

Greystanes GrapevineThe weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



21 DECEMBER 2025



4th Sunday in Advent

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 21 December, 2025

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

Nativity 1 24/25 December

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Nativity 2 24/25 December

Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Nativity 3 24/25 December

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

John 1:1-14

Next week 28 December, 2025

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23



Christmas Day Service

Our Christmas Day service will be at 9am on Thursday. It will be a morning of worship, fun and celebration.

Op Shop Christmas Closure

The Shop will close on Tuesday afternoon and re-open on Tuesday 27th January, 2026.

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

Retiring Offering for Christmas Bowl Appeal

As we have done for many years, the offering on Christmas Day 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 online at mycb.link/48489



Greystanes Uniting Church

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The Uniting Church in Australia: response to the Bondi Massacre

The Uniting Church in Australia expresses its deep sorrow following the attack at Bondi Beach, which NSW Police have identified as a terrorist act.

The violence occurred while families and children were gathered to celebrate the start of Hanukkah, a long-held religious tradition, in peace. What should have been a time of joy, faith and community was instead marked by fear and devastation

We grieve the lives lost and hold in prayer all who have been injured, traumatised and affected.

As the Uniting Church in Australia, we unequivocally state that any attack on families and children gathered peacefully to celebrate faith is utterly unacceptable. We name and reject antisemitism in all its forms. Violence and hatred must never have the final word.

"We reaffirm our commitment to stand with our Jewish friends against hatred, violence, and fear."

We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and commit ourselves again to compassion, peace, and care for one another. We reaffirm our commitment to stand with our Jewish friends against hatred, violence, and fear. This horrifying moment reminds us as a nation that the safety and dignity of our neighbours must never be taken for granted and that protecting one another, especially children and those targeted for their faith, is a shared responsibility.

The Uniting Church affirms the dignity of every person and the right of all people to gather, worship, and celebrate their traditions without fear or violence. At moments like this, when terror seeks to unsettle our sense of safety and unity, we reject fear, hatred, and division. As a Christian church, shaped by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, we are called to speak with moral clarity and to act with deep compassion.

We give thanks for the courage and care of first responders, health workers, and all who have supported those affected during this time.

We invite the church and the wider community to join us in prayer and quiet reflection for all who are grieving today.

The Uniting Church continues to hold in prayer the Jewish community, the families and children impacted, and the wider community as it grieves and seeks healing.

Rev Charissa Suli President UCA

Hanukkah is a festival that commemorates two miraculous events in Jewish history. A little army defeats a might enemy and a little oil (only enough to last one day) burns the sacramental temple candles for eight days. "There is a saying that a little light dispels much darkness" which can be observed when a single candle is lit in a dark room.

We are currently waiting to celebrate the arrival of the Light, our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is the Light that darkness cannot overcome.

In the days ahead as we mourn the tragic events of last Sunday and feel more intensely our own loss and pain remember to be a little light that can make a difference in this often dark and violent world. Blessings, Rev. Gail https://www.abc.net.au/religion/hanukkah-and-the-light-of-the-human-spirit/101794168