



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Epiphany 3 26 January 2025

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Judy Law
Coffee/Tea: Sue & John Lawrence
Reader: Chris Ashley
Kids Church: TBA
Music: Sherryl Smith
Church Rep: Kerry Lawson
Worship Leader: John Lawrence
Speaker: Evelyn Ashley

Epiphany 4 2 February 2025

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
Flowers: Cynthia Falconer
Coffee/Tea: Judy Law & Sherryl Smith
Reader: Andrew Gibson
Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
Music: Jim McWhinnie
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
Worship Leader: Frances Davey
Speaker: Yoy Alberastine



Readings from the Lectionary

Neh: 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Ps 19
1 Cor 12:12-31a
Lk 4:14-21

Jer 1:4-10
Ps 71:1-6
1 Cor 13:1-13
Lk 4:21-30

The Great Reveal

In the last two weeks, we've followed Jesus as his ministry is getting underway. We experienced his baptism in which the Holy Spirit surrounded and affirmed him and his messianic identity. We saw him turn water into wine, illuminating his identity as Holy Bridegroom and prophetic messiah who will inaugurate the fulfilment of God's abundant promise. Now in our scripture for today, we see Jesus formally announcing his mission – God's mission – a proclamation that the time of God's fulfilment had come and that he would be the one to fulfil it!



Jesus' choice of passage is an invocation of the Jewish time of Jubilee, when all debts would be forgiven, rest bestowed upon the land, and restoration required. Every fifty years, this was to be practiced among the Jewish people to help restore both land and economic equity. However, we have no evidence to suggest that a year of Jubilee was actually being practiced in the generations prior to Jesus. Isaiah's passage for most people was meant to be a prophetic passage of hope for God's coming restoration of Israel when God would come to bring hope and salvation to all who mourn. It's a powerful passage and rendered Jesus' neighbours, and others who knew him, speechless.

Jesus, unready to reveal his messianic identity at the time of the Wedding at Cana, had now "come out" as Messiah, ready to fulfil God's prophecy of change, to enact a final Jubilee! Good news for some! Threatening for others!

The "speechless" reaction wouldn't last long. Some would be amazed. Others would become angry and indignant. But everyone from this time on would know the name of Jesus!

His identity and his mission had now been revealed. However many of those

Continued overleaf



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.



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

The Great Reveal (continued)

present at the time probably didn't recognise what Jesus had just told them, taking the reading on face value as simply a passage from Isaiah rather than Jesus telling them who he was. What's more, he certainly didn't fit their preconceived ideas of who the messiah was or what he would do. Little did they realise what the future would bring, and indeed to this day many still fail to recognise that Jesus was the son of God. This is why we must all be disciples of our Lord, to teach others about "the great reveal" of who Jesus really was and who he continues to be.



Sermons.com. (edited)

Why Not Join a New Home Group?

A new home group will be commencing **7pm Friday 31st January** at Chris and Evelyn's place. Initially, we will be looking at the book of Philippians, so if you are planning to come, please read the first chapter. If you wish to be a part of the group and have not already expressed your interest, please contact Evelyn on M: 0412 825 259



Hope

Do you remember the story of Pandora's Box in Greek Mythology? The lovely Pandora was sent by Zeus to be the bride of Epimetheus. One of Pandora's more endearing charms was her curiosity, but that quality also proved to nearly be her undoing. One day Mercury, the messenger, sent a box to the young couple. It was meant for them to enjoy, but under no circumstances were they to open it. Well, of course, it is the old story of the forbidden fruit. Told that she could not do it, it became the thing that she desired to do the most. So one day she pried it open and peeked inside. Suddenly out flew swarms of insects that began attacking them. Both lovers were stung with the poison of suspicion, hatred, fear and malice. Now the once happy couple began to argue. Epimetheus became bitter and Pandora wept with a broken heart. But in the midst of the quarrelling, they heard a tiny voice cry out: Let me out, to sooth your pain. Fearfully they opened the box again, and this time a beautiful butterfly flew out. It touched the couple and miraculously their pain was healed and they were happy again. The butterfly we are told was hope. It is hope that sustains us; it is hope that soothes our pain.



Staff, www.eSermons.com



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.



Very Important Church Business

1) Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Sunday 23rd February 2025

Immediately after the service. Please support our wonderful Leadership Team by attending the AGM for the delivery of the annual report, presentation of the 2025 budget, election of Leadership Team members and general business.



There will be a bring and share luncheon at the completion of the AGM.

2) Nominations for Election to the Leadership Team

Due to a number of members completing their terms there will be vacancies on the Leadership Team. New members are needed to help plan our congregation's future direction and to share the workload. Please consider putting your name forward as a candidate for election to the Leadership Team.



To nominate you **MUST** be an eligible member of the congregation and you **MUST** submit a written nomination which can either emailed or handed in person to Rev. Mike Fawcett or Kerry Lawson. A nomination form will be attached to the email version of the Messenger and printed copies can be obtained from any member of the Leadership Team.

For more information or to nominate please contact:
Rev. Mike Fawcett E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com M:0412 243 677, or
Kerry Lawson E: rkl@bigpond.com M: 0409 885 988

URGENT Please nominate **ASAP** for the Leadership Team elections. The closing time for nominations is **5pm Saturday 8th February 2025**

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)



Anita Alberastine Saturday 1 February
God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday