

Newsletter

3rd February

2019

epsom
baptist church

Leading: **Anne Bartley**

Preaching: **Jeff Whittaker**

Theme: **Ephesians 6: 18 - 20** Using the prayers of others...

The Next Deacons' Meeting will be held on
Tuesday 19th February 2019 at Epsom Baptist Church.

Members' Meeting...

Our next Members' Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday February 20th. We will report on the roof replacement project.

A graphic with a dark green background and the words "Members Meeting" in a large, yellow, serif font.

Coming soon... Pastor Daniel and I will be running an Alpha Course on Sunday nights (starting February 17). Talk to me if you are interested in participating.
Pastor Jeff



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Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning Chinese Congregations:
Pastor Daniel Choi

Sunday Morning English Congregation: Pastor Jeff Whittaker

epsombaptistchurch.org.nz Check out **Epsom Baptist Church** on Facebook

From Pastor Jeff

Last Thursday I attended a seminar delivered by Sarah Coakley, an English Anglican systematic theologian and philosopher of religion with inter-disciplinary interests. Retired now, she was the Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, and a professorial fellow of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. Amongst other topics, Coakley spoke to us about contemplative prayer. By this, she meant the imageless 'apophatic' prayer that I preached about late last year. She suggested that contemplative prayer is an invitation for the Holy Spirit to come and disrupt the way we have arranged our lives. In particular, she said that while engaged in contemplative prayer the Holy Spirit will bring to our attention those things that we have hidden away in our lives, things we don't want to look at, things repressed or suppressed. This, of course, can be uncomfortable or even disorienting, especially if we believe that prayer should always bring relief or comfort. Yet, in this Coakley is drawing on the insights of Spanish mystic John of the Cross, who taught that God will sometimes lead us into so-called 'dark nights' in order to free us from the grip of idols or indeed false ideas of who God is. This reminds us that God doesn't always work in our lives to make us comfortable or immune from the vagaries of life. On the contrary, tragedies may be the very circumstances that God uses, in conjunction with contemplative prayer, to remind us that God is with us in all of life, and

continues to work in ways that will move us towards becoming more like Christ. Let us not give up on this form of praying, especially if we find it difficult or boring. God is at work.

Shalom, Jeff



February 2019 Sunday morning rosters...

Flowers: 3 Luanne, 10, 17 Louissa, 24 Margaret W.

Morning tea: Murray and Neroli Hollis

Communion preparation: Murray and Neroli Hollis

Door and Offering: Helen Evans

Scripture reading & Communion: June McMillan

Offering counting: Anne Bartley & Alan Lau

Lawns: Murray Hollis