

Dear Ipswich City church family,

Worship

Our recording of the ANZAC commemoration went well yesterday. Ashley will have a big job editing. We recorded at the Brassall Uniting Church and as I said previously we will send the link as soon as it becomes available.

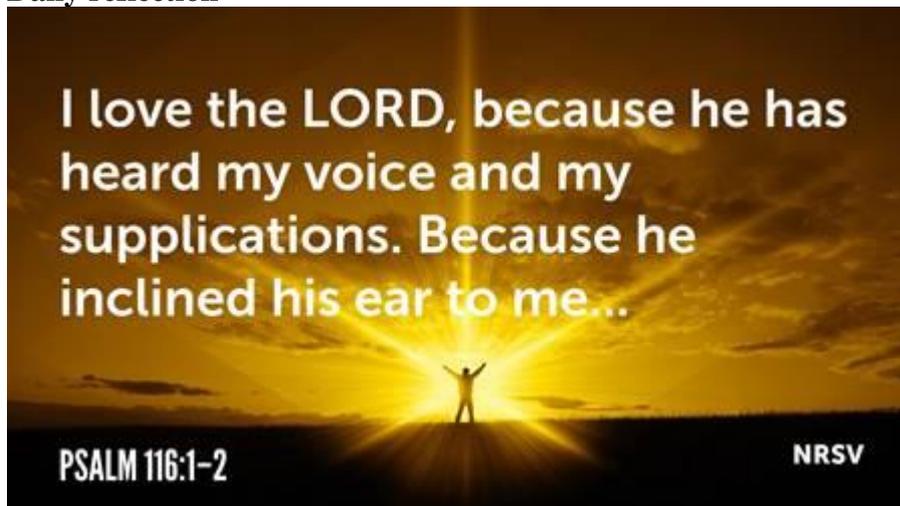
Our preacher on Sunday will be Rev Doctor David Rankin, our acting Presbytery minister and I am already working on members of the church doing the readings and prayers.

If there is anyone else who may like to do readings or prayers or take part in some other way, please let me or Ashley know.

Prayer

One group you may like to pray for in this coming week is for veterans who will be missing their once a year get together with their friends, and commemorate those who died in service and honour those who have died since.

Daily reflection



"I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me..." (Psalm 116:1-2, NRSV)

As a husband sometimes I am guilty of trying to fix a problem rather than just listening to my wife. She "just wants to be heard". At times like that I am not really listening. I think the same is true, not just for married couples, but for all of us at times. We are in trouble, or sad, or lost, we have an idea, a fear, or some good news and we want someone to hear it.

Psalm 116 begins by saying 'I love God, because God hears me' and God not just listening but inclining (bending down or coming near) to listen. The story of the Exodus begins with God saying *"Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry ..., and I have*

come down..." (Exodus 3:7–8, NRSV) We all long to be heard, to be noticed and to be understood.

If no one else is listening, God is. God hears you. God knows you. "Even the hairs of your head are all counted." (Matt 10:30) Indeed the story of Jesus is a story that tells us God is so committed to hearing us that God became one of us, even dying as we do. Now the story of Jesus, like psalm 116 is also about how God saves us. We cannot do anything with the same quality or depth that Jesus did, but we are also called to listen, to recognise and hear every person as he did. If we are heard, recognised, and loved we should do the same for others.

Yours in Jesus

Andrew

Rev. Andrew Gillies