



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”

roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

Each time I visit London, I head to the British Museum. I have favourite things there which I like to look at; the Enlightenment room, a stone hand axe over a million years old, a fragment of the Gilgamesh epic, all the things connected with the Ancient Near East cultures of Mesopotamia and the Levant which surrounded Israel in the times of the Hebrew Bible. I also take in the massive sculpture of the head and upper body of the Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses II, also known as Ozymandias, just so I can reflect on and take some comfort from, the words from Shelley's sonnet, which Chris read to us last week, "My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings; Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

The poem is about the ephemeral nature of human power; of the inevitable decline of rulers, their buildings and their empires. Ultimately, humans are frail and insignificant, and all will eventually return to dust and be forgotten. Shelley was expelled from Oxford for writing "The Necessity of Atheism"; part of his rejection of religion was due to his dislike of empires and the way that the poor were kept in their place by those in power. His poetry has inspired countless people in their struggles against uncaring and oppressive power, including religious tyranny.

I sense that a lot of the values which Shelley held as an atheist are similar to those we hold as followers of Jesus. Perhaps we could have some good conversations if he appeared suddenly at our dinner table! We too would agree that often, faith is co-opted for power; that we look around our world and see people being oppressed by authoritarian rulers, often claiming to be acting on their belief in God. Yet, as Chris pointed out last week, solutions to perceived problems in society that depend on creating or deepening the suffering of others are not to be trusted as coming from God. Jesus preached a merciful kingdom, on earth as in heaven, based on living in the transformative power of God's love. It is good to look within ourselves and find those things which point us towards love and justice, to join with our families and friends and church and all the other communities of which we are a part, to encourage and accompany each other as we follow Jesus.

I'm really looking forward to the Reflective Christmas service on the 11th of December, 'a quieter, more meditative service, to celebrate the love of God bringing peace into a world of fear'. I feel in need of this with all that continues to happen around us.

And as Chris concluded last week, it is reassuring to know that although kingdoms and rulers and all the visible and invisible structures of authority shall eventually pass away, the story of Jesus and his words will remain eternally. We are a part of something greater than we can see or imagine, because of our trust in him. The upcoming advent season, and the birth of that little baby in the humble stable, will give us some time to reflect further on these things.

Amanda

Sunday November 23rd

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

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Alan Caradus
In person and online
- 10.45am **Service of Healing & Wholeness**
- 5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe and music special with Rev. Ellie Elia**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Luke 1: 68-79
Colossians 1: 11-20
Luke 23: 33-43

What's on this week

- Tue Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am
- Wed Social Games 1.00-3.00pm
Heralding Advent Ecumenical Service
Holy Family Catholic Church 7.30pm
Young Adults' Small Group 7.00pm
- Fri Christian Meditation 2.30pm
PYES 6.30-9.30pm

Sunday November 30th

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

- 9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Sean Weatherley
In person and online...
- 5.30pm **Worship Service and Advent Workshop**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 2: 1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13: 11-14
Matthew 24: 36-44

Links

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

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

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)

Christmas at Roseville Uniting Church

6pm Thursday 11th December – Reflective Christmas
9:30am Sunday 14th December – Service of lessons and carols
5:30pm Sunday 14th December – Shared Christmas Meal
9pm Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve Communion
9:30am Thursday 25th December – Christmas Morning Celebration

Roseville Uniting Church, 7a Lord Street
Everyone is welcome

More dates for 2025

26th November: Heralding Advent Service, Holy Family Catholic Church 7.30pm

6th December: Congregation Christmas Party 4.00pm

7th December: Congregational Meeting 11.00am

11th December: Reflective Christmas Service 6.00pm

12th December: Taste of Meditation Afternoon Tea

14th December: Service of Lessons & Carols 9.30am

24th December: Christmas Eve Communion 9.00pm

25th December: Christmas Day Service 9.30am

Join us in Prayer ...

God of a thousand names, you come to us in many forms –

manna to the hungry, water to the parched
embrace to the grieving, rainbow to the despairing
champion of the oppressed, defender of the exploited
friend to the lonely, rescuer to the lost
rest for the weary, shock to the comfortable
peace to the restless, gift to the joyful
mystery to the knowing, revelation to the seeking

manna, water, embrace, rainbow, champion, defender,
friend, rescuer, rest, shock, peace, gift, mystery,
revelation...

In silence, let us reflect on what God's name is for us at this moment...

Uniting Church Assembly

Christmas Party!

Saturday December 6th
from 4pm @ the Powell's

Everyone is welcome



Christian Meditation Afternoon Tea

Friday December 12th
Christian Meditation as usual at 2:30pm
Followed by Afternoon Tea at 3:30pm

Everyone is welcome



Roseville Ministry Contacts

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