



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

Christmas 1 31 December 2023



Baptism of Jesus 7 January 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: No flowers thank you
Coffee/Tea: Cliff & Averil Clark
Reader: Keith Picking
Kids Church: No Sunday School
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch
Worship Leader: Raelyn Punch & Kerry Lawson
Speaker: Piet Speyers

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Kerry Lawson
Coffee/Tea: Sherryl Smith & Frances Davy
Reader: John Lawrence
Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
Speaker: Yoy Alberastine



Readings from the Lectionary

Is 61:10-62:3
Ps 148
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:22-40

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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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."



The Great Reveal (LK: 2:22-40)

Amazed! That's how Mary felt when Simeon offered his strange and wonderful blessing upon Jesus at the parents' presentation of their first-born son in the Jerusalem Temple.

It's funny really, isn't it? Up until this point, Mary had experienced an angel prophecy, a Holy Spirit visitation, a star following them and shining over their birthing place, and the arrival of praising and singing shepherds. And yet when Simeon proclaims the messianic heritage of her child, Jesus, Mary is still amazed!

Likewise, despite Joseph's miraculous dream, Mary's virgin birth, and those really excited shepherds, he too stands amazed at Simeon's prophecy. Why is that? It's not as though Jesus' identity had not already been revealed, right? And yet each time someone points out Jesus' identity –amazement is the result!

In the world of commerce, marketers will tell you that it takes at least 7 creative "hits" before a "message" imbeds itself into the minds of consumers. We humans are obviously a rather distracted bunch! This is why when you observe our world today, you see messages on billboards, on television, on the internet, on social media, on websites, on t-shirts, in magazine ads, and in every way imaginable, so that from all directions, you are being "surrounded" by the message that a seller wants you to absorb. The more you see, hear, or experience something, the more likely you will become curious, pick it up, and try it out. The key to successful marketing is creative and repetitive appeal.

So, in a way, it's no wonder that each and every time Mary and Joseph met people like Simeon and Anna at the temple telling them of Jesus' future role, that they felt amazement. And let's face it, depending on their level of trust in god, what they had already experienced, and what was being foretold for Jesus, it's little wonder that they showed amazement as they struggled to accept that the baby they held in their arms was the living saviour. How would you react if you experienced a series of miracles culminating in the birth of a child who the angles told you was the son of God? Would you take some convincing? If not then you may be in the minority, as despite 2000 years having passed, and the truth of Christ's birth being broadcast throughout that time, many remain ignorant of the truth, or choose not to believe that Christ, our lord and saviour, was born and placed in a manger all those years ago.

Sermons.com (edited)



Thank you

South Mandurah's Christmas Eve Service was Very successful with nearly 80 people of all ages attending.

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of our Service. While it is not possible to name everyone who helped, it is your editor's privilege to particularly thank Yoy & Rev. Mike for a wonderful service, our musicians, singers and sound desk operators; Raelyn and Kerry & Ron Lawson for a delicious supper, and everyone who helped set up and clean up afterwards. We also need to thank everyone who attended - especially those who invited guests.

Given how popular the evening service was, the Leadership Team would appreciate feedback on whether we should hold more evening services in place of the Sunday morning service. Perhaps an evening service once a month or every second month? Please let the Leadership Team know your thoughts.



A Talking Metronome

Professor McKay was a faculty member in the Music Department at the University of Western Australia. He took his teenage son with him when he attended a conference in Sydney. At the trade fair he purchased a talking metronome (a metronome is used by musicians to help them keep in time) for his students.

At the airport they put their bags onto the security-check conveyor belt. The guard's eyes widened as he watched the monitor. He asked what the professor had in the bag, then slowly pulled out the black box covered with dials and switches. Other travellers, sensing trouble, stepped back. "It's a metronome," Professor McKay told him. The guard looked dubious and his son looked very embarrassed when the professor said "It's a talking metronome. Look, I'll show you." He took the box and flipped a switch to show him how it worked, "One... two... three... four," it said. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

As they gathered their belongings and put them back in their bags, his son whispered, "Aren't you glad it didn't go 'four... three... two... one...?!'"

For the past few weeks we have been counting down the days until Christmas. Now we can count the hours until the dawning of a New Year. But we need to linger with Mary and Joseph for a little while longer (Lk2:22-40), because what happened immediately after Christmas is a stark reminder of the world in which we live.

Sermons.com (Edited)



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.



Administrative Matters

Enablers' List - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to join the January to March 2024 Enablers' List. The List has been finalised and was circulated last week. If anyone who volunteered as an Enabler and has not received a copy of the roster, could you please email Peter E: prpunch@lasar.net.au to obtain a copy of the list.



Annual Congregational Contact List - SMUC publishes an annual contact list for our congregation which, with consent of those listed, includes addresses and phone numbers of the members of our congregation and those who regularly attend our church. The list is published after the AGM is held in February 2024 and preliminary work on the list will be started early in the new year. Everyone who was in last year's list and anyone who has been attending our church regularly and has provided Peter with their email address, will receive an email confirming your details and inviting your inclusion in 2024 Contact List. If you have not provided your email address to Peter and would like to be included, please contact him as soon as possible.

New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, colour or creed.

Help us to keep Jesus in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none. May all your people enjoy year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. We ask You, oh Lord, to shower Your blessings upon them and to bestow upon each of them a bright, healthy and peaceful new year. Amen.

Rev. Marcy Sheremetta, www.xavier.edu (Edited)



Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett

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E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

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



Your Messenger

If you are not receiving this Newsletter by email and wish to do so, please email Peter at: prpunch@lasar.net.au

Any articles, notices or prayer requests which may be suitable for inclusion in the Messenger should be emailed to Peter no later than **5pm Wednesdays**

Thank you

