

27th December 2020

CHRISTMAS 1

34 FISHER ST,
WEST WOLLONGONG

Keiraview Uniting News



contact us

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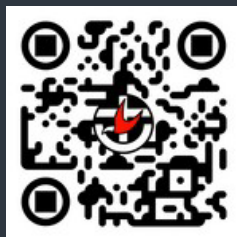
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www.keiraview.org

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Luke 2:34-35

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul.

welcome

Morning Worship **9:30am**

led by Rev. Dr Les Hewitt

No Evening Worship

Thought for the week

The Not Too Distant God Says "Yes"

How shall we celebrate this Christmas, when we need to mute our singing and gather at arms' length? We cannot let fear of infection dilute the wonder of what God has done, we cannot let the lack of our singing restrain our celebrations. When we have been told that the only way to be safe is by being distant from each other, we proclaim that by coming close to all of us, God has indeed brought life. In Jesus, God says yes to forgiveness, to justice, to healing. In Jesus' birth, God embraces those on the edges, those unnamed, those our community brushes aside. When we believe that we are beyond the reach of God's mercy, outside the hope of God's love, Christmas asserts that none of us is beyond God finding each of us, welcoming us and bringing us home. Christmas assures us that God is never distant. In Jesus, God says "yes".

Imagine a God, who, from the very beginning says "Yes". A God, who, in shaping light from dark, dry land from water, and placing humanity at the heart of it, says "Yes". Who, despite our frailty and failures, seeks us out, calls our name, and welcomes us home.

Imagine a God, always hopeful, forever faithful, and never distant. This is the God we know in Jesus Christ. Our story is made complete in Jesus.

As we consider how we can celebrate Christmas after this strugglesome, rigorous year, we begin where we have always needed to – with Jesus, the promise of God. We've had a year of social, physical and emotional distance, but God always comes to us. Even when we are distant, feeling isolated in our homes, God is there. Always with a Yes. It is precisely because of years like this one, drought and bushfires, coronavirus, and its wake, that Christmas is vital.

After a year of panic buying, lockdown and loneliness we have the hope and peace of the not too distant God. With us. Saying "Yes".

Rev. Simon Hansford *Moderator UCA NSW/ACT*

PRAYERS

Pray for Rev. David Stuart, his wife Gillian, and their three children as they prepare for the move to Keiraview.

Give thanks for Les' ministry this year, and pray for the smooth transition of the Ministry Team in 2021 with David, Khairul & Sue.

Pray for planning for 2021, for all activities, and outreach. Pray for all MATs.

Pray for all those impacted by the Fiji Cyclone and for those supporting them.

COMING UP IN JANUARY

Day	Time	Activity
15 th Jan	18:30	Retreat Yourself (Cook Off™)
16 th Jan	10:00- 15:30	Retreat Yourself (Worship Gathering)
17 th Jan	14:00- 16:00	Rev. David Stuart's Induction Service



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.



Rev. David Stuart's Induction Service

David's induction will be held at **14:00** on **Sunday 17th January**. Please join us for this important service to welcome David and his family to Keiraview. This will be a combined congregation service.

[Please note there will be no morning or evening service on that day]

Keiraview Market Day

SAVE THE DATE! **Saturday 6th March** for a Market Day to raise the funds to sponsor our 2 young people at Agape children's Home in Thailand.

We had to cancel the planned Market Day last March due to the COVID-19 virus. Please keep the date and think about how you can help in this one. Contact Robyn Johnson if you would like to help.

Christmas Bowl This week is the final week for the Christmas Bowl. If you wish to donate through Keiraview, please ensure you put your donation into the bowl at the back of the church this week.

