



18 DECEMBER 2022



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Welcome to worship this morning,
we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 18 December, 2022

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

Next week 25 December, 2022

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

Christmas Day Service

Our Christmas Day service will be
at 9am next Sunday morning.

Retiring Offering for Floods

Today is the last day to contribute
to our retiring offering for those
affected by the floods in the central
-west of our state.

If you would like to contribute, we
have several options available.
You can

- place your donation in the
plate at the door of the hall
after worship.
- or, you can transfer your
donation to our bank account,
BSB 112-879, account
number 428 172 081, please
put 'floods' in the reference.
- or we will also have EFTPOS
available on Sunday morning if
you would prefer.

Op Shop Half-Price Sale

The shop is having a half-price sale
until Christmas so why not drop in
and find that special Christmas gift
or grab some new decorations for
your Christmas tree.

Op Shop Christmas Closure

The Shop will close at 12 noon on
Saturday 24th December and re-
open on Monday 23rd January,
2023.

Thank you to all the volunteers who
keep the shop running and to all
who have supported us during the
year.



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Gail's Message

During the week a young friend of mine sent me a video he had found on social media. It is a comical skit in which a couple sit in a luxurious suite in the Bethlehem Inn. The husband looks out the window and describes to his wife, busily doing her nails on their comfy bed what he can see happening at the door of the Inn. "There's a man and his pregnant wife, they are trying to get a room, oh my I think she is in labour" says the husband. The man and his heavily pregnant wife are told there is no room at the Inn. The couple witnessing this scene from their room then discuss whether or not they should invite the little family to their room so that the woman can give birth in comfort.

When the man and his pregnant wife are offered the stable the wife, sitting in comfort suggests, "Oh well let's leave it then, some people really like hay and that sort of thing". When the husband insists they pack their backs and donate their room to the couple in need, the wife pretends to be fast asleep on the bed, she ain't going nowhere!

The skit is humorous yet has a sting in its tail, I felt like it had kicked me in the guts. We read in Luke chapter 2 that Mary gives birth to Jesus in the stable because there was no room in the inn and I wonder if we still refuse to make room for Jesus and for those he came to save, the outcasts, the lost, the lonely, the downtrodden, the refugee and those who sit in the darkness of grief, despair, or depression.

It is well documented that at Christmas time many people are particularly vulnerable to loneliness and depression. I stumbled across another interesting post this week on social media that addressed this social crisis by offering Christians a Christmas challenge, "What would happen if we reached out to the lonely via Facebook, offering to meet up for a coffee and a chat over the next few weeks." If people found that a bit too 'out there' the author of the post suggested we send a card to someone we know will be alone at Christmas.

Where can we make room for the ones Jesus loves in our own lives this Christmas and as a community, the body of Christ here at Greystanes Uniting Church?

