

Geelong West
Presbyterian Church



1 Peter 1:6-7

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith –of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire–may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.



By now I suspect that you have all heard that Geelong West Presbyterian Church buildings on the cnr of Pakington St and Waratah St were burnt to the ground in the early hours of Friday morning. While some structure remains standing, the whole site was condemned and nothing was able to be salvaged.

This came as quite a shock and surprise to the congregation. Our meeting place of 102 yrs is no longer as we knew it in a physical sense. However, it's a great reminder to the congregation, not to hold on to our possessions too

tightly, but rather cling to that which will last – our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It has been really encouraging to see how the community of Geelong West, the local faith community in Geelong and the wider PCV has responded these last few days, offering their concern, encouragement, prayers and practical support. We really have felt very supported.

Session accepted Ashby Primary School's gracious offer for the congregation to meet in their hall for Sunday worship this morning. It was great to be together as we reflected on the goodness of our God, supplying all we need for life and faith shown through the many years of faithful ministry amongst and through our congregation.

What can you do? Keep praying for us. Below are some suggestions to guide your prayers.

- Praise God for the 102 years of ministry that we have had in the Geelong West Church.
- Give thanks also for the provision of a temporary meeting place at Ashby Primary School.
- Ask God to help us grieve appropriately while hope for our future takes shape.
- Pray for great wisdom for those in leadership, for unity as we move together, for patience for all and a deep knowledge of God's presence with us.

On behalf of Session of Geelong West

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What was left standing before being knocked down Friday afternoon.







Our Church! – at Ashby Primary School.

