

Advent 3
15 December 2024



Advent 4
22 December 2024

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

Welcome: Rosie Sharp & Judy Law
Flowers:
Morning Tea: Ken & Julie
Lehmann
Reader: Ken Lehmann
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Frances Davy
Speaker: Evelyn Ashley

Readings from the Lectionary...



Zep 3: 14 - 20,
Is 12: 2 - 6
Phil 4: 4 - 7
Lk 3: 7 - 18

Mic 5: 2 - 5a
Ps 80: 1 - 7
Hew 10: 5 - 10
Lk 1: 39 - 45 , (46 - 55)

South Mandurah Uniting Church



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

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

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: 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

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



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15 December 2024

The Messenger



South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

"The Divine Opportunity"

Opportunity comes with so many different faces that we often don't recognize it. That's probably why we sometimes miss its call. A previous generation said that opportunity comes dressed in overalls. And they were largely right, for nothing succeeds like hard work. Our generation thinks that opportunity comes with a university degree. It may, but there's no guarantee. To many graduates end up working in field in which they have no qualifications.



The divine opportunity comes in what is, to our human eyes, the most unlikely garb of all. It's no wonder we don't recognize it; or that, recognizing it, we resist it. This Advent season is an especially good time to experience the divine opportunity. Any time is God's season; but because you and I find certain settings and circumstances especially hospitable to religious experience, Advent and Lent are particularly attractive.

The first Advent preacher, John the Baptizer, offered opportunity in a compelling, almost ferocious way. When you read his words, you don't think he's offering opportunity; I expect that if we had heard him in person, we would have been even more doubtful. William Barclay said that John's message "was not good news; it was news of terror" (The Gospel of Luke, Westminster John Knox Press, p. 28). I understand what Professor Barclay was saying, but I see it differently. It seems to me that good news must sometimes come dressed in rough clothing.

From sermons.com (edited)

Blessed Are They Who Find Christmas

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the age-old story of a babe born in Bethlehem. To them a little child will always mean hope and promise to a troubled world.

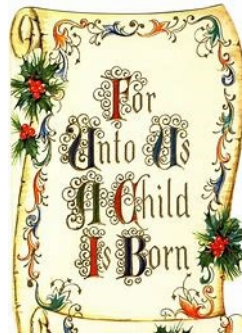
Blessed are they who find Christmas in the Christmas star. Their lives may ever reflect its beauty and light.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the joy of giving lovingly to others. They shall share the gladness and joy of the shepherds and wise men of old.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the fragrant greens, the cheerful holly and soft flicker of candles. To them shall come bright memories of love and happiness.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the happy music of Christmas time. They shall have a song of joy ever singing in their hearts.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the message of the Prince of Peace. They will ever strive to help him bring peace on earth, goodwill to men



(author unknown).

James T. Garrett, God's Gift, CSS Publishing Company

A Christmas letter from Jesus.



When you look for me at Christmas, You won't need a special star, I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right here where you are.

You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations, You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do.

To close your eyes and say a prayer, I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came!



Cassandra (Robyn) Speyers
Wed 18th Dec
God bless and enjoy

Your Messenger

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

Peter at 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



Welcome Visitors!

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 24th at 6:30 pm



The Wayward Bus

In John Steinbeck's story "The Wayward Bus" which was made into a movie in 1957 a dilapidated old bus takes a cross country shortcut on its journey to Los Angeles, and gets stuck in the mud.

While the drivers go for assistance, the passengers take refuge in a cave. It is a curious company of people and it is obvious that the author is attempting to get across the point that these people are lost spiritually as well as literally. As they enter into this cave, the author calls the reader's attention to the fact that as they enter they must pass a word that has been scrawled with paint over the entrance.

The word is repent. Although Steinbeck calls that to the reader's attention it is interesting that none of the passengers pay any attention to it whatsoever.

All too often this is our story. Yet, John the Baptist calls upon us to take our sinning seriously. Why? Because God does? Repentance is not just changing our minds, or feeling sorry for something that we have done, or even making bold resolves that we will never participate in certain conduct again. Instead, repentance means to turn around and go in another direction. What John the Baptist wanted his audience to hear was: Turn your life toward this one called Messiah. This is not negative or down-faced. Rather, it breaks the chains of oppression and death that hold us back.

From Sermons.com (edited)

