

24th December 2023

Christmas Eve

34 FISHER ST,
WEST WOLLONGONG

Keiraview Uniting News



Lk 1:30b-31

“Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”

Welcome

Morning Worship **9:30am**
Led by David Stuart

Evening Worship **6:00pm**
Led by the Whole Congregation

Christmas: Just a Sentimental Holiday?

The Christmas story can often be viewed as a cute, irrelevant story which, in order for us to celebrate it, requires us to step out of the tough realities of our world: a form of spiritual escapism.

When we read the Lectionary passages for this week, we see the very opposite of escapism: a call to radical, subversive and transformative engagement.

God's new order is among us. We are no longer waiting for God's Reign to arrive. We can participate in it now if are willing to receive the courage and the imagination and the faith. And so, as we engage with the issues of power in our world, we are invited on a journey downward to become servants and collaborators, rather than tyrants and dominators. As we engage the issues of need and poverty, we are encouraged to become givers and sharers, rather than hoarders and accumulators. As we wrestle with the issues of disease, loneliness and homelessness, we are invited to become friends and welcomers, rather than judges and excluders.

Ultimately, like those we encounter in this story, we discover that there is a whole different way of living within the old order of our world, and that, no matter what our station or position may be, we can share the benefits of this by simply living it visibly among our neighbours.

PRAYERS

Pray for those who are homeless or living in poverty, particularly children, the elderly and those with illness or disability

Pray for the Wesley Community Centre in Wollongong, especially for their community Christmas dinner tomorrow.

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 the students who are now on holidays, that they have a refreshing and fulfilling time over the summer

Pray for SUNSW Beach Mission, that missions this year are a well-planned, safe, joyful time

Pray for those who are marking Christmas this year while they are grieving and without their loved ones, especially if this is their first 'Christmas without them'.

Contact Us

MINISTER OF THE WORD

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(Day off on Wednesdays)

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A Fairtrade Faith Community

COMING UP AT KEIRAVIEW

Day	Time	Activity
Sun Dec 24th	6:00pm - 7:30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Mon Dec 25th	9:00am	Christmas Morning Service

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 David or Naomi about what is required.



Christmas Service Times

Christmas Eve - 6pm

Christmas Day – 9:00 am

2024 Growth Groups

Next year during the first term every Monday Wollongong West Public School is having “Growth Groups” from 2pm to 3 pm. The school pupils are split up into 4 domains and choose between the following activities:

Intellectual Domain: Chess, Coding, STEM activities, Card games/board games

Creative Domain: French knitting, Basket weaving, Glee club (singing) Cooking

Social-Emotional Domain: “Primary School for 80-year-olds”. Pen-Pals overseas, Mindfulness watercolor nature painting, Around the World in 5 days

Physical Domain: Yoga, Calisthenics, Gardening, Dance

We can indicate which of these activities we can assist a teacher with (from 2pm - 3pm) during term 1. You will need a “working with children” check, which can take some time.

Elizabeth Heritage is running the “primary school for 80 year olds” which has taken the name from the ABC show “preschool for 80 year olds”, a program which followed a social experiment where they paired up elderly people from a retirement village with young preschool children. It was a great success, particularly in improving the mental health of the elderly people. She was wondering if anyone from Keiraview might like to come to school on a Monday afternoon to meet and do activities like craft, reading and games with a small group of children who are interested in getting to know people from a different generation.

If interested, please contact Laurie Aldridge on 0412356495 or at laurie.aldridge@gmail.com before Jan 15.

Newsletter Hiatus

The weekly newsletter will be on hiatus until January 28 while a number of Keiraview’s usual programs are also on hiatus. Communications about important events and news will continue by email and during services.

Rev. David’s On Leave

Rev. David will be on leave from the 2nd - 18th of January. Please direct any church related enquiries to Naomi at office@keiraview.org or Scott at chair@keiraview.org. If you have any pastoral needs, please contact Fae McGregor or Annette Arthur.

The services in this time will be taken by: **Rev. Matt Wilson** (7/1), **Rev. Doo Ah Leeming** (14/1) and **Nicola Gancalves** (21/1).

New Waste Bins

Keiraview now has 3 waste bins instead of just one. This has been organised through a joint effort of the Property MAT and the SJE MAT.

It is the intention of the committees that the Green bin will be used for garden waste, at least initially. We don’t intend to use FOGO for the time being.

The bin in the kitchen has compartments for General Waste and for Recycling.

Keiraview users are encouraged to utilise the new recycling bin to minimise our environmental impact. Please be careful, though, to avoid plastic bags of all kinds.

Accommodation Needed for Refugee Family

As many of you are aware, Keiraview Uniting Church have been supporting a refugee family from Syria since October 2022.

The family have recently had to vacate the house they have been renting for 12 months and are now without a permanent place to live.

They have been given short term accommodation, but this has meant moving from motel to motel every week or two.

The family of 7 are desperately in need of a place to rent with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms in the Wollongong area. Somewhere between Corrimal and Albion Park would be ideal.

If anyone is aware of a rental property that might be suitable, please contact Presbytery administrator Vi Richardson on:

Mobile: 0491 185 320

Email: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

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 is the better for organisers.

Volunteer Forms

The majority of volunteer forms are now in. In some cases we still require additional signatures for Keiraview's Code of Conduct or Volunteer Manual (or both).

If I haven't received one or both of these forms from you I'll contact you personally over this week. Otherwise, rest assured!

Please email or see me if you have any concerns.

- Naomi

MORNING GATHERING ROSTER

31st December 2023

Flowers

Colleen Claydon

AV/Streaming

Kath Hamdan
Khairul Hamdan

Welcomers

Pat Robinson
Pat Waller

Announcements

Pauline Doyle

Elder

Geoff Lattimore

Music

Grace Kennedy

Bible Reader

Alayne Guerin

Prayer

Robyn Bradley

Offering Counting

Ian Almond
Ross Johnson

Morning Tea

Jenny Almond
Annette Arthur
Don Townsend
Sue Townsend

READINGS

DECEMBER 24, 2023

2 Sm 7:1-11, 16
Ps 89:1-4, 19-26
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

Please send notices for this news sheet to Naomi Barton
by 5pm Wednesday.

☎ 0401 791 483

notices@keiraview.org

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