



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”



This week our Wednesday Small Group met for the last time this year. We looked back at some of our themes, our ‘words’: creation – word and Word – light – grace – hope – and we brought them into the context of Advent and Christmas.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...
In him was life and that life was the light of all mankind...
The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:4-5,14)

But we went further, finding even more for us to reflect on now.

Fear not - joy - peace

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you...” (Luke 2:11...)

“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called ... Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Fear not - joy - peace

How are we hearing these ‘words’ today? How are we living them?
How are we bringing them to others we may be thinking of?

Down the years, some of the world’s great musicians, artists, writers... have been giving these ‘words’ - these events - ‘new birth’: Handel’s ‘Messiah’, Rembrandt’s nativity scenes, Dickens – and his transformed Scrooge: I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirit of all Three shall strive within me. And still into the present! Currently I am reading ‘Time of the Child’, author Niall Williams, winner of the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award.

But what is the motivating force – the compelling spirit – that draws us back, again and again– to look, to listen, to read – to be still and to wonder?

Wonder - is there ever a place in our lives - where we just - wonder?

Father Henri Nouwen, a distinguished academic, became the pastor of L’Arche Daybreak in Canada, a community for people with intellectual disabilities. From thoughtful, prayerful – often painful - experience of life and of living, he speaks:

When we listen with our whole being, we create a space where God can be heard.

And after our ‘listening’?

Perhaps it’s time to turn to the Narnia series, author C.S.Lewis. Running through the final book, ‘The Last Battle’, is the theme ‘further up and further in’: one context, discovering a stable.

“Yes,” said the Lord Digory. “Its inside is bigger than its outside.” “Yes,” said Queen Lucy. “In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.”

Margot

Sunday December 14th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Service of Lessons and Carols with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Jillian Cranney

In person and online...

10.45am **Second Cuppa**

5.30pm **Worship Service— Shared Meal**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 35: 1-10
Psalm 46: 1-10
James 5: 7-10
Matthew 11: 2-11

What’s on this week

Tue Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am
Wed Social Games 1.00-3.00pm
Fri PYES 6.30-9.30pm

Sunday December 21st

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Sean Weatherley

In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-25

Links

[Service live \(or replay\) streaming](#)

[Zoom \(for meetings\)](#)

[Church website](#)

[Chris’ sermons](#)

From the Resource Centre

Still more to explore!

All Creation Waits. The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings: 'Twenty-five meditations paired with original woodcuts reflecting on how wild animals adapt when darkness and cold descend.' Author Gayle Boss turns to the natural world, to open what she calls 'the ancient wisdom of Advent: The dark is not the end but the way a new beginning comes.' She writes about animals in their habitats: she explores 'the rhythms of various birds, bees and animals during the holy season of Advent.'

And for those who look for favourite authors, among others, you will find:

-Preparing for Christmas with Richard Rohr. Daily Meditations for Advent. Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest and founder of the Centre for Action and Contemplation. This is a very small book, coming quietly, sensitively but bringing with it the assurance, the strength of Rohr's recognised insights and reflections.

- Similarly, Advent and Christmas. Wisdom from G.K. Chesterton, comes with an invitation to join with Chesterton in his refreshing, insightful preparation for Christmas.

And there's still more to explore!

Join us in Prayer ...

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You are breaking and have broken in, into our lives, into our world.

Your light has entered into darkness, bringing hope amidst despair, joy amidst grief. Your law is love and your gospel is peace. We change, and all things change, when you break in. Thank you that you are with us, now in the Advent season, on Christmas Day, in the week following Christmas when things often seem flat and going with us into the new year.

When we celebrate, when we grieve, you are with us, holding us, loving us. Let our hope lead us deeper into our world, seeking to reflect your love and shalom to those we meet.

You are to be found amongst the rubble and we offer up wordless prayers for those living in areas of violence, where your light is hard to find. Show us how to be your hands and feet.

Thank you for your boundless love and grace.

Amen

Amanda

From the Church Council ...

At the last Church Council meeting the following office bearers were elected:

Chairperson: Dan Reeve

Deputy Chair: Pauline Callan

Secretary: Neil Proudlove

Treasurer: Simran Dryden

Envelopes are available on the table in the foyer if you would like to make a donation to the Christmas Bowl



As you know, the new social media rules came into effect this week. Whatever the long term effects of these changes, they will have a significant impact on many younger teenagers, and some may be very distressed. Mental Health First Aid has produced a resource to help anyone who knows children and teens affected by the new social media rules. You can download it from MHFA using this link: <https://bit.ly/mhghfy>, for yourself, or to pass on to friends and family. It's an excellent resource for everyone, especially those who are close to younger teens, with clear guidance on what to look out for, what to say (and avoid saying!), and where to seek further help if needed.



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