

12th November 2023

24th Week After Pentecost

34 FISHER ST,
WEST WOLLONGONG

Keiraview Uniting News



Contact Us

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(Day off on Wednesdays)

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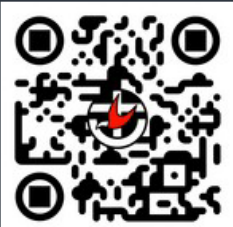
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www.keiraview.org

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A Fairtrade Faith Community

Psalm 78:2-3

Welcome

Morning Worship **9:30am**

Led by David Stuart

Evening Worship **6:00pm**

Led by David Stuart

I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.

Watching for the Kingdom

Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 25:1 – 13 about what the Kingdom of Heaven will be like. In this particular parable he talks about ten bridesmaids waiting for a bridegroom, and because it is nighttime, they all become tired and fall asleep. They wake up to a shout that the bridegroom is coming, so they get up, trim their lamps and light them. Five of the bridesmaids had extra oil for their lamps, so they were able to keep them alight, while the other five ran out of oil and their lights went dim. When they decided to go and get oil, the bridegroom arrived and they subsequently missed out on being taken to the reception, and when they finally arrived they were shut out.

This is an interesting way of talking about the kingdom of heaven, as it mentions people not being there when the time comes and so they are turned away. Taken literally, it presumes an exclusive club where you can come in or you are turned away, you are accepted and in, or ignored and are out. It seems a very harsh way of understanding the kingdom of heaven and maybe it can be seen in this way. There is however a different way of understanding the parable, and we can change our perspective by focussing not on the shutting out but on the waiting.

We see that all ten bridesmaids were waiting, which is not an easy thing—it was night time, it was dark, they were tired, and they fell asleep. They all woke to the shout of the bridegroom was coming, and even then they had to wait a bit more.

Cont. page 2

PRAYERS

Pray for those who are homeless or living in poverty, particularly children, the elderly and those with illness or disability, and for those members of the public served by the Wollongong Community Centre

Pray for other churches in the Illawarra Presbytery, especially those in financial strain or who have a lack of able volunteers

Pray for Doo Ah and her ministry with UOW students on and off campus, and also for the students she serves.

Pray for our church council and its members, both those whose roles are ongoing and those who have been elected to serve for the first time.

COMING UP AT KEIRAVIEW

Day	Time	Activity
Sun Nov 12th	5:00- 6:00pm	Congregational Meeting
Tues Nov 14th	10:00am- 12:00pm	Eden Playtime
Tues Nov 14th	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Burgers n' Bibles
Thurs Nov 16th	5:00pm - 8:00pm	Keiraview Community Night
Thurs Nov 16th	6:30pm	Advent Liturgy Group
Fri Nov 17th	7:00pm- 9:30pm	Regeneration Youth Group

From the Safe Church Team

As at 4th June 2023

COVID is Still Around

- Be aware of the symptoms of Covid. If you do have symptoms, please stay home. Avoid gatherings and services if you are unwell.
- Good ventilation is still very important. If you are the first one to a meeting or gathering, please open the windows.
- When gathering indoors, it is still important to maintain a safe distance from others.

Are You a Volunteer at Keiraview?

- Have you filled in your volunteer forms for this year?
- If not, please speak to Pauline or Naomi about what is required.



Bible Studies at Keiraview

KYB Study : Tuesday afternoons 1:00 - 3:00pm. All women are welcome to attend. **On hiatus until January 30, 2024**

Burgers n' Bibles: Tuesday evenings, 5:30 - 7:00pm. All adults welcome.

If you or your teen would like to help start or attend a small group for study, prayer and fellowship, please contact Naomi at office@keiraview.org to register interest.

Some had enough oil, while some did not, and those who did not were perhaps not as prepared for what was to come. The time involved waiting, and when things got challenging (like having no oil) they attempted to make things right before they were found wanting. These bridesmaids were worried they might not be acceptable to the bridegroom, that they were lacking in some way, that they did not have enough of what was needed, and when they went to get more, they missed out.

I wonder what would have happened if they had waited around and pushed through the challenging time. My guess is that they might have been able to move in the light of the others and find that they were accepted, even with little or no oil. Had they waited and persevered, they would have been able to walk with the bridegroom into the celebration. So, it is more about waiting, persevering, staying in the midst of God, and not about giving up. Perhaps it is better to stay in the darkness rather than run from the place we are meant to be, even if we are not sure of ourselves, even if we are lacking, because Jesus is coming and calling us to stay and meet him. Jesus says "keep awake" not because you shouldn't be asleep – all the bridesmaids fell asleep – but because you need to keep alert and present, even in the tough times, for God is present and willing to walk with you, taking you into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Eden Café – 28th November

The final Eden Café for the year is on Tuesday 28 November from 10:30 to noon. The morning will have a Christmas theme with a Christmas Carol sing-a-long as well as a Christmas craft activity and a lovely Christmas morning tea.

