



25 DECEMBER 2022



Unto Us a Child is Born

Happy Christmas to all who are worshipping with us this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 25 December, 2022

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

Next week 1 January, 2023

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Retiring Offering for Christmas Bowl Appeal

As we have done for many years, today's offering will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal, to provide on-going support for the many millions of refugees around our world. If you would like a tax-deductible receipt for your donation, please place it in the envelope from the back table, fill in your details, and place the envelope in the offering bag. You can also donate on line at mycb.link/4848

Flood Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our retiring offering for those affected by the floods, we raised \$1265 which Church Council has rounded to \$2000 which has been sent to the Moderator's Flood Appeal.

Op Shop Christmas Closure

The Shop will 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.



Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162

Office Phone: 9636 3245

Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

Gail's Message

Last week during the offering the song *The Little drummer Boy* was played in the background. This song brings back childhood memories of watching a stop motion movie, during the late sixties and early seventies based on the 1941 song of the same name. The movie is based on a fictional story about a young Jewish boy Aaron, who is orphaned and then separated from one of his best friends. The movie entwines Aaron's story with the Magi (aka: the three wisemen) and the Nativity story.

For a children's movie, the story of Aaron's suffering and loss is quite dark, and its fictional plot line could be regarded as overly sentimental and childish, however when Aaron comes before the baby Jesus the lyrics of his drumming song reveal a message of great significance. Please feel free to put in the Pa rum pum pum, pum's in between Aaron's words to the infant Jesus. "I am a poor boy too." "Shall I play my drum for Him?" "I played my best for him" " And then He smiled at me."

The coming of Jesus and the free gift of salvation he offers us is the reason we exchange gifts at Christmas time, however there is no gift we can bring to Jesus other than our attention, our talents, our thoughts and our meditations and just like the Little Drummer Boy, our best is enough. May you know this Christmas that Jesus smiles at you, just as you are, perfect in his sight because you have been loved since before the world knew you.

The fuss we make over Christmas gifts and all the season preparations, all the 'we must catch before the end of the years' and the stress of everything going perfectly on December 25th can overshadow the beauty of the message of Christmas, God is with us, and the smile of God is for us. May your Christmas celebrations be full of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.



Love came down at Christmas!