

*Advent 2*  
8 December 2024



*Advent 3*  
15 December 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
Flowers: Judy Law  
Morning Tea: Peter and Cath  
Salsbury  
Reader: Alyana Roberts  
Kids Church: TBA  
Church Rep: Rev Mike Fawcett  
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer  
Speaker: Rev Mike Fawcett

Welcome: Sue & John Lawrence  
Flowers: Kindly donated  
Morning Tea: Andrew and Jan  
Gibson  
Reader: Frances Davy  
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson  
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith  
Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann  
Speaker: Piet Speyers

*Readings from the Lectionary...*



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

Zep 3: 14 - 20  
Is 12: 2 - 6  
Phil 4: 4 - 7  
Mk 7: 24- 37

*South Mandurah Uniting Church*



2-4 Rees Place Wannanup  
PO Box 5290 FALCON WA 6210  
Website: <https://southmandurah.ucwa.au>  
Email: [sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com](mailto:sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com)

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

E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: [yoyea1210@gmail.com](mailto:yoyea1210@gmail.com)

Leadership Team Chair: Rev. Mike Fawcett

Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: [2davyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:2davyfamily@gmail.com)

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

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

8 December 2024

*The Messenger*



South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter



*Advent 2*

**Welcome to our Service of Worship  
held every Sunday from 9.30 am**

**An Advent Promise: Goodness and Mercy Will Win**

Fiorello LaGuardia was mayor of New York during the Depression, and he was quite a character. He would ride the city fire trucks, take entire orphanages to baseball games and whenever the city newspapers went on strike, he would get on the radio and read the Sunday "funnies" to the children.



At any rate, one bitter cold winter's night in 1935, Mayor LaGuardia turned up in a night court that served the poorest ward in the city, dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself. After he heard a few cases, a tattered old woman was brought before him, accused of stealing a loaf of bread.

She told LaGuardia that her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick and her grandchildren were starving. But the shopkeeper, from whom the bread was stolen, insisted on pressing charges. "My store is in a very bad neighbourhood, your honour," he said. "She's got to be punished in order to teach other people a lesson."

The mayor sighed. He turned to the old woman and said, "I've got to punish you," he said. "The law makes no exception - ten dollars or ten days in jail."

But even as he spoke, LaGuardia was reaching into his pocket and pulling out a ten dollar bill. "Here is the woman's fine," he said, "and furthermore, I'm going to fine everyone in this court room fifty cents for living in a city where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant."

The following day, the New York Times reported that \$47.50 was turned over to the bewildered old woman. It was given by the red-faced store owner, some seventy petty criminals, people with traffic violations and city policemen - and they all gave their mayor a standing ovation as they handed over their money.

That's how it will be with God's world. Just when it seems that all hope is lost, and goodness and mercy shall never win, the Great Judge will come to set things right, deciding for the hungry and the meek of the earth. Yes, there is also an Advent promise for the nations of the world in perplexity and distress: "Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

*Erskine White, Together in Christ, CSS Publishing Company*

### A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose.



As we **wait** for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious.

Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world.

Amen.

### 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**  
Café Coast, 45 Rees Pl, Port Bouvard Marina, Wannanup

**For Gentlemen: Espresso - 9-30am Fortnightly.** The next one will be **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** at the **New Taste of Italy** in the **Halls Head Shopping Centre**

### Your Messenger

If you are not receiving this Newsletter by Email and wish to do so, please contact.

Peter at [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Any articles, notices and any prayer requests, or changes to the Enablers list to emailed To Peter no later than 5pm Wednesdays



**Yoy Alberastine Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Dec & Rhonda Jessop Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
**God bless and enjoy**



*A very warm welcome is extended to any visitors who are with us today. We trust that you will be blessed during this time of worship and invite you to stay and fellowship with us after the service.*

### Reminder

You are invited to help celebrate  
**Our Christmas Service**

at

**South Mandurah Uniting Church**

**on Christmas Eve On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**



*“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.”*

— Luke 1:68–69, ESV —

### Powerful Baby

When you think of “baby,” a synonym or an adjective that accompanies it is rarely, if ever, “powerful”! Yet, that is precisely what Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, uses to describe Jesus who would be born in three months.

The exact Greek words he uses are normally translated “horn of salvation.” The term “horn,” referring to the pointed projection on the head that an animal uses to attack and defend, is used as a figure of speech in the Old Testament to signify power and authority ( 1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 75:4–5; 92:10). This power would be used to bring salvation. It is an unusual expression to use of a baby soon to be born to Mary, but it is an absolutely true one since the coming Messiah would be powerful in word and in deed.

In 2 Samuel 22:3, David describes God Himself as his rock, his shield, and “the horn of my salvation” (see also Psalm 18:2). Yet Jesus could be accurately described as “the horn of salvation” since He would be a man exhibiting the power of God, being in reality divine—the God-Man.

However, in the New Testament, there is just a single occurrence of this term. It is found as part of the “Christmas story” when Zechariah, before he speaks of his own son, describes the Messiah for whom his son will be the forerunner.

Apparently, as the old priest looked at his newborn son, John (who would one day go preaching and baptizing, preparing the way for the Messiah), he saw by faith the Messiah who would come and so declared Him to be the “horn of salvation,” the Powerful One. He would be powerful in His healing. He would be powerful in His forgiveness. He would be powerful in delivering and defending His own from the power of evil.

So this Christmas, as you think of the sweet, helpless-looking babe in the manger, remember too that this babe is the Powerful Saviour who can save, protect, and defend those who are His own.

Dr. Stephen J. Bramer

Chair and Senior Professor of Bible Exposition  
from “Hope” a DTS Christmas Devotional Edition