ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

"Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus

roseville.unitingchurch.org.au @530worship @rosevilleuniting

The Season of Advent- a time for remembering

This week in my meditation groups I was thinking about the season of Advent and commemorating the birth of Jesus. For me it is a time of remembering hope, especially in a world where we are constantly reminded through various media outlets of the violence and hatred in the world. And yet there is also so much good in the world. Advent and the Christmas season is an opportunity for us to open our eyes to the many blessings we have and the wonder of the birth of Jesus and what it has meant for civilisations around the world.

At this time of the year let us reflect on this past year and what it has meant for us. Remembering not only the significance of the birth of Christ but also a time to be thankful for the people in our lives. It is a time to think of others, and it is a time we show our appreciation through the exchange of gifts. When we can remember to be thankful for the people that have meant the most to us in our lives, it becomes a time of joy, a time to count our blessings. A time to be grateful for the life given to us and a time to remember not to take for granted all the love and beauty that surrounds us each and every day.

When you truly think about it we have a lot to be grateful for. The more we can be grateful, our very attitude and actions help to spread the message of the gospel in the world. We begin to become more aware of the many examples of peace, love and kindness that present to us each and every day. But we have to stay awake to notice it. By this I mean we cannot be preoccupied with our thoughts and ego. We need to find the time each day to have enough stillness - of being in the moment - to notice. We are then in God's presence and see the world through a different lens. We become increasingly grateful for God's presence in our lives that allows us to see our many blessings. This I think is the message from the renowned Benedictine monk David Steindl-Rast who said that it is fundamentally being grateful - even for the smallest things we would normally take for granted - that makes us happy and not the possessions we have.

This week's quote is from the bible: Psalm 16 : Joy in God's presence , verse 11:

" *Thou wilt show me the path of*
life: in thy presence is fullness of joy;
at thy right hand there are pleasures
for evermore."

Michael

Sunday December 7th

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

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Robert Bevan
5 Minutes of Faith with Dan Reeve
In person and online

11.00am **Congregational AGM**

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe and Sonia Powell**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
Romans 15: 4-13
Matthew 3: 1-12

What's on this week

Tue
Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am
Church Council 7.00pm

Wed
Small Group 10.00am
Social Games 1.00-3.00pm

Thurs
Reflective Christmas 6.00pm

Fri
Christian Meditation 2.30pm
Meditation Afternoon Tea 3.30pm
eSoc 5.30pm
PYES 6.30-9.30pm

Sunday December 14th

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

9.30am **Service of Lessons and Carols**
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

Links | Service live (or replay) streaming | Zoom (for meetings) | Church website | Chris' sermons

From the Resource Centre

Welcome back!

As you come by the Resource Centre, you will find materials to accompany us through these weeks of Advent – and onto Christmas.

'O Christmas Three', is a small book re-telling three classic short stories: O.Henry, 'The Gift of the Magi'; Leo Tolstoy: 'Where Love is, There God is Also', and Charles Dickens, 'What Christmas Is as We Grow Older'. Classic stories, perhaps little known, but truly expressive of the meaning of this season.

Maria Boulding's The Coming of God is a book of 'spiritual insight and depth' and demands something rather more of us. But given the time, with some quiet attention, we have the opportunity to live further into the meaning, the wonder of this time.

Matthew Byrne, in The Way It Was: The Narrative of the Birth of Jesus, looks again at people central to the birth of Jesus: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, Elizabeth and Zachariah, Simeon and Anna, and Herod. As we're open to further insights and understanding, time spent with The Way It Was has much to offer.

The Resource Centre is ours. Moments spent here are worthwhile.

More dates for 2025

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 ...

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that the world was once in darkness, and you sent forth the Light of the World, Jesus, who brought everlasting change.

We pray for those in challenging situations to find illumination through those who follow you. You provide us with Hope, encouraging us to slow down and prioritise what truly matters. This hope inspires us to open our hearts to new possibilities and positive changes.

You grant us Peace, prompting us to seek rest and renewal while promoting harmony in our homes, schools and workplaces. As we prepare for the holiday season, let the spirit of goodwill and readiness be our guide. Those of us feeling anxious seek comfort in your presence with us. Those with heavy hearts yearn for the joy that you bring. We are individuals navigating through darkness in search of light. Therefore, we humbly say, 'Come Lord Jesus.' Amen.

Maz

eSoc

Friday

12th December

eSoc trip to Balmoral Beach

Meet at Balmoral at 5.30 for a leisurely walk , followed by fish and chips.

See Maz. for more details.

0432 115 744

Roseville Ministry Contacts

Office Address
7a Lord Street
PO Box 44, Roseville 2069

Church Office
Cath Pinchin 9416 5185
office@roseville.unitingchurch.org.au
Office Hours Typically Tue, Wed and Fri

Website roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

Ministry Team
Rev. Dr. Chris Goringe
0402 012 418
Rev. Aeryun Lee
0403 491 610
Congregational Chairperson
Sue Drury
Direct Giving
treasurer@roseville.unitingchurch.org.au
Asylum Seeker & Refugee Support
Gwyn Denton gwyn@dentons.id.au

Church Council Chair
Pauline Callan
0417 419 671
Church Council Secretary
secretary@roseville.unitingchurch.org.au
Treasurer
Simran Dryden
treasurer@roseville.unitingchurch.org.au
Safe Church Officer
Di Knowles 9498 4736