



5 DECEMBER 2021



Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome back to church this morning, it's great to be able to worship together again. Please remember to wear your mask whilst indoors.

Lectionary Readings

This week 5 December, 2021

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Next week 12 December, 2021

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Local Government Elections

Don't forget the Local Government Elections are this Saturday so make sure you cast your vote.

Worship next Sunday

Next Sunday 12th December, Trish Rooney will be leading worship and celebrating Holy Communion for us. Trish is currently working with Uniting as an Aged Care Chaplain.

Christmas Appeal

As previously advertised, in conjunction with our Child Care Centre, we are supporting the Aboriginal Children's Service in Redfern with gifts for Christmas. Gift ideas include Gift Cards from Woolworths, Coles/Myer, Hoyts, Target/Kmart etc, back-to-school items, Christmas food items, new toys and books.

This Sunday, 5th December is the final day to bring in any donations you would like to give.

Op Shop Sale

The Op Shop is celebrating re-opening with a half-price sale until Christmas. Nearly everything is half-price so why not visit us and grab a bargain. The shop is at 37 Dell St Woodpark and open 9.30am - 4pm, Monday-Friday and 9am - 12noon Saturdays.



Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister:

Office

Phone: 9636 3245

Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website:

www.greystanesuniting.org.au

Being a Highway Maker - Luke 3: 1-6

I don't know about you, but for many people, Christmas is an awful ordeal. How awful that is. Although if I were to be totally honest with you, it has lost a lot of its glitter in our house since the kids have grown up and moved out. In fact, the day is fine, but trying to organise it so we can get together is like herding cats. I've got to admit that it all gets pretty hard.

1) Take the right road. In verses 4&5 of Luke chapter 3 in today's reading, we see what sounds like specifications for a new highway.

"Make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low, the crooked roads shall become straight, and the rough ways smooth." This is a quote from Isaiah 40: 3-5. Isaiah wrote the original when the Israelites were captives in Babylon. When the King travelled he was preceded by sappers (engineer soldiers) who virtually built the road along which he was to pass. By the time Luke wrote his gospel, the Romans had become notorious road builders. Luke's readers would identify the role of John the Baptist immediately as one who removed obstacles to the arrival of the Messiah, Jesus. December could turn out to be a maze. The trick is to find the Lord's path and take it. Let God lead you as he would lead the Magi and the shepherds.

2) Prepare the Way.

When John the Baptist calls on people to **"turn away from your sins and be baptised"**, he was not calling them to an agonising guilt ridden experience, but a liberating adventure. Preparing the way is not a matter of walking around with a long guilty face but with joy, knowing that the King is on your side. Sinner? Yes. But, forgiven sinners is what we are.

3) Enjoy the road.

Sometimes we get so focussed on what we should and or shouldn't be doing, that we miss the opportunity to enjoy the life we are living here and now.

We are called today to be the highway makers of the Kingdom of God. We are invited to smooth people's paths so they too, can meet Jesus. We are asked to build bridges so the road can be travelled.

We are called to be path makers and to prepare the way for others. At the same time, we are allowed to enjoy the benefits of being a Christian on our own journey.

As we prepare for this Christmas and inevitably get caught up in frustration with family and friends, when we get annoyed at the expense and shopping queues, and as we are all sick of QR coding into and out of shops and even our church, remember what it is really about.

God sent his son to live and to die for us. Now that's worth celebrating. Prepare to have a celebration of a heavenly making.—Adrian