



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to our **Sunday Service of worship**, commencing at **9-30am** every Sunday

## Christmas 1 1 January 2023



## Christmas 2 8 January 2023

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch  
Flowers: Peter Punch  
Coffee/Tea: Averil & Cliff Clark  
Reader: Jaren Picking  
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch  
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch  
**Special New Year's Day Service**  
Led by: Ken Lehmann

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
Flowers: Kerry Lawson  
Coffee/Tea: Frances Davy & Kerry Lawson  
Reader: Cynthia Falconer  
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson  
Church Rep: Piet Speyers  
Worship Leader: Rev. Mike Fawcett  
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (Communion)

### Readings from the Lectionary

Is 63:7-9  
Ps 148  
Heb 2:10-18  
Mt 2:13-23

Is 42:1-9  
Ps 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Mt 3:13-17

## South Mandurah Uniting Church



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PO Box 5290 FALCON WA 6210  
Website: <https://southmandurahuc.org>

For pastoral needs please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677 E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Leadership Team Chair: Raelyn Punch 0429 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)  
Small Group Coordinators: Andrew Gibson 0407 985 056 & Raelyn Punch  
Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Members of the Leadership Team: Raelyn Punch (Chair), Andrew Gibson (Secretary), Kerry Lawson, Sherryl Smith, Piet Speyers & Andrew Telfer

Halls Head Bendigo Bank details for electronic transfers:

A/C Name: Uniting Church in Australia-South Mandurah Congregation  
BSB: 633-000 A/C No: 117072207

Please include your name as a reference for the payment.



*Our Vision: "United in Christ we reach out to build loving relationships that deepen faith and enrich lives."*



## What Power Fears Most

The excitement and joy of Christmas leaves many people with a strange feeling of sadness in the days after the celebration ends. The frenzied preparations, the endless shopping, the events, the guests, the food, the presents – suddenly it all ends. Everything becomes quiet. Reality sets in. The work week approaches again. Suddenly “normal” seems so...ordinary. Yet, with that sense of ordinary also comes a quiet peace. The world again becomes steady, semi-predictable, reliable. No more pulling off financial feats to make Christmas happen, no more worrying that the kids will like their presents, no more losing hours and hours of sleep doing last minute wrapping and Santa preparations, no more super adrenaline-filled days or festivity-ridden evenings. Our bodies relax thankfully back into their “normal” rhythms of sleep. For soon life will offer its own bits of “excitement” which for us is quite enough – bills to be paid, deadlines to reach, work to be done, errands to complete, fires to put out, relationships to manage, weight to lose, truths to face. For some, the realities of illness, grief, or hardships will flood back in as soon as the momentary joy of the day has passed.



For Jesus' family that cold reality would come only a night after their surprise visit by three prominent guests. It had been a year, possibly two since Jesus' birth. By now, Joseph had built the three of them a home and all seemed well in their lives in Bethlehem. Their son had been garnering lots of attention. When three magi from the eastern kingdoms appeared at their door, it was quite a celebration. Staying a night or two as guests, they brought expensive gifts for the child Jesus and reminded his parents of the importance of his life in light of the messianic prophecies. Then they told them something else. They would need to be very, very careful. The child's life was in danger. In fact, his life would always be endangered from the time of his birth until the moment of his death. His parents would need to protect him until he could do so on his own. Joseph, a man of great faith, trusted his dreams and the Magi's direction, so still reeling from the celebrations of the day before, they packed up their belongings in the still dark night and headed out of

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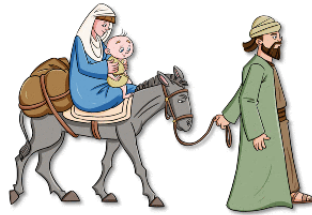
## What Power Fears Most (continued)

Israel to the border of Egypt. The family would sojourn there for a few years until Herod the Great's death, most likely near Alexandria, where many Jews had settled. Jesus' life of living under the radar, under a shroud of mystery and caution, in discretion, had begun.

