



## Pentecost 26

17 November 2024



Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
 Flowers: Flowers kindly donated  
 Coffee/Tea: Judy Law & Sherryl Smith  
 Reader: Cynthia Falconer  
 Kids Church: Kerry Lawson  
 Music: Sherryl Smith  
 Church Rep: Sherryl Smith  
 Worship Leader: Piet Speyers  
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ian Tozer

## Christ the King

24 November 2024

Welcome: Brian & Barbara Smith  
 Flowers: Debby Hardy  
 Coffee/Tea: Alison Yule & Rosie Sharp  
 Reader: Barbara Smith  
 Kids Church: Kerry Lawson  
 Music: Jim McWhinnie  
 Church Rep: Kerry Lawson  
 Worship Leader: Frances Davy  
 Speaker: Evelyn Ashley



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



### Readings from the Lectionary

1 Sm 1:4-20  
 ! Sm 2:1-10  
 Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25  
 Mk 13:1-8

2 Sm 23:1-7  
 Ps 132:1-12, (13-18)  
 Rv 1:4b-8  
 Jn 18:33-37

### All In God's Time

Trust, and wait. This is a lesson our parents attempt to teach us from the time we begin to speak and walk, the time of our toddler-hood when all that consumes our minds is "I want...." As humans, we are born "wanting."

In the book by the same name, *Wanting*, author Luke Burgis notes that we grow up blindly and mimetically wanting and desiring what we see others wanting and desiring. Only when we learn "intentional wanting" can we begin to form our own unique identity and find more meaning in our daily lives.

Intentional wanting must contain an element of "trust and wait." In psychology, we call it "delayed gratification." Delayed gratification is the ability to resist an immediate reward in favor of a more valuable one that may or will come later. By learning to trust and wait, people could experience a greater sense of calm and peace in their lives. They could create greater goals. They could strategise how to get there. Or they could trust in the power of change and know that when things are less than desirable, "this too shall pass." Stanford researchers in fact found that the ability to resist impulses and trust in greater rewards resulted in more success throughout life. We as Christians know that when we trust in the power, grace, and promises of God, rather than getting depressed about our immediate or current difficulties, we feel more peace, joy, and satisfaction in life. Trust and wait, one could say, defines the core values of true "faith". Christ has promised us that those who truly believe in Him will join his Father in heaven. We just need to trust and wait.



Sermons.com (Edited)



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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.



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.



## Don't Panic!

"Don't panic!" Those are the words I frequently say when someone has come to see me and they are in the midst of a crisis. They may have lost their job, had a marital crisis, a problem with a child, or found themselves in serious financial trouble. They are anxious. It seems like the world is caving in on them. They feel lonely and afraid. They can't see any way out of their predicament.



It has been my experience over the years as a pastor that when folks are desperate they tend to run, quit or act in haste. I am not discounting their pain or minimizing the crisis, rather I am merely helping them to see that their perceptions have exaggerated the crisis. Or, they have a distorted perception of reality.

This was the case with the disciples. They were being persecuted by an oppressive government. They were powerless and under immense pressure. All seemed dark and hopeless, so much so that they wondered if the "end" was near. They were desperate, blinded by their anxiety and totally unable to see into the future.

They are no different than us. Whenever things are happening in the world of epic proportions, like hurricanes, wars, catastrophes or plagues there are those who believe that the world is coming to an end. No matter how grim things look, have faith, trust in our Lord and don't panic!

Keith Wagner, *Are You Having an Anxiety Attack?* (Edited)

## Christmas Appeal—Toys for Fathers in Prison

We are collecting toys for children whose fathers are in the Bunbury Prison. This year we are collecting toys for children who are no more than 10 years old. The toys need to be in extremely good condition or preferably new. A box will be placed in the church forum where you can place the presents. For more information please contact Peter or Raelyn Punch E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)



## A Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father, as I awake to a new day, I pause to fill my heart with Your presence. Grant me the joy of a new beginning and the serenity to accept each moment as a gift from You.

Illuminate my mind with Your wisdom as I prepare for the day's tasks. Teach me to recognize Your hand in small details and big decisions alike. As the sun rises, let Your hope rise within me, dispelling any darkness that lingers in my thoughts. Encourage me to seek Your guidance in every interaction, and to offer kindness and support to those around me.

May this day be a reflection of Your love, a canvas where I can paint a beautiful testimony of faith and obedience. Keep me steadfast in my devotion and quick to return to Your side, should I stray. In Jesus' name, I pray, **Amen.**

<https://graceandprayers.com/> (Edited)



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

## Annual Christmas Concert Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

We will be celebrating the start of Advent with our traditional annual Christmas Concert on Saturday evening 30<sup>th</sup> November. There will be food, music, singing and lots of fun.

### The Evening's Program:

**5-30 to 6-30pm—Dinner**

**6-30 to 7-30pm—Carols**

**7-30 to 8pm Dessert & coffee/tea**



Make sure you write the date in your diaries and tell all your friends and family to save the date. This is our most popular event of the year and we want even more people to come than last year. Please bring a plate of your favourite food to share, and your own drinks.

For more information about the catering please contact Kerry Lawson M: 0409 885 988. If you would like to join the singers and/or musicians for the concert please speak to Ken Lehmann M: 0417 955 149.

## Gollum's Riddle

In the Hobbit by JRR Tolkien Bilbo Baggins has met Gollum for the first time. Bilbo is lost and needs to find his way out of Gollum's cave. Gollum will show him the way out if he can answer a riddle.

This thing all things devours,  
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;  
Gnaws iron, bites steel;  
Grinds hard stone to meal;  
Slays king, ruins town,  
And beats high mountain down.



Bilbo is stumped. He doesn't know the answer to the riddle and after being pressured by Gollum says, "Give me time." Gollum hears the word "time" and mistakenly takes it as Bilbo's answer, which of course is right. Time devours all things, even massive Temples.

Brett Blair, [www.eSermons.com](http://www.eSermons.com)

## 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)



**Blessings & Congratulations To:  
John & Sue Lawrence**

**Celebrating their 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**