



REACHING OUT

Sunday December 1, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jefferies

No Service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday December 1

Advent 1

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

The Coming of the Son of Man



‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

Exhortation to Watch

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

Luke 21: 25-36

Bible Readings for Sunday December 8

Advent 2

Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

Praying For One Another 2024

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 **St David’s, Albury** Sunday December 1.

Coming Events

Sun December 1, 5:00 pm

Tue December 3, 7:30pm

Wed December 4 8:30 am

10:30 am

Fri December 8, 9:30 am

Joint Anglican & Uniting Worship at St. Stephen’s Church

Emmanuel Council meets on Zoom

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship

Craft Group

A REFLECTION ON CHANGE

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord, we are stubborn people so often refusing to let go of our familiar behaviours. Seeking comfort and security, rather than risking change.

Lord, so often following you requires us to let go of the old and familiar while embracing a new way. The way that you walk. The way of the father.

Lord, teach us your ways and direct us in new paths, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

CHANGE a simple 6-letter word but so unwelcome and resisted by so many. **'We've never done this before.'** Or **'The old way was so much better.'**

These are often the definitive and conclusive remark about any proposed change.

When we try to make sense of such comments, we are left to decide whether they are comments made out of inertia or stem from a desire to maintain the comfort of familiarity.

The human organism and most of its organisations are resistant to change.

We seek an equilibrium – or stasis. Change takes energy, focus and a great deal of effort.

And the first barrier to even seriously needed change is that it is unfamiliar and uncomfortable,

So, our impulse for stasis immediately sets up resistance. The irony is that even as we resist change, we are constantly in a state of change.

We live in a world in which the rate of change is increasing exponentially every year.

That is, there is more social, political and economic change happening faster than ever before in human history.

Our resistance to change in our families and neighbourhoods, and churches is a reaction to the constant, rapid change we experience in the world around us.

Spiritually, the question becomes, 'what needed changes are we resisting?'

The comfort of familiarity can lead us to idolise what we already know and practice.

We can make an idol of what is and what has been.

Seeking God for the familiar allows the temptation to control what happens in prayer and worship. To our detriment, we can also be tempted to control our relationship with God.

In so doing, we prevent the Holy Spirit from breaking into our lives.

However, the Holy Spirit blows where it wills, and that reality means that we CANNOT control what God is doing in the world and in our lives.

We can be imprisoned by the familiar. Familiarity is comfortable, or at least it provides the illusion of comfort. The familiar can also become an icon - a substitute for grace and blessing.

If we never open our hearts and souls to the winds of the spirit- if we never risk change- then faith stagnates. To be truly open to the possibility of God's working in our lives we must risk an encounter with the unfamiliar. We must take a chance on being uncomfortable.

We must be willing to change.

SELAH

A BLESSING



Lord even when the road is rough and our bodies grow weary, may we continue to follow closely after you. Even when you lead us into uncomfortable places and situations.

AMEN.

Emmanuel Roster

December 1

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

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

December 8

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck
Reader: Betty Bjorksten
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck
Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Ted Stabb
Organist: 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 Saggars 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@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Myanmar, Thailand



Burmese Sister Stella Pie Pi Moe teaches children to play the flute in a class at St. Mary's Catholic Church in the Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp in Thailand. Sister Stella is assigned to the camp--home to thousands of Burmese refugees--by the diocese of Loikaw in Myanmar. The flutes are cut from common PVC pipe. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We give thanks for:

- the beauty of these countries and their people, and their many distinctive Buddhist temples
- those who long have struggled that these countries might become more democratic
- the faithful witness of churches, which have advocated with others for greater justice
- efforts to protect the environment and resources in these countries.

We pray for:

- minority ethnic and religious groups who continue to experience discrimination, persecution or even genocide (such as the Rohingyas), and for greater interfaith understanding and tolerance for ethnic and religious diversity
- those victimized by sex tourism and exploitation, and those who perpetuate such acts
- political stability and progress toward democratic rule
- economic justice for all people, and environmental protection, as these countries undergo development.

Joint Anglican & Uniting Advent Worship

at

ST. STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

Nilmar Avenue, Wodonga

Sunday December 1st at 5.00 pm

Join with members of St. Stephen's, Kergunyah, St. Stephens and others for a time of worship, singing and creativity for the whole family, followed by a shared meal.

ALL WELCOME!!

Refugees Support via Grace



We plan to provide more funds by mid- December so will be accepting gifts for 'refugee support' until Sunday, December 1. Please place in the offering bowl in an envelope marked or note refugee support' on a direct deposit to the congregation account.

Bank account details are:

BSB 033-264; Account – 960276.



Emmanuel Name Tags

It's been quite a while since we ordered nametags for congregation members. Please see LouAnne or (text or phone 0419 644 769) and we'll get one for you.



LouAnne
STABB



2025 Offering Envelopes

It's time to order offering envelopes if this is your preferred way of giving. Please see LouAnne to confirm that you wish to continue in 2025, or if you would like envelopes for next year and don't use them now, see LouAnne. If you wish to use direct deposit to the bank account, the details above in the 'Refugee Support' notice. The congregation appreciates giving in whatever way it is given.

Christmas Bowl Appeal 2024

The Christmas Bowl started on Sunday 24 November, with The Reign of Christ Sunday, and runs for six services through to Christmas Day. Act for Peace is the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. We work with and for people around the world who are uprooted by conflict and disasters. We invest in local organisations and work together to create lasting change, helping empower people to regain the peace that comes with having a safe place to belong. Australian churches, through the Christmas Bowl, have acted together to bring peace and hope into the world for 75 years. Help us continue to act for peace.

Your impact: Preventing displacement in Indonesia



Eko lives in North Pakuli, Indonesia, with his wife and three-year-old daughter. Eko's family have endured many disasters over the years. Frequent flash flooding has had a serious impact on their income, as their home has been damaged and their seeds and fertiliser were frequently washed away by the rain.

How to Donate

- Giving envelopes – available at church
- Open plate collection – please place in envelope and mark donation for the Christmas Bowl Appeal
- Online transfer – Transfer the money online to our account: **Account Name:** Act for Peace Ltd BSB: 012 332 **Account Number:** 2323 75215 Please include the reference number: **CB(A-157104)** as the message in the transaction and email us at info@actforpeace.org.au to notify us of your deposit so that we can attribute it to you.