

Pentecost 12 Year A, August 16th 2026

Presenter: Catherine (Peps) Pepper

Focus Reading: Matthew 15 (10-20), 21-28

Message: 7 minutes 55 seconds

"Widening the Circle: Grace for Everyone"

Discussion Starters

1. What part of the story or message stood out for you, and why do you think it caught your attention.
2. Describe a time when you had to speak up with courage, or a time when listening changed you? He tells them their actions were part of God's plan and responds with astonishing mercy and great love.
3. How might it look for our congregation to practice this kind of brave honesty, deep listening, and inclusion?
4. In our local neighbourhood where might God be inviting us to expand belonging, strengthen unity, or resist voices that divide?

Readings for this day

Genesis 45:1-15 Joseph, who has ascended to prominence and influence in Egypt, reveals himself to his brothers. He tells them that their actions were God's actions and responds to them with astonishing mercy and great love.

Psalms 133 The psalm declares that unity among "families" is a place where God's life and blessing are bestowed.

Romans 1 1:1-2a, 29-32 Paul takes up God's work of salvation in the world for Jews and Gentiles alike. He affirms that God's purpose is an inclusive reality for all people.

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Intergenerational Talk

"The Woman Who would not give up"

Catherine (Peps) Pepper

Length: 4 minutes 12 seconds

Precis of IT: The mother of a very sick girl, who is from another culture, comes to Jesus for help. Jesus shuns her but she is persistent and kept speaking up to him. He listened and was changed – the little girl was healed by Jesus's actions that followed when he really listened to her story.

Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 133: – pages 345

Catherine (Peps) Pepper

Is a creative thinker, innovator, educator and environmental engineer who is passionate about sustainability, creativity, justice and grassroots social change. Some of her favourite things is veggies that row up by themselves in her garden, singing acapella and laughing with good friends. Peps lives on Awabakal country.