



# REACHING OUT December 1, 2019

Weekly News for Wodonga West and Rural Uniting Churches

## Advent 1

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

6:00pm Kergunyah Uniting Church

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

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the



day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

**Matthew 24:36-44**

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**Emmanuel please note:** On days declared **Code Red** fire danger, Church Council has resolved that Sunday services at Emmanuel will be not be held and all other church activities are to be cancelled.

## COMING EVENTS

- Tue 3 Dec 9:30am Prayer Group at Emmanuel  
Playgroup for children 0-5 years, parents and carers
- Wed 4 Dec 9:00am Emmanuel Grounds and Maintenance Group  
7:30pm Emmanuel Council meets at Emmanuel
- Sun 8 Dec 11:15am Service of Release for Rev Dr Judy Redman at St. David's Albury
- Tue 10 Dec 9:30am Prayer Group at Emmanuel  
Playgroup for children 0-5 years, parents and carers  
Last Playgroup for 2019; Christmas Garden Party
- Wed 11 Dec 9:00am Emmanuel Grounds and Maintenance Group

## SERVICE OF RELEASE REV DR JUDY REDMAN

Rev Dr Judy Redman will conclude her placement as tertiary chaplain for Charles Sturt and La Trobe University campuses in the near future and then take leave owing to her whilst continuing to seek another placement with the Uniting Church in Australia. The Presbytery has consequently organised a Service of Worship which will not only mark the conclusion of Rev Dr Redman's placement as the Ecumenical Tertiary Chaplain but will also be a celebration of and thanksgiving for the work of Judy and the other Tertiary Chaplains and Volunteer Chaplains since the commencement of this placement.

We therefore would like to extend an invitation to you to attend this service.

This service will be held on Sunday December 8th, 2019 at St David's Uniting Church, Olive St., Albury in the Wesley Chapel commencing at 11:15am

The service will be preceded by morning tea.

We do hope that you will be able to join us on this occasion. Could you kindly RSVP by email to Helen Collins, Chairperson Presbytery of North East Victoria - <mailto:hgcollos@bigpond.com> by Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>

## LECTIONARY COMMENT

### Matthew 24:36-44

Speaking to his followers, Jesus has foretold the destruction of the Temple; he has told them the signs of the coming of the end times (in terms used in contemporary literature.) In the suffering and trials which will precede the End, society will break down, "many will fall away" (v. 10, from the faith) but "one who endures to the end will be saved" (v. 13). After these events, the "Son of Man" (vv. 27, 30) will come "with power and great glory". This will mark the beginning of a new era, a new way of being. Followers should discern signs of the second coming of Christ (vv. 32-35). But (v. 36), we do not know precisely when that coming will be, and neither does Jesus. The situation will be like that before the Flood: people were preoccupied with earthly matters (v. 38). When the Flood came, a small number "entered the ark" and were saved, but many drowned. The dawn of the new era will also be like this; Jesus gives two examples: of men (v. 40) and of women (v. 41). Some will be "taken" to be with Christ (because they are prepared) but others will be "left". V. 43 is an other example. "Keep awake" (v. 42) to the will of God: be ready for Christ's second coming!

*Chris Haslam, Anglican Diocese of Montreal, Canada*

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**Last Day to place your order for Christmas cards from Uniting.**  
**See Church Notice Board for samples and to place your order or go online at**  
<https://foodforfamilies.org.au/christmas-cards/>



Who is cooking your Christmas Dinner? Whose turn is it this year? So much work beforehand and so busy on the day. In fact, sometimes the cook cannot make church on Christmas morning. Cooks are Mary and Martha all in one, and sometimes Martha misses out. But your Martha does not complain. It is for the family, after all. Wait a minute, of course the family should be able to be together at

Worship on Christmas Morning is a celebration of all that Christmas means, the birthday of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So maybe, well before Christmas Day, let's do a bit of planning.

How can we organise ourselves so that everyone can be together at Church on Christmas morning? With a minimum of fuss. Even a cold Christmas dinner is lovely! What about inviting someone who will be without any family for Christmas dinner?

**Reflection:**

*Psalm 95 challenges us thus:  
 O come, let us sing unto the Lord;  
 Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
 Let us make a joyful noise to him,  
 With songs of praise!  
 Why today?  
 For unto us a son is given!*

MINISTERS OF THE WORD & OTHER CONTACTS

<b>UCA:</b>	<b>Anglican:</b> Fr Jacques Jefferies 02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069 <a href="mailto:stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au">stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au</a> [weekly RDO: Friday]
<b>Emmanuel Pastoral Care:</b> <i>Speak with an Elder or Warden</i>	
<b>Emmanuel Prayer Chain:</b> <i>Give requests to Betty Saggors on 0427 761 044</i>	
<b>Address:</b>	PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
<b>Office Phone:</b>	Emmanuel Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460
<b>Office Open:</b>	Not staffed at present
<b>Reaching Out:</b>	Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 <a href="mailto:hcover@bigpond.com">hcover@bigpond.com</a> or LouAnne Stabb 02 6059 2244 <a href="mailto:stabb@iinet.net.au">stabb@iinet.net.au</a> by <b>Wednesday</b> .
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.emmanuel.unitingchurch.org.au/index/htm">http://www.emmanuel.unitingchurch.org.au/index/htm</a>

BIBLE READINGS *for* NEXT SUNDAY

**Advent 2**

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



WORSHIP SERVICES *for* NEXT WEEK

9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church  
 11:00am Kergunyah Uniting Church

ON DUTY

	<b>Sunday Dec 1 (Anglican)</b>	<b>Sunday Dec 8 (Unting)</b>
<b>Readings</b>	LouAnne Stabb	Harold Cover
<b>Elders/Wardens</b>	Carol Harris Karen Robinson	Carol Harris LouAnne Stabb
<b>Organist</b>	LouAnne Stabb	LouAnne Stabb
<b>Prayers</b>	David Robinson	LouAnne Stabb
<b>Early Word</b>	LouAnne Stabb	Carol Harris

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

**World Council of Churches**

Myanmar, Thailand

**We pray for:**

- minority ethnic and religious groups who continue to experience discrimination, persecution or even genocide (such as the Rohingyas), and for greater interfaith understanding and tolerance for ethnic and religious diversity
- those victimized by sex tourism and exploitation, and those who perpetuate such acts
  - political stability and progress toward democratic rule
- economic justice for all people, and environmental protection, as these countries undergo development.

