

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)



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## PARISH BULLETIN

23 April 2023

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 30 April 2023

10.00am	Mornington	Joint Service Mosgiel
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
10.00am	Glenaven	Joint Service Mosgiel

### BLACK COMPOST BINS AND FLOWERS:

We now have a couple of large black compost bins located in the back yard by the garden shed. Please put any flower clippings or old flowers in these bins, as the stems make holes in the DCC black rubbish bins when discarded there. Thank you.

**MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.**  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, at 2pm in the Mornington Methodist Church.

All members and friends of the Mornington Methodist Church are invited to join in our meeting in the Church Lounge. Several members of our Church Community are going to share "their story" with us. We look forward to you all joining us for this social afternoon.



**Is an evolutionary understanding  
of our world important for the  
future of Christianity?**

I believe an evolutionary understanding of our world is becoming increasingly important for the future of Christianity. The theory of evolution has challenged traditional interpretations of biblical creation stories and the idea of a static, unchanging universe. However, many contemporary theologians argue that an evolutionary perspective can enrich Christian theology and deepen our understanding of the divine.

As a starting point, an evolutionary understanding of our world can provide a more robust understanding of God's creative power. Instead of viewing God's creative act as a one-time event that happened at the beginning of time, an evolutionary perspective recognizes that creation is an ongoing process that has been unfolding for billions of years. This allows for a greater appreciation of the complexity and diversity of life and emphasizes the ongoing nature of God's creative work.

Then we need to be aware that an evolutionary perspective can inform our understanding of the nature of God. Some theologians argue that evolution reveals God's ongoing presence and activity in the world, as opposed to a distant creator who set the universe in motion and then

stepped back. This view emphasizes the immanence of God and suggests that the divine is intimately involved in the ongoing process of evolution. Then to round out our reflection, an evolutionary perspective can inform our understanding of human nature and our relationship to the natural world. It reminds us that humans are not separate from nature but are part of a larger ecosystem, and it highlights the interconnectedness of all life. This can lead to a greater appreciation for the value of the natural world and a greater sense of responsibility for its care and protection.

My final comment is, an evolutionary understanding of our world can provide a richer and more nuanced understanding of Christian theology and the nature of God. It can also help us develop a more holistic and responsible relationship with the natural world. As such, it is an important perspective for the future of Christianity.

Rod Mitchell