

13th December 2020

ADVENT 3

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Keiraview Uniting News



contact us

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A Fairtrade Faith Community

Psalm 126:2-3

Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

Thought for the week

John the Baptist's message is in focus this week, and some of the prophetic foundations for his ministry, and that of Jesus, are coupled with the story of his preaching, and his refusal to really identify himself. John proclaims that One is coming who will baptise in the Holy Spirit – moving the 'law' into the heart (as Jeremiah prophesied). The Psalm for this week, the experience of being restored by God is described, and it is not just an outward reality, but an experience that changes God's people inwardly too, creating joy and strength. God's saving restoring work must always embrace our entire lives, our entire experience and our entire being. This means that, as much as our hearts need to be changed, so to do our structures and systems. As much as we need to rebuild broken cities, homes and nations, so too do we need to rebuild broken hearts, broken relationships and broken spirits. It is God who does the work of restoration – this is the Good News of Advent – but we are invited, even as John was, to be voices proclaiming God's coming, and participants in God's saving work.

From <http://sacredise.com> Advent Reflections

welcome

Morning Worship **9:30am**
led by Rev. Dr Les Hewitt

Evening Worship **6:30pm**
led by Liana Whitten

PRAYERS

Pray for the residents, managers & staff of Farmborough Grove, Nareena Hills Village and Farmborough Nursing Home and for those of us who have family members in care.

A prayer from UCA Lectionary:

God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMING UP AT KEIRAVIEW

Day	Time	Activity
Sun 13 th	10:30- 11:15	Advent Bible Study
Sun 13 th	14:00- 16:00	Gardening @ Church
Sun 13 th	16:00	Barista Training (more details in newsletter)
Tues 15 th	10:00- 12:00	Eden Playtime & Community Gardening
Wed 16 th	19:30- 21:00	Mid-Week Advent Bible Study



From the Safe Church Team

The Safe Church Team would like to remind the congregation to ensure they maintain the 1.5m physical distancing as far as practical at all times. For those having Morning Tea please ensure you maintain social distancing while getting your cuppa and whilst sitting at the tables. This is one of the best ways to limit the spread of the COVID virus. If you have any questions regarding our COVID Safe Plans or the procedures we have put in place, please speak to the Safe Church Team (Gavin Whitten, Vi Richardson or Pauline Doyle) or email

safe-church
@keiraview.org

Church Council met in August and the decision was made to continue onsite worship services and group activities.

We continue to recommend the wearing of masks at worship services as per the NSW Government guidelines.



Christmas Day Service

The **Keiraview Christmas Day Service** will be at 9am.

Offerings will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

E-Mailing List

Yahoo groups have been closed so Keiraview has moved our mailing list to groups.io. Please update your contacts/address book with the new email address keiraview@groups.io. If you wish to subscribe to the list you can do this by sending an email to keiraview+subscribe@groups.io.

Keiraview Activities in Recess

Most of our regular church activities that run in term time have now finished (or are due to finish this week).

Newsletter Recess

The 27th December newsletter will be the last for this year and will be in recess for 4 weeks. Please ensure that you send any articles or notices for the duration 27/12/2020 – 24/01/2021 by 26th December to notices@keiraview.org

COVID Guidance

This week there has been further easing of COVID restrictions in NSW, moving from a 4m² to 2 m² rule and increased capacity for Places of Worship. The restrictions on singing are also being eased, with masks still advised, however clarification is still being sought. The church's COVID Safe plan will be updated and specific changes will be confirmed.

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/covid19saferoadmap/>

Learn to Use Our Coffee Machine

Eden Playtime & Community Gardening are offering the use of our coffee machine by other groups in the church, such as morning and evening service, young adults, etc. Possibly fundraising for Youth MAT. Michael Stephenson has kindly offered to show people how to make a latte or cappuccino using Playtime's espresso machine. We will provide coffee from *State of Bean*.



Please contact Jennifer Almond 0401 245669 if you want to attend training on Sunday 13th December, at 4pm at Keiraview (this will be between Eden Gardening and Insight)

Mission Australia's Christmas Prayer Event

Join Mission Australia to pray for the communities and people we serve together, under God. Wednesday 16th December. 8:00-8:35 am.

Register here. <https://bit.ly/3a72KHx>

UCA President's Pastoral Letter (End 2020) Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus," (1 Corinthians 1: 3-4) This is a greeting that I have heard echoed by Uniting Church members and I have prayed myself, as we have longed to be together again in face-to-face worship and community gatherings. I join with other members, expressing our gratitude for sisters and brothers in Christ who have been companions on the difficult journey through 2020. We also give thanks to God for the abundant grace of God that continues to shape our lives and who we are as the Church.

In this season of Advent, we reflect on the coming of Christ into our world with anticipation and hope. We also look to the end of 2020, which has been a year like no other – "unprecedented", challenging, marked by grief and multiple losses. One that has called for our endurance, our creativity and adaptability, and has caused us to draw deeply from the love and comfort of God that sustains us. In this time of great disruption and significant change, we have talked about our priorities and what really matters, writer and artist, Jan Richardson expresses this beautifully in her reflection on Christ the Light: "It matters that we hold the light for one another. It matters that we bear witness to the Light who holds us all, that we testify to this light that shines its infinite love and mercy on us, across oceans, across borders, across time." **Advent 3, Testify to the Light, The Advent Door, 2014.**

I write this letter of thanks to you for all you have done in this year to continue our life of worship, witness and service to Christ, as the Uniting Church in Australia. You have borne witness to the light of Christ, in your worship, your pastoral connection, your advocacy for justice, your creativity, your humour, your kindness, your persistent hope and love. You have 'held the light for one another' and I am deeply grateful to be part of this communion of Christ, this movement of the Holy Spirit, we call the Uniting Church. As we give thanks to God for the coming of Christ, who brings liberation and God's saving grace to our world, may you know God's peace and love calling us into a new year and a future with hope. At Christmas and in the New Year, may the light of Christ shine in your life, and be reflected in the communities in which you serve. Grace and peace be with you,

Dr Deidre Palmer (President, Uniting Church in Australia Assembly)

Third Sunday of Advent



The joy of returning home

Today there are more than 60,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. With the civil war over, many wish to return home to live in peace and freedom, and help rebuild their nation. Act for Peace's local partner, with your support, is helping returnees rebuild their lives by providing training and livelihood support to help families earn an income. **Please give today.**



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

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

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Banking Details If you prefer to do an electronic bank deposit as offertory, the details are:

Keiraview Uniting Church, BSB: 634 634, Account #: 100017747

ROSTER

20th DEC 2020

Flowers

Bronwyn Wilson

AV/Streaming

Rod Doyle

John Kennedy

Welcomers

Colin Gold

Pat Waller

Announcements

Clive Arthur

Elder

Alayne Guerin

Music

Lurline Butler

Bible Reader

Annette Arthur

Prayer

Minister

Offering Counting

Ian Almond

Ross Johnson

Morning Tea

Sandy Brisbane

Glenys Johnston

Don Townsend

Sue Townsend

READINGS

ADVENT 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Roman 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Please send notices for this news sheet to Grace/John

by noon Wednesday.

☎ 0415 952701

notices@keiraview.org