Come and join in a time of fellowship and perhaps you have a friend who might like to come with you. Please bring something yummy to share for morning tea.

Advent Preparation

Rev. David is still looking for creative works (painting, image, photograph, clothing etc.) that reflect the themes of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. These works will be collated and compiled into a study/reflection booklet to use through the season of Advent. The original works will also be displayed in the worship space throughout Advent. If you have anything which expresses these themes, please let David know so they can be added to the study. Please also write a sentence or two about how the piece speaks of the theme it represents.

Rev. David is gathering a group to write liturgy (prayers, calls to worship, blessings, music etc.) to use during the Advent season. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, come along on Sunday 19th of November at 4:30pm to pray and look through the readings and themes of Advent.

A big thank you to those who have sent through works already, those who have said they are working on something, and those who have indicated they are keen to be part of the liturgy group...there are some very creative people in our midst.

For further information and to register your interest in being involved, email David at minister@keiraview.org

Found: Hoop Earring

A rose gold hoop earring has been found in the foyer. If you've lost one, please see Naomi or email office@keiraview.org .

12 Days of Christmas Challenge

Les and Lyn Hewitt are collecting items to assist the Dapto "12 Days of Christmas Challenge". Donations of non-perishable food, vouchers and toys – anything that would help make Christmas merrier for a family in need – can be given to Les and Lyn Hewitt or Pauline Doyle. The goal of the challenge is to make 12 hampers for people in need.

If you have any questions, please speak to Les or Lyn. Donations can be made until November 29th.

Christmas at Wollongong Community Centre

Karen and the volunteers at the Wollongong Community Centre hope to once again create a memorable Christmas for the vulnerable members of our community through the annual Christmas lunch, and your support is needed.

This year, Karen is asking for Christmas-related items, such as chocolates, bags of lollies, table bonbons, etc. Anything Christmas related will help (nut-free is a safe option).

Donations can be delivered to the Community Centre at the rear of Wollongong Uniting Church no later than two-three weeks before Christmas between 8am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

Masquerade Ball – Volunteers Needed

There will be a masquerade ball held at Keiraview on November 25th, from 6pm-9pm. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$50 per family, with proceeds going towards our Agape sponsor children. For tickets or more information, ring Vi on 0491 185 320, or you can purchase tickets from Khairul, Lurline or Robyn J.

A supper will be provided on the night. If you are able to help with this by making a dish to contribute, please contact Lurline Butler on 0412449500.

Save the Date: Lay Leaders' Retreat 2024

Are you a dedicated leader within your congregation or faith community? Your commitment is valued, and your community thanks you. You are invited to a Lay Leaders Retreat in February 2024:

Date: Saturday February 3, 2024

Time: 10:00am-3:30pm

Venue: Kiama Uniting Church

Theme: "In Joyful Obedience".

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Peter Walker, principal of United Theological College

Tea, coffee, juice, morning and afternoon tea provided. Please BYO lunch.

Please RSVP by emailing Naomi at office@keiraview.org or Vi Richardson on admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au by Thursday January 25, 2024. The earliest you can RSVP

ROSTER

19th November 2023

Flowers

Bronwyn Wilson

AV/Streaming

Kath Hamdan
Khairul Hamdan

Welcomers

Keith Smyth
Thelma Smyth

Announcements

Bev Ratcliffe

Elder

Pauline Doyle

Music

Lurline Butler

Bible Reader

Don Townsend

Prayer

David Stuart

Offering Counting

Ross Johnson
Lyn Jones

Morning Tea

Annette Arthur
Pauline Doyle
Rod Doyle
Robyn Johnson

READINGS

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25
Ps 78:1-7
1 Thess 4:13-18
Mt 25:1-13

Please send notices for this news sheet to Naomi Barton **by 5pm Wednesday.**
☎ 0401 791 483
notices@keiraview.org



Speak Out
IN CONFIDENCE

Raise any issues, incidents or concerns via our confidential and secure reporting service 'Speak Out'

INDEPENDENT AND CONFIDENTIAL HOTLINE
1800 951145

For more information go to:
speakout.uca.org.au

Uniting Church **core**
INTEGRITY

ELECTRONIC GIVING

If you would prefer to send an electronic bank deposit as offertory, the details are:
Keiraview Uniting Church, BSB: 634 634, Account #: 100017747