



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Epiphany 2 14 January 2024



Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
 Flowers: Barbara Smith
 Coffee/Tea: Cynthia & David Clive
 Reader: Frances Davy
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
 Church Rep: Raelyn Punch
 Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
 Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (Communion)

Epiphany 3 21 January 2024

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch
 Flowers: Debby Hardy
 Coffee/Tea: Judy Law & Rosie Sharp
 Reader: Sherryl Smith
 Kids Church: Julie Lehmann
 Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
 Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann
 Speaker: Steve Hall (Adult & Teen Challenge)

Readings from the Lectionary



1 Sm 3:1-10, (11-20)
 Ps 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Cor 6:12-20
 Jn 1:43-51

Jon 3:1-5, 10
 Ps 62:5-12
 1 Cor 7:29-31
 Mk 1:14-20

Following Jesus

I like the story of the young woman who wanted to go to college, but her heart sank when she read the question on the application blank that asked, "Are you a leader?" Being both honest and conscientious, she wrote, "No," and returned the application, expecting the worst. To her surprise, she received this letter from the college: "Dear Applicant: A study of the application forms reveals that this year our college will have 1,452 new leaders. We are accepting you because we feel it is imperative that they have at least one follower."



In the text for this week (John 1:43-51), Phillip comes to Nathanael and proclaims that he has found the one whom Moses wrote about. He is Jesus of Nazareth. While we do not know what expression Nathanael had on his face when he responded, I think that it is safe to say that his response revealed a cynical sneer. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Answered Phillip: "Come and see."

You see, Christianity has the same problem. The churches are full of those sure of themselves. Some may even get to the point where they believe very little that they're told. They sit back under the fig tree with the sneer of a Nathanael and ask, "Can anything good come from our church?" People come in and out the doors of our church with a critical eye. Scepticism is not a modern virtue. Doubting Thomases have been around since the dawn of time. By nature we don't want to be led. We want to lead; but, in the church, it is imperative that we have followers. In fact it is imperative for all of us to be followers.

Nathanael learned this. He was sceptical at first but he was transformed when he met Christ. He became a follower because Phillip invited him.

Let me ask you: What was it that Phillip saw in Christ that moved him to follow, that stirred him so much that he invited his friend Nathanael. Come and see what? What did Phillip see in Jesus of Nazareth? What do you see in Jesus, and if you met Him; what would he see in you? When did you last invite someone to follow Jesus? Have you seen someone's life transformed through their acceptance of Jesus? None of these seemingly simple questions are easy, and finding the answers through self reflection and your faith is challenging. Do you truly follow Jesus?

Sermons.com (Edited)



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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 E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com
 Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: yoyea1210@gmail.com

Leadership Team Chair: Raelyn Punch 0429 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au
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 Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com

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."

Anyone You Recognise?

Fred Everybody, Thomas Somebody, Peter Anybody, and Joe Nobody were neighbours, but not the type that most would want to know. They were odd people, troublesome, and difficult to understand. The way they lived their lives was a shame. These men all went to the same church, but most would not have wanted them as parishioners. Everybody went fishing on Sundays or stayed home and spoke with his friends. Anybody wanted to worship, but he was afraid that Somebody would speak with him. Thus, guess who went to church—that's right, Nobody. Actually, Nobody was the only decent one of the lot. Nobody did the parish census; Nobody joined the parish council. One day there was a call in the bulletin for people to apply for a position as a teacher in the religious education program. Everybody thought Anybody would apply; Anybody thought Somebody would apply. So, guess who applied? You are right - Nobody! My friends, let's not be an everybody, somebody, or anybody. Rather, let us truly strive to be a nobody. In such a way we empty ourselves so we can be filled with the amazing power of Christ, who died to set us free and, thus, will always be our brother, friend, and Lord.



Richard Gribble, CSC, Sermons on the Gospel Readings: Sermons for Sundays in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, New Beginnings in Christ, CSS Publishing Company

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)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ron Lawson Friday 19 January
Jonathon Smith Saturday 20 January
Andrew Telfer Saturday 20 January
*God Bless and warm wishes
To you all upon your birthdays*

Chat With Yoy!



Yoy is at our church the first and second Saturday of every month from 9am to midday or by appointment in the afternoons. Please drop in to share a time of prayer with Yoy, or for a chat or a more in depth conversation over a cup of coffee.

Appointments for a confidential meeting or for a home visit with Yoy can be made by emailing or phoning him.

E: yoyea1210@gmail.com or M: 0421 793 562.

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.



URGENT: Nominate for Election to the Leadership Team

Your Leadership Team only has 3 elected members. Extra members are needed to share the workload and contribute to the future plans for our church.

For more information or to nominate please contact:

Raelyn Punch E: prpunch@lasar.net.au

M: 0429 685 908

Please nominate ASAP for the Leadership Team elections. The closing time for nominations is 5pm Saturday 3rd February 2024



A Fig Tree Retreat

A fig tree is about 10 metres tall and its branches spread out about 15 metres wide, like an umbrella, creating a space that is almost like a private room. If someone wanted to get away from the chaos of a one-room house, he or she would sit under the fig tree. They would sit there to read scripture or to reflect or to pray. Sitting under a fig tree was a sign of seeking and praying for God's living presence. Now, I realize that this church looks nothing like a fig tree. But isn't that why we're here? We have come together here with the yearning to know the touch of the living God. We come to "retreat" from the chaos of the world around us so we can read scripture, reflect, and pray. I hope you will see that, despite his relative anonymity, we do have much in common with Nathaniel.



Paul E. Flesner, Sermons for Sundays in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, CSS Publishing Company (Edited)

A Prayer for Epiphany

Heavenly Father, creator of a universe full of wonder and many still-hidden mysteries. Help us in our modern, sometimes confusing and fast changing world to pause and reflect on your glory and unending grace and in the stillness to listen for your voice speaking to us alone. As we pray for your church we remember the great commission to go and make disciples of all nations. Help us through our services, community outreaches, house groups and other organisations to be bold in our professing that Christ is Saviour and Lord of all.

We pray for all who share in the church's mission in this community. Help us to move forward in faith trusting in the guidance of your Holy Spirit and in your divine purpose for us all. We pray for peace in your world, and especially for those involved in the process of reconciliation and bridge building between peoples, cultures or nations. We pray for all innocent victims of violence in war-torn parts of the world. Help us wherever and whenever we can in our everyday lives to be instruments of your peace. Lord, we ask all this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

www.thisischurch.com/prayer-worship/ (Edited)