



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Advent 1 1 December 2024

Welcome: Rosie Sharp & Janette McWhinnie
Flowers: Flowers Kindly Donated
Coffee/Tea: Kerry Lawson & Jan Robinson
Reader: Pauline Terblanche
Kids Church: TBA
Music: Jim McWhinnie
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
Speaker: Evelyn Ashley

Advent 2 8 December 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Judy Law
Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury
Reader: Alyana Roberts
Kids Church: TBA
Music: Sherryl Smith
Church Rep: Rev. Mike Fawcett
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett (Communion)



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*



Readings from the Lectionary

Jer 33:14-16
Ps 25:1-10
1 Thes 3:9-13
Lk 21:25-36

Mal 3:1-4
Lk 1:68-79
Phil 1:3-11
Lk 3:1-6



South Mandurah Uniting Church

2-4 Rees Place Wannanup
PO Box 5290 FALCON WA 6210

Website: <https://southmandurah.ucwa.au>

Email: sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com

Phone: 0428 439 756

For pastoral needs please contact Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

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

Leadership Team Chair: Rev. Mike Fawcett
Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au
Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com

Members of the Leadership Team: Rev. Mike Fawcett, Ps. Yoy Alberastine, Kerry Lawson, Sherryl Smith, Andrew Telfer & Raelyn Punch

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.

When Everything Becomes "Merely"

Virginia Owens is an American author who has written fifteen books covering a wide range of subjects and was a director of the Milton Centre at Newman University in Kansas which focuses on developing emerging Christian writers. In her book *And The Trees Clap Their Hands* she suggests that we lose the wonder of it all, because along the way everything becomes "merely." Things are "merely" stars, sunset, rain, flowers, and mountains. Their connection with God's creation is lost.



During this Advent season many things are just "merely." It becomes "merely" Bethlehem, a stable, a birth -- we have no feeling of wonder or mystery. That is what familiarity can do to us over the years.

Owens goes on to say that it is this "merely" quality of things that leads to crime. It is "merely" a thing -- I'll take it. It is "merely" an object -- I'll destroy it. It is this "merely" quality of things and life that leads to war. We shall lose "merely" a few thousand men, but it will be worth it. Within the Advent narrative nothing is "merely." Things are not "merely" things, but are part of God's grand design. Common things, such as motherhood, a birth, a child, now have new meaning. This is not "merely" the world, but a world that is charged with the beauty and grandeur of God's design. It is a world so loved by God that God gave his only Son. What is so great about the Advent season is that everything appears charged with the beauty and grandeur of God.

John A. Stroman, *God's Downward Mobility*, CSS Publishing (Edited).



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

A Prayer for Advent 1

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time. **Amen**

www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Advent.htm



When the Play Is Over

C. S. Lewis said that when the author appears on the stage, you know the play is over. This is how he understands the doctrine of the Second Coming of our Lord. It means that he who has begun a good work will bring it to the best conclusion of which he is capable. After all, no one has ever claimed that this planet earth was intended to exist forever. In what is called by scientists "the second law of thermodynamics," it is clearly predicted that the energy supply of this planet will eventually come to an end, which means that a conclusion of life as we know it here is inevitable. The concept of the Second Coming merely affirms that such a conclusion will be purposeful. The drama of history is not going to just fizzle out or end in a whimper! It is going to come to the kind of climax that he who conceived the drama wants for it.

Gary L. Carver and Tom M. Garrison, *Sermons for Sundays in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Building a Victorious Life*, CSS Publishing Company, Inc.



A Prayer to Prepare My Heart for Christ's Coming

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions that block me from the worship of You this Advent. Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—I look toward the day when I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life. For I know I am only clean because of Jesus. Show me how I must be refined, purified, and forgiven today. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and then change my ways. **Amen**

~Sarah Martin, from "The Awe & Wonder of Advent: Day 18"



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.



1st Quarter 2025 Enablers' List

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to join the Enablers' List. Without your help our church services would be a sad reflection of the joyous celebration of God's Love that we enjoy and share every Sunday.

It is now time to start compiling the Enablers' List for the 1st January to 31st March 2025 quarter. If you haven't been on the Enablers' List previously, or have taken a break from the List, please join in. You can get more information from any of the Leadership Team.



Could all new and existing congregational members willing to join the Enablers' List please email Peter at prpunch@lasar.net.au by no later than **5pm Friday 20th December** advising which of the Enablers' roles you are happy to accept (greeting, flowers, morning tea, reader and/or kids church).

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

Special prayer requests this week, ..

This week we continue to offer prayers for Yoy and Anita Alberastine and their son. We pray that Yoy fully recovers from his illness and is able to return home soon, and we pray for Anita who needs your love and support through this very difficult time. Lord, we also ask for your blessings upon Grace Richards, Jan Robinson and all their family.

We offer prayers too for all the patients who are in hospital, for the medical staff caring for them; and for all those family members and friends who are caring for those who can no longer care for themselves. Lord we ask that You bless them all, restoring the sick to health, the weary to energetic, and the infirm to vitality.

We ask all this through Christ our risen Saviour. Amen



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**

Jan Fawcett Friday 6 December
*God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday*