

Newsletter

20th February

2022

epsom
baptist church

Leading: **Daniel Choi**

Preaching: **Fred Brunell**

Theme: **Apostle's Creed, Part Three – The Spirit**

The next **Deacons' Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, 15th March 2022.

Sunday Service Moves Online

Due to rising Omicron cases in the community, this Sunday's service will move online. It will be on Zoom, starting at the regular time of 9:30am. A reminder of the Zoom code, for your convenience:

899 4803 5597

Or follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89948035597>
(which you can access by clicking)



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Check out **Epsom Baptist Church** on Facebook

This Week's Message

Over the last few weeks, anyone reading the news would have seen a potentially dangerous situation developing in Ukraine. Russian troops and armaments have been building up on the border. Warnings have been issued by the United States and some countries have advised their citizens to leave the area. It is difficult to tell whether Russia is only playing mind-games or whether it has a serious intention to invade its neighbouring state - to subjugate it by the use of force. Threats and the use of force create anxiety and stress. Even in our own community, more frequently it seems than in the past, we see people using violence to get their own way. Aggressive behaviour and stand-over tactics are used by bullies to intimidate those who are perceived to be weak. Their weapon is fear and they prey on the fearful. This raises an important question: as Christians, how should we respond to violence or the threat of violence? In Matthew 5, we read: *You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'* But I tell you not to resist an evil person. *But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.* Jesus is here telling us not to follow the old idea of taking an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth. He is also telling us to accept at least some measure of bad treatment from others, as of course he did himself. But sometimes complicated situations can arise. Should we allow a defenceless child to be attacked by a bully, or should we intervene to stop it if we can? If we see someone being kidnapped, and we can prevent it happening by using force, should we do so? Was Jesus telling us never to use force, under any circumstances? As we watch and wait to see what will happen in Ukraine, let's think carefully about how, as Christians, we should respond to threats and violence.

Grant Illingworth



February 2022 Sunday morning rosters

Flowers: 6 Louissa Bao, 13, 20 Linda McBurney, 27 Dawn de Stigter

Morning tea: Belsy, Ida & Freida Balajisingh

Communion preparation: Belsy, Ida & Freida Balajisingh

Door and Offering: June McMillan

Scripture reading & Communion: Linda McBurney

Offering counting: Helen Evans and Ann Guan

Lawns: Ian de Stigter