



**28 DECEMBER, 2025 - 18 JANUARY, 2026**



## Welcome

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

## Christmas Bowl

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Bowl retiring offering. We are still taking donations for a few more weeks if you would like to contribute, or you can donate on-line at [mycb.link/48489](https://mycb.link/48489)

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the activities of this congregation, whether it is helping with our Hands and Feet food program or at the Op Shop, or with our Craft Groups, providing leadership on Church Council or Ministry Team, as well as those who provide morning tea, maintain our buildings, welcome people, tell stories with puppets, do Bible readings or assist with the powerpoint and sound, run our Facebook page or care for our kids, your support is greatly

## January Return dates

Hand and Feet - 7 January 2026

Op Shop - 27 January, 2026

## Lectionary Readings for January 2026

### 28 December, 2025

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

### January 4, 2026

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

### January 11, 2026

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

### January 18, 2026

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

### January 25, 2026

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1,4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23



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This past year has been a difficult one for us as a congregation, we have experienced collective grief. I know that many of you have also faced personal struggles of all kinds. It feels like we spent the first half of the year living under a cloud of sadness, a cloud that still hovers about as we look towards the future. The nightly news brings into our homes, stories of war, violence and all sorts of unimaginable atrocities, the most recent being the tragic terrorist attack at Bondi. When I think of all these things I remember a quote from one of our past Prime Ministers who infamously said, "life wasn't meant to be easy." Not a good look for a man in government who is supposed to be serving the people but in many ways he was spot on. Life is like a roller coaster, or a journey through mountains, plains and valleys or as another famous character once said, 'a box of chocolates' you never know what you are going to get from one day to another.

Despite the loss and grief we have experienced as a congregation there have also been many moments of pure joy and warm fellowship. I have truly enjoyed leading worship this year and I am so grateful for the way you all embraced our intergenerational activity-based Advent Services. The traditional four themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love have been like guiding lights, pointing the way to the Christ Child but they are also themes that we can apply to everyday life. They are four states of being that can help us weather the storms of life.

**So in 2026, stay hopeful.** Remember that God is always faithful to God's promises. Isaiah's prophecies of a new world without violence, hatred and war will come about one day according to God's own sense of timing. We read in Romans that "creation was subjected to frustration, ( yes Malcolm you were right, life is not easy) not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in **hope** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. Amen!

**So in 2026 abide in the Peace of Christ.** The peace of abiding in Christ is not like the peace the world offers. In modern language it is best described as inner peace, a peace based on trust and a peace that can be maintained now matter what is going on around us. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27.

**So in 2026 be joyful.** This is also best described as "inner" joy, the kind of joy we can feel despite our circumstances. The joy of knowing and abiding in Christ is very different to happiness, which is fleeting but here's the thing, you will only feel this inner joy if you keep your connection to Jesus strong. We are the branches he is the vine, don't wither away but hold firm and trust that the roots of the vine will carry you through anything that life throws at you. (John 15:5)

**So in 2026 remember Love.** Remember that God is love, remember that are loved beyond measure and remember that the love of Christ abiding in your heart can work through you to bring those little glimpses, here and now of God's Kingdom (no not a typo, this expresses the warmth of being part of God's family and all creation being in loving community).—Rev Gail