Danny Ivanovski Sculpture

Congratulations to Danny on having his sculpture selected for exhibition at the Chan Art Sculpture Award at Nan Tien. The exhibition runs until 21 Mar 2021



Baptism of Ronan Whitten

Ronan's baptism will be this Saturday 26th December 17:00 at Stuart Park Beach. BYO picnic dinner/beachwear.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"12 Days of Christmas" Verses

25 Dec **Faith** Ephesians 2:8-9
26 Dec **Hope** Romans 15:13
27 Dec **Love** 1 John 4:19
28 Dec **Forgiveness** 1 John 1:9
29 Dec **Mercy** Luke 6:36
30 Dec **Kindness** Ephesians 4:32
31 Dec **Generosity** 2 Corinthians 9:11
1 Jan **Compassion** 1 Peter 3:8
2 Jan **Joy** Romans 12:12
3 Jan **Salvation** John 14:6
4 Jan **Obedience** James 1:22-25
5 Jan **Life** John 10:10

Newsletter returns on 31st January 2021

RETREAT YOURSELF COMING TO KEIRAVIEW IN JANUARY

Encourage your emerging gens to take up Keiraview's invitation for a night of cooking and a day of connection.

Starting Friday night 15 Jan @ 18:30 with a Friday Night Cook-Off (connecting via zoom with 7 other UCA kitchens cooking the same dish). If you can't make it to Keiraview, join from home and follow along (recipes provided).

10am Saturday 16th Jan kicks off with a zoom gathered worship and study, then connect with others at Keiraview to discuss how we encounter God personally, locally, within our church and wider community, as we grow as disciples.

Contact Khairul Hamdan khairul@keiraview.org

Follow along at home by registering at nswact.uca.org.au/Ry21

Coordinated by the Pulse team – *growing vital Christian communities where emerging generations thrive.*

Message from Eden Playtime *The garden is obviously open for everyone 24/7 so please help yourself to herbs, veggies and possibly fruit. We won't be meeting up officially on Sun pm during the holidays but will be attending occasionally to maintain the garden. Call Ian (0411 523023) or Jenny (0401 245669) if you want to meet up at Keiraview.*

Growing Young Survey

Dear Friends, Keiraview Church Council has decided to do an independent, whole church survey based on the 'Growing Young' book. The address for the survey is below:

<https://www.oursurvey.church/KeiraviewUnitingChurch>

We believe the survey is very important and relevant. We ask you to complete the survey online **by the end of January 2021**. If you unable to complete the survey online, one of us will be able to sit and enter information with you, or we could explore paper based options.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. We are leaving the survey open for a six-week period, so you can complete it anytime you choose up to the end of January 2021. The results will be collected and will provide valuable information about our church family at Keiraview and will form a key part of our strategy for the future. It will also be great information for our new minister, David Stuart, to work from as he comes into and becomes part of Keiraview. In addition, we have spare copies of the Growing Young book in paper form if anyone would like to read it. The book is also available online and in spoken form via Audible for the vision impaired, or those that prefer audio books.

Thanks, Keiraview Church Council

Thank You !

As we close out 2020, and look forward to 2021 we reflect on what has been an unprecedented year of disruption and difficulty for the world, our society and church. In amongst the global pandemic, we saw the closure of ministry for Rev. Annette Hawken early in the year and mid-year welcomed the announcement of our new minister Rev. David Stuart. Thank you Rev. Les Hewitt for the gift of relief ministry to Keiraview. We give thanks to God for your steady ministry, and for the entire Ministry Team with the introduction of Khairul and Sue this year. Praise God for providing our flock with care this year.

Thank you to those on the leadership teams, MATs and fellowship groups, all those on the rosters, supporting the services and events, and all those behind-the-scenes whose wardenship and service are the life-blood of our church.

The words of Psalm 46 bring to mind two traditional hymns: *God is our Strength and Refuge* (in the trials and tribulations of 2020, be reassured, God has been ever-present this year) ; *Be Still and Know* (as we head into the recess and holidays, let the busyness of 2020 be cast aside so that we can truly appreciate the stillness and knowledge that God is exalted over all).

