



Adelaide Christian New Church

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Spring is on its Way

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We thank our Lord for all the beautiful things in the world that give us joy and happiness. Already many of the deciduous trees have shed their leaves, evergreen trees are still blooming in full. Flowers are beginning to show signs of new buds emerging. After the chills of winter, the warmth of the spring sunshine arrives and wakes up all the beautiful plants and flowers that God has created and adorned the earth with. Soon gardens will be a blend of colours. Thank you Lord for everything.

God Created the Universe

Before creation, God was love itself and wisdom itself. That love and that wisdom had a drive to be useful. Without usefulness, love and wisdom are only fleeting abstract entities, and they do indeed fly away if they do not move in the direction of usefulness. The two prior things without the third, (love and wisdom without usefulness) are like birds flying across a great ocean that eventually become worn out, fall into the ocean and drown. Therefore the universe could be called a theatre of useful functions. True Christianity 47

God created the Universe so that usefulness could exist

Swedenborg describes the Divine as made up of two complementary forces: love (which also relates to goodness and to the part of our mind called the will) and wisdom (which relates to truth and to the part of the mind called the understanding. These two forces are incredibly powerful, but in order for them to reach full manifestation, they need to enter our earthly realm through action. This is called usefulness.

For Reflection

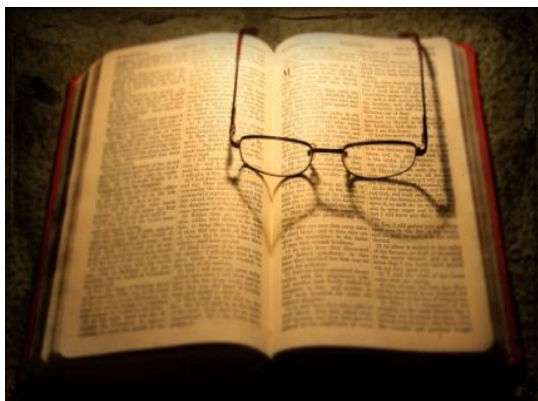
Think of an action, perhaps something that you do every day. What is the love that motivates that action? What is the means by which it's accomplished? What is the result?

Have you thought of your activities in those terms before?

How does it change your view of the actions to think of it that way?

Which part of that sequence would you consider the most important?





ADELAIDE CHURCH MOTTO

“The Law of the Lord is perfect”

This motto was created at the time the New Church began here in Adelaide in 1844. As relevant today as it was then.

Inspirational Thoughts

**Our Father who art in Heaven.”
Matthew 6:9**

This is the beginning of the great prayer. We are talking to our Father. Not my Father, in an isolated sense, but *our* Father. The Father of us all, of every colour and every creed. We cannot begin this prayer selfishly: but only taking with us all our brothers and sisters. As we do so we begin to feel round about us the Everlasting Arms.

Then immediately our thoughts are lifted to heaven, where He dwells. Perhaps for a moment we question, where is heaven? He tells us! The kingdom of heaven is within you. So we pray, closing our eyes to outside things and looking within, to the secret place of the Most High.

Prayer:-
O Lord, continue Your loving kindness to those that know You.
Amen

New Letter Box for Adelaide Church



The previous letter box that had served so well for many years, became quite damaged last year after the car crash and all the rebuilding work taking place. At one time, the letter box was quite bent over and it needed straightening up. This weakened the pole and there was a gap and split in the pole making it unsecure. Just as the little border (of which remains can be just seen) was damaged too. Luckily the brick border along the front lawn was just a little damaged on one corner, but the bricklayers rebuilt that with bricks. It was time to replace the letter box and search for a new one; that would keep the post from becoming wet and saturated. Many a time pages have been laid out to dry in the hall. Now we have a strong flap that will not let rain in; a padlocked rear. And a large space for handling brochures and papers. But “No Junk Mail Thankyou” sign is also displayed. The P.O. Box 469 at ParkHolme Post Office is still good.

All this work was completed by Ken Johnson on Wednesday 25th. It is very nice to see the new one up and ready for use. The pole remains of the previous one, needed to be sawn off to ground level. All done now. Much thanks to Ken. Letter box was affixed with liquid nails, just needed to wait for dry weather.





Pillars New Church Beliefs

Divine Providence

This lovely series by Rev. Julian Duckworth is an enlightening look at ways in which the New Church gives an explanation of essential beliefs in an easily understood way.

