limited seating also. Details to come.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

HBC's next breakfast gathering for men is at **7:30am** on **Monday, 11 September** at Esteem Coffee Shop. Cost is \$20/person. Please register with Matt Henderson matt@hobartbaptist.org.au



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2023

National Collection week for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes is fast approaching. You are invited to help pack the shoeboxes in the Soundy Lounge on Saturday October 28 between 10am – 2pm.

This is the last week in **August** to bring along **something special**. This includes items such as: Sunglasses, Kaleidoscopes, Craft kits, Jewellery etc.

In **September** we will be collecting items from all categories:- Education, Hygiene, Something to play with, Something to love, Something to wear and Something special.

Financial donations to help cover the cost of sending the boxes would also be appreciated. (\$12.50 a box).

For further information please speak to Celia or Kylie. THANK YOU for your generosity!



NEWS FROM JAN AND JIT YAWAN



Jan writes

We are so thankful for all of you who continue this journey with us as we continue to seek to be hands, feet and voice of Jesus here in Sangklaburi in western Thailand.

With a reduced number of Covid cases we are planning our first camp for the disabled since 2019 towards the end of November.

Please pray that this can go ahead, as it will be combined with a Christmas celebration. [Click here >>>](#) to read their latest Newsletter.

PRAYER FOR THE CITY



Church Together Tasmania invite everyone to gather together and pray for our city, believing that God will touch our city, making the impossible possible in His name.

Prayer for the City occurs on the last Wednesday morning of each month. All welcome – **7.15am for a 7.30am start.**

30th August – Your Church (29 Charles St, Moonah)

27th September – Hobart City Church of Christ (8 Goulburn St, Hobart)

25th October – Hobart Baptist Church (282 Elizabeth St, Nth Hobart)

29th November – Hobart Baptist Church (282 Elizabeth St, Nth Hobart)

HBC WOMEN COFFEE CHATS

Women Coffee Chats are on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Esteem (in the HBC foyer). Drop in anytime between 10.30am – 12:00pm.

Next Coffee Chats are Tuesday, 12 & 26 September.

Join us for good coffee, tea, toasties or croissants!



EMPOWHER DAY OF COURAGE

Saturday 18 November, Longford | Earlybird (until 30th August) \$45 | [Find out more >](#)

We can take busload if enough people are interested!



GIVING – YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS



'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

2 Corinthians 9:7

We thank all who give faithfully on a regular basis, as without this support we would not be able to operate. Your offerings support our budget: and through that it enables the church to continue to be an important part of the North Hobart landscape and the place from where we can prophetically serve the City of Hobart.

It is where we can know the benefit of worshipping with others, where we hear the stories of Jesus and how they apply to us, where we are encouraged in our journey with Jesus, from where we can share God's love with others and help them to know and trust in God themselves. Our influence can also be far reaching – there is no limit to God's love through our deeds and actions. Thank you for your generosity.

EFT is a great way to ensure regular giving and as well there are offering boxes available for use as you leave the Sanctuary.

[You can give online here](#)

reCreation: Past, Present and Future



16 July to 10 September 2023

The first readers and hearers of the story of creation, found in the early chapters of Genesis, had little sense of the size, nature, and scope of the world nor the task the Creator gave them in stewarding it. Over the centuries that followed, human knowledge grew and successive generations reimagined life in the light of their expanding knowledge.

For example, when people could not travel freely, knowledge was limited to, and dependent upon, the place where they lived and visitors they received. Knowledge grew when explorers returned with fascinating tales of distant lands, peoples and creatures. Those who wrote and compiled the Old Testament had a horizon limited to the Middle East. By the time of the New Testament writers, it had expanded to the Roman Empire.

Read more below the table

Series Schedule – click the sermon title to watch

1	16 July	Genesis 1:1-31	The Revelation of Creation	Stephen Baxter
2	23 July	Genesis 1:26-31	Good and Very Good	Matt Henderson
3	30 July	Genesis 1:1, 31 Romans 1:20	A Sacred Universe	Stephen Baxter
4	6 Aug	Genesis 2:4-7	The Earth is our Home	Stephen Baxter
5	13 Aug	Genesis 1:26-28	Original Blessing ... the universe as gift	Michael Henderson
6	20 Aug	Psalm 8:1-9	Being Human: dust of the earth, breath of the divine	Matt Henderson
7	27 Aug	Genesis 3:1-8	Un-Original Sin	Stephen Baxter
8	3 Sept	Genesis 1:26-30	“Complete Authority”	Matt Henderson
9	10 Sept	Hebrews 4:1-11	The Seventh Day Entering Rest	Stephen Baxter
	17 Sept		Sanctuary Sunday	

Then, arriving at the Protestant Reformation, the horizon was Europe. By this time it was expanding rapidly, through nautical exploration pioneered by Columbus, and the proposal of Copernicus that the earth revolved around the Sun – not the other way around. This discovery had a profound, transformative effect on every aspect of Western culture including spirituality and the Reformation. Interestingly, Martin Luther and Nicolaus Copernicus were contemporaries, born and buried within 10 years of each other.

Propelled by technology and space travel, today’s horizon is literally out of this world. We are now the first generations in human history to look back at ourselves from outer space. It is encapsulated by the photograph of the ‘blue marble’, taken by Apollo 17 astronauts in 1972. This picture of a fragile, vulnerable, and isolated Earth suspended amid the vast emptiness of space, changed the world. Historian Robert Poole suggests,

“The sight of the whole Earth, small, alive, and alone, caused scientific and philosophical thought to shift away from the assumption that the Earth was a fixed environment, unalterably given to humankind, and towards a model of the Earth as an

evolving environment, conditioned by life and alterable by human activity, it was the defining moment of the twentieth century.“

It was a defining moment because it lengthened our horizon, and shifted our perspective. In past eras, the many unknown regions of the world beyond the horizon were exotic, exciting and ripe for exploration. Today, those regions are vastly reduced. What's more, they are easily recorded in video and introduced to us via our smart phones.

The old stories we told ourselves to explain who we are, what we do and why we are here, are no longer adequate. The exploration of space, the insights of modern science, rapidly changing technology, and the communication revolution, have destabilised all the old meta-narratives. Today, for the first time in human history and despite the remaining differences in language, customs, worldviews and religion, there is a collective “knowing” that we share the one planet and the one destiny. Everything is interrelated. We cannot ignore each other. We must learn how to work together to ensure and secure our future.

For younger generations, any spirituality or religion that appears indifferent or ignorant of our ‘fragile’ world, and reluctant to work together for the future, is quickly dismissed as out-of-date, inadequate, irrelevant and even dangerous. Any answers to the questions of “Who am I?”, “How did we get here?” and “What does the future hold?” can only be addressed in the context of this expanded horizon.

Can we find in Genesis a story big enough to answer the deep question of today? Is it big enough to encompass all of life for every human being?

The answer is yes.

But it needs a deep reframing, not dissimilar to the reframing the Reformers undertook in their day in the light of their current new discoveries and technological change. Our task is to reimagine and reinterpret our Creation stories with a narrative big enough and meaningful enough to recapture our imaginations and provide new vision for what God is doing in our world.

In this series we revisit the first few chapters of Genesis, hoping to begin developing a spiritual theology that is aware of these expanded horizons and attuned to the spiritual longings of contemporary Hobartians.