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Grace Kennedy - editor

Common Grace

You are invited by one of our most senior Aboriginal Christian Leaders, Aunty Jean Phillips, to gather together to pray in unison to #ChangeTheHeart on the evening before January 26. Every January, Aunty Jean Phillips invites Australians to pray as we approach 26 January – a day of mourning for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters.

Tune in to this unique, national service led by Aboriginal Christian Leaders simulcast on television, online and on radio.

Monday, 25 January 2021 at 7:30 pm AEDT

More details at <https://www.commongrace.org.au/tunein>

In the Illawarra, Central Church at Port Kembla will also be broadcasting the service, if you wish to join them in tuning in to #ChangeTheHeart it is essential to RSVP to admin@centralchurch.org.au



ROSTER

3rd JAN 2021

Flowers

Leonie Erskine

AV/Streaming

Stephen Donsworth

Kath Hamdan

Welcomers

Keith Smyth

Thelma Smyth

Announcements

Pat Waller

Elder

Pauline Doyle

Music

Lurline Butler

Bible Reader

Bev Ratcliffe

Prayer

Alayne Guerin

Communion Preparation

Alayne Guerin

Communion Elders

Jenny Almond

Lyn Jones

Offering Counting

Ross Johnson

Lyn Jones

Morning Tea

Annette Arthur

Sandy Brisbane

Don Townsend

Sue Townsend

READINGS

CHRISTMAS 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-9, 10-18

Please send notices for this news sheet to Grace

by noon Wednesday 27 Jan.

☎ 0415 952701

notices@keiraview.org

ROSTER

10th JAN 2021

Flowers

Bronwyn Wilson

AV/Streaming

Ian Almond
Khairul Hamdan

Welcomers

Pat Robinson
Pat Judd

Announcements

Bev Ratcliffe

Elder

Alayne Guerin

Music

Lurline Butler

Bible Reader

Don Townsend

Prayer

Robyn Bradley

Offering Counting

Ian Almond
Alan Bradley

Morning Tea

Colin Gold
Glenys Johnston
Allan Kew
Pat Waller

READINGS

BAPTISM OF JESUS

Galatians 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

ROSTER (2pm)

17th JAN 2021

Flowers

Annette Arthur

AV/Streaming

Clive Arthur
Colin Gold

Welcomers

Sandy Brisbane
Pat Waller

Announcements

Pauline Doyle

Elder

Annette Arthur

Music

Robyn Bradley

Bible Reader

Alayne Guerin

Prayer

David Stuart

Offering Counting

Clive Arthur
Lyn Jones

Afternoon Tea

Ian Almond
Jenny Almond
Don Townsend
Sue Townsend

READINGS

EPIPHANY 2

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

ROSTER

24th JAN 2021

Flowers

Leonie Erskine

AV/Streaming

Rod Doyle
Kath Hamdan

Welcomers

Pat Robinson
Pat Waller

Announcements

Norma Coudrey

Elder

Alayne Guerin

Music

Grace Kennedy

Bible Reader

Lyn Jones

Prayer

Robyn Bradley

Offering Counting

Alan Bradley
Pauline Doyle

Morning Tea

Annette Arthur
Sandy Brisbane
Glenys Johnston
Allan Kew

READINGS

EPIPHANY 3

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

ROSTER

31st JAN 2021

Flowers

Robyn Johnson

AV/Streaming

Pauline Doyle
Khairul Hamdan

Welcomers

Keith Smyth
Thelma Smyth

Announcements

Clive Arthur

Elder

Lyn Jones

Music

Kerryn Morrison

Bible Reader

Norma Coudrey

Prayer

Alayne Guerin

Offering Counting

Ross Johnson
Lyn Jones

Morning Tea

Robyn Johnson
Don Townsend
Sue Townsend
Pat Waller

READINGS

EPIPHANY 4

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-3
Mark 1:21-28

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