Presenting our beliefs in plain English, this time it is about the area of what we call **Divine Providence**.

Providence is the way the Lord manages and deals with everything he creates, including ourselves. The word Providence points out that God provides.

Of all beliefs, this is the one that people find the hardest to work out or see happening because we see so much human suffering, often unwarranted, frequently inexplicable. We'll probably always need to take another careful look at it.

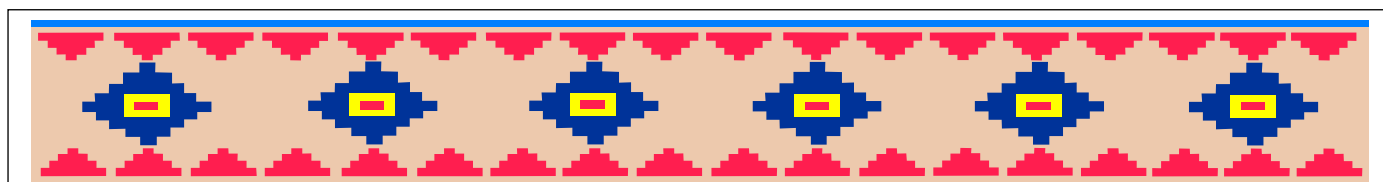
One starting point is to look at the kind of world God has made. It is very beautiful of course, but it is not a cocoon and we don't live in cotton wool. We can get hurt and feel pain; we can be killed in an accident. We can make war; people can die from famine and disease.

There is the positive side of this too. Many people feel moved to work to make peoples' lives better, to alleviate, heal and provide. Modern research finds ways and means to develop this. More people are increasingly aware and determined to improve the world.

Both of these show us the reality of Providence. God gives us a world in which we are free to make choices, a world in which we see so much order yet so much disorder, where we can become cynical or concerned for others. God also stirs us to good activities for the sake of others.

The goal of Providence is to care for our spirit and to give it every opportunity to choose what we call heaven. It keeps us in the best balance possible, providing us with good experiences but also allowing us to meet hard knocks and big questions so that we think about life carefully and do not take anything for granted. In that way it is quite accurate to say that Providence is always leading us.

Indeed, a truth about Providence is that it is involved in everything that happens, not just those moments when we say, 'That must have been providential!' Maybe it was, but so is everything else.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23rd SEPTEMBER 2018

Please note, for Adelaide Members, that the 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Church Hall at 12.00pm on that Sunday. It will be combined with shared Luncheon. If there are any matters that you would like discussed at the AGM, please give written notice well in advance, for it to be considered and included in the Agenda. All are welcome. As you will now know, our End of Financial Year was changed to the Australian Taxation Year via a Motion at a previous AGM, passed on 20th March 2016. That is why the AGM is now held in September and no longer held in March, as it was first formed in South Australia in the early 1800's; way before the Federation of Australia was formed in 1901.

Retirement for Rev. Julian Duckworth, Roseville, Sydney

After many years in Roseville, with his wife Ruth beside him, both were a wonderful team for the Sydney Church. Julian and Ruth vacated Sydney at the end of May and have settled into Port Macquarie, to enjoy their retirement. Very best wishes are sent to them from the Adelaide Church, with fond memories of all they have done for the New Church in Australian. They will still be around, especially to welcome the next Minister and his family, to Sydney.

Service for August and September 2018

August 2018

12th - August - Service, Traditional and Musical
26th - August - Service, Holy Supper and shared luncheon

September 2018

9th - September - Service,
23rd - September - AGM Service, Holy Supper, and shared luncheon

August and September Activities 2018

North Metro Study Group: We are currently in the process of re-organising this, as our Hostess for this group is currently unwell. A new book study will be decided upon soon. Please contact 0417 632 207 for any suggestions and details.

Presentations In the Church Hall. Dates for this will be given out locally soon.

Adelaide Bible Study - and discussion time: - This is being planned as a Skype group meeting, to accommodate those in different suburbs.

Computer Awareness held on Thursday 16th & 23rd August, 13th & 27th September morning from 10.30am - 12.00pm. Just arrive.

Coffee and Chat time this also happens on Thursday mornings concurrently with Computer Awareness, as for Computer Awareness.

Further Information for any of the above, please phone 0417632207,

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Contributions for Newsletters

Any articles, poems, news or submissions for the Newsletter, please email to us. It would be so nice to have some contributions.