We can only imagine the brokenness of that time, the brokenness of the world that God sent his son, the Messiah into, a time when the dangerous power of the rich and politically armed could wipe out families in an instant if they didn't do their will, a time when Israel lay subject not only to the forces of Rome but to their own cruel leaders who ate from Rome's hands and grew drunk on its wine of prestige and power.

How would God fight this perversion of power? With love! Unconditional love. The only thing that power can't fight. The only thing that power fears is love. Imagine a world where people actually followed God's words to love and worship Him, and love thy neighbour as thyself. God showed his love by giving us his only son, Jesus and allowing him to be sacrificed on the hill of Golgotha to atone for our sins. No parent could show greater love. If love was the primary motivation in the world, would there be wars? Would Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin or Idi Amin have gained power and unleashed some of the worst genocides in history if love ruled all?

We know that God will bring His justice to the world and deal with those who have broken his laws. We pray that God will help all the people of the world know His love and through loving one another cause all wars and abuse to come to an end. **Amen.**



[www.sermons.com](http://www.sermons.com) (Edited)

## A Prayer for the Joyful Gifts from God

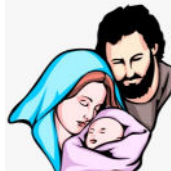
Father God, We thank You and praise You today for the miracle of Your son's birth. Thank You for bringing great joy to the whole world!

Thank you for giving us the assurance that because You came to us in the form of a human, we who believe in Jesus can know with absolute certainty that we'll spend eternity with You.

We thank You, Lord, for the many reasons we have been given a merry Christmas. And we rejoice for each blessing. New life. New love. A home. A job. New opportunities. Second chances. And more.

Thank You, Father, for spiritual leaders, our church and faith-filled friends who keep encouraging us when we need support. In Jesus' name, we say: **Amen**

[www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer](http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer) (Edited)



## Welcome

*A very warm welcome is extended to any visitors. We trust that you will be blessed during this time of worship and invite you to fellowship with us after the service.*



## Congratulations

Welcome to the newest member of our congregation. Judy and Andrew Smith and their two boys Aleks and Jonathon had an Early and very welcome Christmas present when their baby girl Hannah Elizabeth arrived on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. Hannah was 52cm and 3.1kg.

Judy told me that: *"She just lights up our days. Her brothers are very smitten"*; as are her grandparents Hester and Justus. Congratulations and blessings to you all.



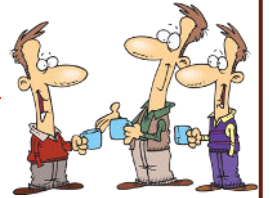
## Cake, Coffee & Fellowship

Invite your friends, neighbours and family (they don't need to be church members) to come to morning tea for conversation, friendship and, excellent tea or coffee.

**For Gentlemen: Espresso Yourself 9-30am 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 (& every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head.**

**For Ladies: She Brews - Commencement date is yet to be finalised.**

**For more information** please contact Peter M: 0427 685 908 or Raelyn Punch M: 0429 685 908, E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)



## Last Chance for Tearfund Cards

This Sunday will be the last day this summer when you can purchase cards at the church to support Tearfund. The cards range in price from \$5 upwards. To purchase cards or for more information please speak to Raelyn Punch at church or M: 0429 685 908, E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Tearfund Australia is a Christian development, relief and advocacy organisation responding to global poverty and injustice. More information about Tearfund can be found at [www.tearfund.org.au](http://www.tearfund.org.au)



## Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

**Rev. Mike Fawcett**

M: 0412 243 677

E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

**OR** Any member of the leadership team (their names are overleaf)



## Your Messenger

If you have any articles, notices or prayer requests please email them by 5pm Tuesday to [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Also If you would like to receive an email copy of the weekly Uniting Church News & Notes please contact me.

*Peter*

