



25 DECEMBER 2021



Welcome to our Christmas Day service

Please note there will not be a service here tomorrow Sunday 26th December.

Lectionary Readings

Today 25 December, 2021

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Tomorrow 26 December, 2021

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Next week 2 January, 2022

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Christmas Bowl

This year the Christmas Bowl celebrates their 72nd anniversary and you are invited to share your good fortune with our brothers and sisters in need and respond to Jesus's call to love our neighbours. The world needs God's love now more than ever. There are more than 80 million people who have been driven from their homes and loved ones by war or persecution; more than ever recorded. Your gifts this year will provide urgently needed access to food, shelter and life-saving support for families suffering with war and unrest in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries.

We will be having a Retiring Offering today for the Christmas Bowl, alternatively envelopes are available on the back table if you would like a tax receipt for your donation. Please place your envelope in the offering plate. You can also donate online at our church's online Christmas Bowl donation page if you prefer, visit mycb.link/48489.

COVID Update

Under the latest guidelines, we are still required to check in each time we attend church. This will also apply to all groups who meet in the hall or chapel until further notice.

Now that masks are compulsory again, please remember to wear yours at church.



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Jesus, the great surprise disruptor.

I reckon that Christmas is more about what we don't expect, than what we do. Across Sydney today, people everywhere are expecting presents. They are expecting food. Most are expecting family and or friends to visit. Few are expecting that Christmas will change anything in their lives. Isn't that a bit sad! Sure, it's comfortable, but I think we still get the celebration wrong.

In the time when Christ was born, that event we celebrate today began a quiet revolution, which gradually spread across the world in time and space.

It happened without much fanfare. It happened without pomp and ceremony. It happened.... In a backwater, on the edge of the Roman Empire, and it happened to a couple of kids, who couldn't even "get a room".

The birth of a baby, as humble as it is, changes everything. Life is now different. Different in so many ways.

I loved the little video we watched a few minutes ago because it points out in a simple way, how God works. And in doing so, it shows us that he rarely does what we think he should do. But there is one thing we can be sure of, and that is that God's way is the best way.

If Jesus had come as a conquering King, he would have caused an upheaval to the politics of the day. But he didn't come to do that. He came to influence the lives of ordinary folk. An unmarried mother and her betrothed. Some local shepherds. A few visiting dignitaries we refer to as the "wise men".

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus in the manger, is it just a momentary celebration, a "nice moment" so we can get together during the holiday which is Christmas?

Or is it a change that keeps on giving. Change begets change. A renewed focus on others will do that.

I'm not sure what you expected from today's message, but I suspect it wasn't these words. I would have thought it may have been the traditional singing of "Away in a manger" and the platitudes that invokes.

But I really want to challenge you today. I invite you to reflect on how Christmas has changed you, and how it will, once again this year, change you again.

If you can identify a change or two brought about in you by the coming of Jesus to earth, I suggest you have plenty to celebrate today.

Adrian