

The Progressive Christian Network of Victoria



invites you to explore

JESUS & THE EMPOWERING INFLUENCE OF FRIENDSHIP Why Gracious Living is More Important than Right Belief

with

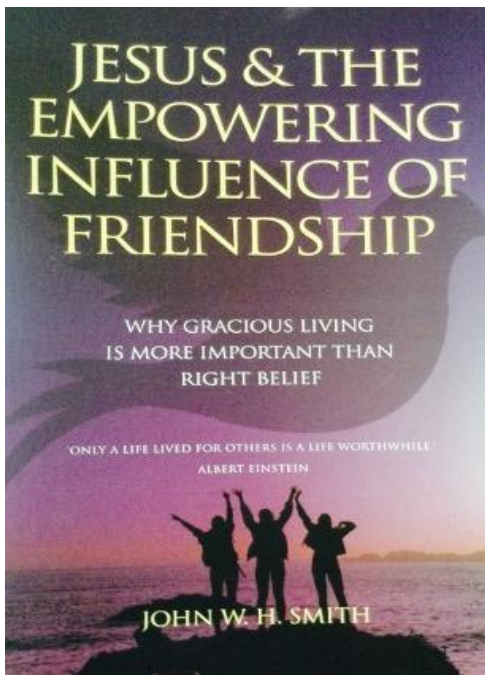
Rev John Smith

Sunday April 25

3:00pm - 5:00 pm

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**Ewing Memorial Centre of Stonnington Uniting Church
Corner of Burke Road & Coppin Street, Malvern East**



Rev John Smith will share themes of his recently published his book, *Jesus and the Empowering Influence of Friendship*.

This book explores the values of the historical sage Jesus of Nazareth, considering not only the words and actions of the historical Jesus, but examining the values of compassion and acceptance shown in the relationships with the people he meets.

Reflecting on contemporary biblical scholarship, including the discovery of ancient texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi, John Smith also critiques traditional 'orthodox' Christianity and asks if the practical application of Jesus' values have been reflected in the creeds, councils and historic documents of the Churches.

In addition, he shows how traditional 'orthodox' teaching can be challenged and changed through the transforming influence of friendship, discovered in the life and teaching of the

historical Jesus.

John Smith is a trained social worker and ordained minister of the Uniting Church of Australia. With a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Social Administration from Flinders University, his ministries have included welfare management, chaplaincy and parish ministry. He is a founding member of the Progressive Christian Network of Victoria Inc. and Common Dreams conferences where he continues to serve as a committee member.

Online access to PCNV meetings will continue

Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82969640784?pwd=ZVR0bHprclJ4Y1JzSVJBWmhGUzJiZz09>

There is no charge for this meeting.