



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

Advent 2

10 December 2023



Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
Flowers: No flowers thank you
Coffee/Tea: Keith & Jaren Picking
Reader: Sherryl Smith
Kids Church: Jan Fawcett
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett
(Communion)

Advent 3

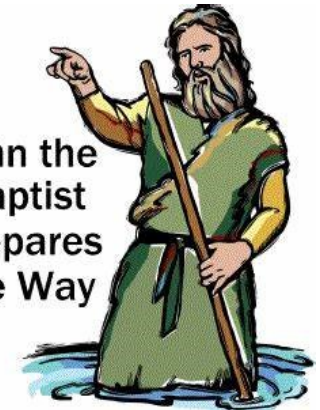
17 December 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: No flowers thank you
Coffee/Tea: Ken & Julie Lehmann
Reader: John Lawrence
Kids Church: Julie Lehmann
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Frances Davy
Speaker: Piet Speyers



A John the Baptist Christmas Card

I love receiving Christmas cards. I especially like Christmas cards with good Christian artwork on the cover. The lion with the lamb; the three wise men and the message, "Wise Men Still Seek Him;" the Madonna and child; or the star piercing the darkness over stable and manger; all are beautiful depictions of the Christmas story. Again, I am positive that as a group we have all perused thousands of Christmas cards like these. Yet I do not recall ever receiving one with John the Baptist preaching in the desert. Do you? I can picture it in my mind: a card front marred by the dead, barren wilderness of Judea out by the Jordan River, with this animated, prophetic figure as the focal point. But I have never read one that even closely resembles such a scene. Have you?



John the Baptist
Prepares
the Way

John the Baptist is totally inappropriate for the way we celebrate Christmas. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus as Matthew and Luke report that holy night many years ago. Mary, Joseph, angels, manger, shepherds, wise men; a child is born unto us. Glory to God in the highest! That is what Christmas is all about. Jesus is the reason for the season. So we honour sweet, little Jesus boy, get warm fuzzies, and hug our family members. What does John the Baptist have to do with Christmas?

For Mark, everything. Instead of Bethlehem and choirs of angels, he begins the story of Jesus' coming with a prophet blaring and baptizing in the wilderness of Judea. In so doing, he adds a new figure to the good news about the incarnation and coming of the Christ. It is John the Baptist. Throughout the centuries the church has recognised Mark's unique contribution through its observance of Advent in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Darrick Acre, A Way Made Ready (Edited)

Readings from the Lectionary

Is 40:1-11
Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
2 pt 3:8-15a
Mk 1:1-8

Is 61:1-4, 8-11
Ps 126 or Lk 1:46b-55
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Or any member of the Leadership Team

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Members of the Leadership Team: Raelyn Punch, Sherryl Smith & 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

It is optional whether you 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."



Thank you

South Mandurah's annual Advent Concert was a resounding success with over 100 people attending of all ages.

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of our Advent Celebration. While it is not possible to name everyone who helped, it is your editor's privilege to particularly thank Ken & Julie Lehmann, Yoy & Anita Alberastine, the Leadership team, our wonderful musicians, singers (both in-house and visiting) and sound desk operators; Judy Law's ladies who decorated the church and everyone who was involved in preparing our wonderful supper (whether as cooks, bringing a dish to share or setting up the fellowship room). We also need to thank everyone who attended—especially those who invited guests; and a special thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the children whose dads are in jail and to those who helped clean up afterwards. Thank you all.



Yoy's Birthday

You are invited to join Yoy, Anita, Raelyn and Peter to celebrate Yoy reaching a significant birthday milestone (one of those birthdays ending with a "0").

Following morning tea this Sunday 10th December we will be adjourning to the Port Bouvard Marina, located at the end of Rees Place, for a light lunch of fish and chips. Everyone is invited, but please note you have to pay for your own lunch. We hope to see you there to enjoy a tasty meal and a wonderful view.

For more information please contact Raelyn E: prpunch@lasar.net.au or phone 0429 685 908.



St Damien's Carols by Candlelight

St Damien's Catholic Church have invited South Mandurah to their Carols by Candlelight service, followed by supper on Saturday 16th December. This is the church we join with for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and is located at 3 Nyabing Pass, Dawesville. St Damien's will hold mass at their normal time of 6pm, followed by the Carol service at **7pm**.



A Prayer of Peace for the 2nd Week of Advent

Heavenly Father, Lord of all, come and fill this world with your peace. May there be an end to hatred and division among your people. Cease all the fighting and war in this world. Heal the bitterness and hurt in my own heart. In the season of Advent, prepare my heart for the coming of Jesus, our Wonderful Counsellor. Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, I ask you to fill my heart with your peace which surpasses all understanding. **Amen.**

Author unknown (edited)

Christmas Eve Service

There will be a special Christmas Eve Service held on **Sunday 24th December 2023**, led by Yoy Alberastine. Everyone is welcome, so invite your family, friends and neighbours.

There will be the opportunity for fellowship from **6pm**, over a cuppa and a piece of Christmas Cake.

The service will be from 6-30 to 7-30pm, followed by light refreshments. The church will remain open after the service for quiet reflection.



Final Reminder: 1st Quarter 2024 Enablers' List

We know everyone is busy at this time of the year but please pause for a few minutes and email Peter your availability for the 1st January to 31st March 2024 Enablers' List at prpunch@lasar.net.au **as soon as possible** (the first draft is completed).

If you haven't been on the Enablers' List previously, or have taken a break from the List, please join in. For those who are unsure what the Enablers are; they are the volunteers who help during the Sunday services in a variety of roles including welcoming at the door, flowers, morning teas, reading the scriptures, Sunday school and more. You can get more information from any of the Leadership Team.

Please also consider joining our wonderful musicians, whether as a singer or playing an instrument. For more information contact Ken at M: 0417 955 149 or E: kenneth.lehmann@bigpond.com



Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett
M: 0412 243 677
E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

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



Yoy Alberastine Sunday 10 December
Rhonda Jessup Tuesday 12 December
Judy Goulder Friday 15 December
God Bless and warm wishes
To you all upon your birthdays



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.

