



REACHING OUT

Sunday December 3, 2023

9:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague

No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday December 3

Advent 1

Isaiah 64: 1-9; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man



‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass

away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Mark 13:24-37

Bible Readings for Sunday December 10

Advent 2

Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

Praying For One Another 2023

In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.

Congregations in the Presbytery are called to pray for one another each time they meet. By naming each other in prayer we enhance our pastoral support with each other, in God’s company. This invitation builds our faith linkages every year. This week we pray for the congregation of **Mooroopna** commencing Sunday December 3

THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP AND BELONGING

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, our companion and guide.

Show us the way home. Construct in our imagination the Holy city, where we have perfect fellowship and never know any as strangers.

Lord, gather together the people who share our vision and meet us with faith along the way. Place us where we may honour the diversity of others without losing ourselves.

Lord, surround us with enough peace and joy in our place today, that tomorrow will be worth living for us and others.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

When someone moves to a new location the need to find new friends and colleagues become a priority. Such was the case with Jesus who, according to Matthew, did not begin his public ministry until he had chosen a home and friends. A location in Capernaum came after two unsettling events.

First there was the temptation in the wilderness which occurred at a time when he was without human companionship.

The other time was in Gethsemane when the sorrow of his heart almost crushed him.

What Jesus required then was the prayerful presence of His closest companions.

Prayer is nourished in friendship. In a time of crises, we want dependable, watchful friends.

For Jesus, there was a secure thirty year period of growth in body and spirit while he travelled throughout Galilee.

After he found a home in Capernaum, it was not long before his ministry brought him into conflict with his home town of Nazareth (Luke 4: 16 -30) and his adopted home in Capernaum (Matthew 11: 20 -24).

However, after these rejections he still found a home. For example, after a successful training mission for his disciples, Jesus found rest in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

(Luke 10: 1-23,38 -42). This was the home to which he returned when a friend died, (John 11) and it became the sanctuary for a symbolic anointing before his death (John 12: 1-8).

Home is the place where, when you must go there, friends are happy to take you in. A true friend is someone who knows us better than anyone else does, and yet accepts us, enjoys us, needs us, holds nothing back from us.

Friends keep our secrets and are there for us when we want someone near.

Our society does not promote friendship. Activities are promoted, new homes are built, materialism is encouraged. But there is no structural push for friendship.

It is more likely that you stumble into it.

What is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden underfoot by those who have the gift every day.

It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian community is a gift of grace, a gift of the kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us.

Therefore, let those who until now have had the privilege of sharing a common Christian life with others, praise God's grace from the bottom of their hearts.

SELAH



BENEDICTION

May your roots go deep into the lives of others and bring forth the fruit of friendship that will endure to the glory of God.

AMEN

Refugee support

Thank you to all of you who have recently given to assist those from Grace Mukozi's original community who now are refugees in Uganda. This Sunday, Dec 3, will be the last time to give so she will have our gift before Christmas. Please place your donations in an envelope on our offering table at the back of the church or in a direct deposit to the church account – details being: BSB 033-264, account 960276, account name Emmanuel Congregation. Just note 'Grace' or 'refugee support'. Every bit we can give will help to make their lives safer and better. Thank you, everyone, for your giving, for this, and for the general work of our church. LouAnne

Lectionary Comment - Mark 13:24-37

Vv. 14-30 are the Parable of the Talents. Jesus has used it to stress the importance of fidelity to him and his mission while he is away. Here Jesus tells us the kind of conduct, of morality, towards others expected of the faithful – and the consequences of not caring for others. Sheep and goats behave differently but in Palestine they were fed together. At the end of the era, when Christ comes again, he will act for the Father ("sit on ... [his] throne", v. 31). He will separate the "sheep" (v. 32) from the "goats", assigning the former to a place of honour ("at his right hand", v. 33) and the latter to dishonour. He, as "king" (v. 34) will invite the godly (or faithful), those whom the Father has pre-ordained for this, to live with him ("the kingdom"), a state that existed before creation ("from the foundation of the world"). Why? Because the godly have fulfilled God's expectation: in reaching out to the disadvantaged they have, in fact, been reaching out to him (v. 40). We are all part of his family. But the "goats", those who have ignored the needy, will be permanently separated from God, be unhappy, and be punished, for they have failed to see Christ in people. The "righteous" (v. 46) are the faithful, the godly, those who understand that to serve humanity is to serve Christ – and do so.

Chris Haslam of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Emmanuel Roster

December 3

Elder on Duty: David Robinson
Reader: Rod Clutterbuck
Prayers: Carol Harris
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

December 10

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris
Reader: LouAnne Stabb
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck
Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Rod Clutterbuck
Pianist: LouAnne Stabb

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay
0419 990 358
lfindlay03@bigpond.com

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies
02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069
stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au
[weekly RDO: Friday]

Emmanuel Pastoral Care: speak with an Elder or Warden
Emmanuel Prayer Chain: give requests to Betty Sagers on 0427 761 044
Address: PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
Office Phone: Emmanuel Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460
Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com
or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 stabb@inet.net.au by Wednesday.

Coming Events

Wed December 6	8:30am	Grounds and Maintenance
	10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri December 8	9:30am	Craft Goup at Emmanuel

A TIME TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE COMING OF JESUS.....



CELEBRATE THE SEASON & MAKE ROOM FOR GOD

**Come to EMMANUEL CHURCH,
39 Emerald Ave,
West Wodonga**

Today, December 3rd at 5.00pm.

Worship, singing and creativity for the whole family.
Get to know others that worship in the different spaces each week.
This will be followed by sharing in a provided picnic BBQ in the grounds.

ALL WELCOME

The advent event has been sponsored and organised by members of Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church, St John's Anglican Church, St Stephen's Uniting Church and Kergunyah Uniting Church.

First Sunday of Advent



Hope for families forced to flee

Jehan*, a brave mother of five, made the courageous decision to escape on foot to Pakistan with her family when Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in 2021. Your gifts through the Christmas Bowl can help Act for Peace coordinate rapid emergency responses with local partners, like Church World Services Asia, so that they can immediately act, giving families like Jehan's safety in exile – and hope for the future – when they need it most. **Please give today.**

*Name changed for safety reasons



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Thank you for joining once again with churches across Australia
as we share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

More information here: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

Donate here: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/donate>