



3 DECEMBER 2023



First Sunday in Advent

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 3 December, 2023

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Next week 10 December, 2023

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Frontier Services Christmas Cards

We have some Christmas Cards available from Frontier Services. They are \$8 for a pack of 10 cards, 2 each of 5 designs. All money raised will support the work of Frontier Services with those who live in outback Australia. Please see Sue to purchase your cards.



Hands and Feet Update

Our Food Distribution program in conjunction with Hands and Feet Inc, continues to meet a real need in our community with an average of 45 families a week being provided with free fruit and veggies. If you would like to contribute towards our ongoing costs please place your donation in the bowl on the morning tea table.

Hands and Feet are urgently looking for volunteer drivers to collect and distribute food each week. If you could help and have a Class C Licence, details are on the back noticeboard.

Christmas Collection

Thank you to those who have already donated Christmas food items for our Hands and Feet clients. Next Sunday will be the last day for donations.

Christmas Picnic

Our Child Care Centre is having a Christmas Picnic next Friday 8th December with a sausage sizzle, items from the children, a few carols and a visit from our puppets.

You would be most welcome to come along from 5.30—7.30pm, **please let Sue know today** for catering purposes if you are planning to attend. Don't forget to byo chairs or picnic rug.



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Annunciation to Zechariah

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 1:1-23

Acrylic and ink on wood panel

Zechariah is dressed in a breast piece, ephod, robe, checkered tunic, turban, and sash, just as the book of Exodus specifies. In my painting, gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns are woven together and bejewelled with engraved stones which bear the names of the sons of Israel (Exodus 28:4).

Zechariah stands in the Holy Place wearing the most meticulous of garments. Does he expect to encounter the divine? Or is he just going through the motions, lighting the incense as an all-too-familiar scent fills the air?



After all these years of fulfilling priestly duties and “living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), Zechariah and his wife are still childless. Regardless of their desire for children, in their culture and context, childlessness bore the implication of God’s contempt.

I ruminated on this image... a weary priest wrapped in layered fabrics, colours, symbols, textures, and rare stones that proclaim God’s providence and power. The contrast is not lost on me. I often try to neglect my weariness by putting on a veneer of unwavering trust in God—while feeling like I may suddenly unravel into a pile of beautifully curated threads, stones, and gold accessories.

In this image, I decided to depict the angel as smoke from the altar of incense. Zechariah has one hand over his mouth in fear and disbelief, while his other hand cradles the notion—not yet hope—of his son’s existence.

Do you bind up your weariness in a neat and tidy bow, put your head down, and project okay-ness like me?

What would it look like to acknowledge our weariness, quit powering through, and open ourselves up to what God might have in store for us?

Perhaps we’ll meet an angel. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman