



# The Messenger

This Sunday's Service starts at the normal time of **9-30am**

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

- The Christmas Eve service starts at **6-30pm** (See details overleaf).
- A service will **NOT** be held at SMUC on Christmas Day



## Letting God Bless You

Rev. Dr. John Killinger was a distinguished professor of religion and culture at Samford University in Birmingham and authored more than fifty books. In his book "Letting God Bless You" he concludes with the challenge:

Permit God to bless you. Don't look around you and think how hard life is. Look around and see how filled with mystery and goodness it is. See how wonderful the world looks when you know God is at work redeeming it and setting up the anti-structures, so that humility and purity and compassion and longing for justice and peace will all be fulfilled and rewarded in the eternal scheme of things.

Give thanks to God for the richness of existence. Then look around to see who you can share it with. That will make you even richer.

If you will learn to live this way every day, you will always have a song in your heart and the path before you will be lined with flowers. Joy will spring inside you like a fountain, and you will lie down to sleep at night with peace in your soul. And you will say, "Blessed be the name of our God forever and ever, who calls us to a new rule where righteousness will be the order of the day forever!"

This Advent season, my friends, let us make the critical choice of permitting God to bless us and to fill us with a new sense of hope and purposeful living. Let us live in the assurance that the present darkness is not our final destination, that there is indeed much more yet to come. Along the way we will begin to experience joy springing up within us like a fountain. Thanks be to God, who blesses us with love and grace beyond measure.

Joel D. Kline, *The Critical Choice* (Edited)

## Advent 3 17 December 2023



## Advent 4 24 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

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch  
Flowers: No flowers thank you  
Coffee/Tea: Raelyn Punch & Kerry Lawson  
Reader: Piet Speyers  
Kids Church: Children will remain in the service  
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch  
Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine  
Communion: Rev. Mike Fawcett



## Readings from the Lectionary

Is 61:1-4, 8-11  
Ps 1126 or Lk 1:46b-55  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

2 Sm 7:1-11, 16  
Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26  
Rom 16:25-27  
Lk 1:26-38



## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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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."*

## The Harvest of Love

Author Helen Keller once wrote: "Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love."

Peace, power and purpose. "The light shines in the darkness..." In these very busy days of preparation, may His peace, His power and His purpose dwell in our hearts.

[Sermons.com](http://Sermons.com) (Edited)



## Advent Week 3 Prayer - Joy

Heavenly Father, this third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth brings us joy this Christmas. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life or in our world. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we receive. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Those who gathered around the new baby were blessed because they believed that you had fulfilled your promises. Mary and Joseph believed and were able to feel the joy of holding baby Jesus in their arms. The shepherds and wise men believed the angles and the signs and experienced the great gladness of worshipping their Messiah.

Those who knew him and recognized him were overjoyed at the coming of Jesus. They saw the prophecies fulfilled and their fear was replaced with happiness as they gazed on the face of the one who would be their Saviour. They trusted in your promises and their hearts were filled with gladness as they watched your loving-kindness manifested in the face of a tiny baby in a lowly manger.

Father, you offer that same joy to us now if we know you and recognize Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. You gave us a reason to celebrate when you gave us the gift of Jesus Christ. You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary's cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sins and give us eternal life when we believe in you.

Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our finances, or our success. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Saviour. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth in whose name we pray. **Amen**

[www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com) (edited)



## Christmas Eve Service

There will be a special Christmas Eve Service held on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

There will not be a Christmas Day service at South Mandurah Uniting Church. The Mandurah Uniting Church, 156 Pinjarra Rd, Mandurah, will be holding a Christmas Day Service, from 9-30am.



## Coffee, Cake & Fellowship

You are invited to join the ladies or gentlemen respectively for coffee, delicious pastries and scintillating conversation:

**For Ladies: She Brews - 9-30am every Wednesday**  
Seven Trees Café, 11 Galbraith Loop, Falcon

**For Gentlemen: Espresso - 9-30am Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head.

**Please Note:** This will be the last coffee morning for the men at this venue because the building is being demolished. The date for the next Espresso and a new venue will be advised as soon as possible.

**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)



## 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)



**Robyn Speyers** Monday 18 December

*God Bless and warm wishes  
To you upon your birthday*



*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.*

