



REACHING OUT

Sunday December 8, 2024

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay

11:15 am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday December 8

Advent 2

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

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,



‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

Luke 3: 1-6

Bible Readings for Sunday December 15

Advent 3

Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18

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 congregations of **Tallangatta and Red Bluff** Sunday December 8.

Coming Events

Wed December 11 8:30 am
10:30 am

Fri December 13, 9:30 am

Sun February 23, 10:15am

Grounds and Maintenance
Morning Tea and Fellowship

Craft Group

Annual General Meeting of the Congregation after Worship

2025 Offering Envelopes

It's time to prepare 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 are: BSB033-264 Account 960276. Note 'offering' and your name. Thank you for your giving in whatever way it comes.

A REFLECTION ON CHANGE

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Dear Father God, we come to you seeking relationship with you. We come confessing our sins of neglect and negligence. Our failure to set aside the time needed to commune with you. To maintain relationship with you. Father, our world is changing so fast, and we are changing with it.

Help us to stand against those things that would rob us of faith itself.

Lord, you have called us to yourself. You have promised never to leave or forsake us.

We come to you now holding onto that promise.

Thank you, for the assurance that your ways are right and true.

Thankyou that we can stand in your righteousness against all that would come against us.

We pray this in the name of Jesus.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

We live in a very noisy world. Amidst traffic outside, computer beeps in our study and a cacophony of noise in our home. Most of us experience true silence only occasionally. Sometimes we are afraid of silence. We do not want more issues and agendas to encroach upon our already far too busy lives. So, we avoid silence, hoping we even avoid the word of God.

The mystics tell us that silence is essential for the formation of the spiritual life. Silence is essential if we are to hear your still, small voice which we spend most of our waking hours ignoring. Silence and solitude tend to go together in the heart of the person who intends to listen to the Holy Spirit. Even the frustration at not getting enough silence can be a gift. Since frustration can lead us to go away to a quiet place to seek the presence of God once more.

Jesus gave us a clear example of leaving the crowds and noise and commerce behind to find silent communication with God. And a quiet place allows us to let our hearts, minds and spirits find a calm which is a prerequisite to deep prayer and an openness to the Spirit in our lives.

Silence is necessary to be open to the possibility that God might be wanting to do a new thing in our lives. Setting time aside to attend a spiritual retreat, helps us form a habit of living in silence as a spiritual discipline. Taking time out somewhere free of distractions helps us be more present.

Intimacy requires intentionality. Intimacy with God cannot be achieved without setting time aside to be solely in his presence. Jesus set time aside to be with his father, to abide with the Father. Jesus regularly set time aside to pray, even though there were many who were wanting him. Jesus knew that silence and solitude were central to abiding with his Father. When we commit ourselves to silence and solitude we remember who we are in Jesus.

Equally we open ourselves to the work of the Spirit in our lives.

We need to slow down to hear God's voice. We need to lay aside constant distractions.

Without solitude it is literally impossible to live the Christian life.

When we are not taking time to talk with God we fail to hear his unique message for us.

How can we know **'the way'** if we are not listening.

Mother Teresa said God is the friend of silence.

SELAH

BENEDICTION.



Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life no one comes to the Father but by me.'

(John 14:6)

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

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

December 15

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb
Reader: Jenny Mathieson
Prayers: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb

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

Christmas Services at Emmaneu

Sunday, December 22
Tuesday, December 24

9:00 am Advent 4 worship, UCA tradition led by Rev. Leonie Findlay
There will be no service at Emmanuel on Christmas Eve.
Next week details of services at St. John's, St. Stephen's and Kergunyah will be in Reaching Out.

Wednesday, December 25
Sunday, December 29

9:00 am Christmas Day worship, UCA tradition led by Rev. Rhonda Kissick
9:00 am 5th Sunday worship, details soon, but no Congregation meeting

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.

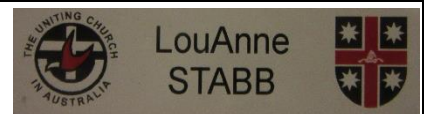
Emmanuel Community Shop



Our Community Shop is a wonderful part of the ministry of our Congregation. It does take a considerable amount of work to keep it such a pleasant and attractive place. The faithful Shop volunteers do an excellent job of keeping it that way. They need some helpers to fill in for holidays or have appointments that must be at certain times. If you have a bit of extra time and would like to try something new, why don't you give the Community Shop a try. If you are able, do stop in to the Shop and see what they do. Shop opening hours are 10:30 am to 2:30 pm weekdays. Or see Carol Clutterbuck, who is the manager of the Community Shop. A Working With Children Check is a requirement for Shop volunteers, but there are people to assist with that if needed.

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.



Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam



Nguyen Thi Xoan, who lost her leg to unexploded ordnance remaining from the U.S. war against Vietnam, sells fish in a market in Quang Phu, Vietnam.

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

We are thankful for:

- those who have remained in these countries through years of conflict and oppression
- Christians who bear witness in the region even though they are small in number
- the many who have provided for humanitarian assistance and peace-building
- refugees from these countries who are enriching the societies in which they now have made their home.

We pray for:

- those who continue to bear physical and emotional scars from years of conflict
- victims of monsoons and other disasters in the region
- economic development to improve life for all people and the environment
- political stability amid competing powers.

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: Supporting families who are internally displaced in Gaza



Being committed to acting for peace means being present in the world's darkest places. Places like war-torn Gaza where millions of people don't have a safe place to belong. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost and over 1.9 million people have been forcibly displaced. Nearly the entire population lacks access to shelter, food, medical services, clean water, education and income. Since October 2023, there have been relentless attacks on Gaza, including homes, hospitals, clinics, schools and churches. The number of people killed and injured continues to rise each day.

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.