



Advent 3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church
6:00pm Kergunyah Uniting Church

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, or Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



Matthew 11:2-11

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 17 Dec 9:30am Prayer Group at Emmanuel
- Wed 18 Dec 9:00am Emmanuel Grounds and Maintenance Group
- Tue 24 Dec 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service - Uniting (No Communion)
- Wed 25 Dec 9:00am Christmas Day Service – Anglican
- Mon 27 Jan 10:30am Community Shop opens for 2020
- Sun 23 Feb 10:30am AGM Emmanuel Congregation

MAJOR EVENTS IN 2020

- Sunday February 23 AGM of Emmanuel Congregation
- Reports for submission by Monday February 17
- Saturday May 16 Devonshire Tea
- Saturday June 20 Annual Winter Garage Sale
- Saturday August 15 Nostalgic Afternoon Tea (date to be confirmed)
- Saturday November 7 Emmanuel Fete and Strawberry Fair

THE ADVENT CANDLES



Advent is a time of expectation and hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. Traditions vary by country, but common ways of commemorating Jesus' birth are through Advent calendars, wreaths, and candles. Ideally, any Advent tradition should involve families in a fun activity each day of December, helping them remember why we celebrate Christmas.

The Advent Candles

- The **first candle** symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.
- The **second candle** represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.
- The **third candle** symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.
- The **fourth candle** represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.
- The (optional) **fifth candle** represents light and purity and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.





A tradition in my family is that each member has their own Christmas tree decoration. Ours is not a glamorous, colour themed with matching ornaments style of tree at all. Rather it consists of a motley assortment of baubles and somewhat battered and ancient decorations, each with their own character and story. There are little trumpets that only my late mother could get to sound; glittering birds with little clips to cling on to branches with; teddies, bells and snowmen still shedding glitter after decades of use; various orbs and balls; and the odd waft of unconvincing fake snow tinsel. We gave up on the dodgy lights many

years ago, about the same time our Christmas star was deemed too tatty and was also ditched. It was usurped by a glamorous angel who parked herself on the treetop to survey the festivities from on high. Visiting relatives were often challenged to races to discover where particular favourite decorations lurked each year. I love our quirky old tree because it has character and history. It is like most families, and congregations for that matter: all are made up of an odd assortment of unmatched but precious members, that together somehow manage to combine magnificently and become a satisfying and unique entity of their own.

Reflection:

The body is a unit, though it is comprised of many parts. And although its parts are many, they all form one body. So it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

MINISTERS OF THE WORD & OTHER CONTACTS

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

BIBLE READINGS *for* NEXT SUNDAY

Advent 4

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



WORSHIP SERVICES *for* NEXT WEEK

9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

11:00am Kergunyah Uniting Church

ON DUTY

	Sunday Dec 15 (Anglican)	Sunday Dec 22 (Uniting)
Readings	Roger Cobcroft	Scott Felstead
Elders/Wardens	Ted Stabb Karen Robinson	David Robinson Ted Stabb
Organist	LouAnne Stabb	LouAnne Stabb
Prayers	Karen Robinson	Carol Harris
Early Word	LouAnne Stabb	Carol Harris

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

World Council of Churches

China, Hong Kong, Macau

We pray for:

- those left behind and further marginalized by rising economic growth, especially women and peasants in rural areas
- the political and social tensions between the mainland of China and Hong Kong and the rest of the world
 - a growth in prophetic witness of the Chinese church in society
- spiritual meaning and freedom from captivity to economic growth and consumerism.

