



WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH
31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill
Tel: 5229 2681 : Email: office@whuc.com.au
Website: www.whuc.com.au

Our Purpose

Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith



“Advent 3 – Joy”

SAFE CHURCH

Western Heights Uniting Church is committed to the safety, protection and well-being of all children and young people from all forms of abuse and neglect. We will make every effort to provide an environment of safety and support. All key leaders have completed a Working With Children Check. Western Heights UC has adopted the Synod "Keeping Children Safe" policy.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17 2023

Western Heights Uniting Church

Notice Sheet Sunday 10th December – 10.00am Worship

Please Pray for:

Worship and Music Group

Birthdays: Val Priddle 21st

The congregation at Western Heights offers prayerful support of its members and others in a number of ways; because of privacy protocols, names are not included for prayer unless we have received your permission.

Uniting Barwon

Items that would be appreciated this week include: tinned spaghetti, tinned vegetables, toilet paper.

Thought for the week:

First impressions are the most lasting.

Proverb

Diary for This Week

Sunday 17th 10.00am Worship – Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga
Lessons and Carols – Communion

Thursday 21st 8.00pm Musicians & Singers Music Practice

Diary for Next Week

Sunday 24th 10.00am No service
6.00pm Pre Christmas Meal
7.00pm Carols for Everyone
11.30pm “Welcoming Christmas...Quietly”
Reflective, by candlelight with beautiful music

Monday 25th 9.00am Christmas Day – Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga

Third Sunday of Advent



Finding Joy in resilience

Twelve long years have passed since Rima* and her family fled their beloved home in Syria as the devastating civil war unfolded. Forced to leave everything behind, they sought refuge in Jordan, carrying with them only the essentials. With your kind gift to the Christmas Bowl, you can support Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, continue to provide vital food packages, hygiene kits, and the long-term support that refugees need to rebuild their lives. **Please give today.**

*Name changed for safety reasons

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Office Hours

The office will close on Tuesday 26th December and re-open Wednesday 31st January. As Friday 26th is a public holiday there will be only the February Monthly Newsletter on Sunday 28th January.

Church Directory 2024

During January you will be receiving a letter if you are a confirmed, baptised, or adherent member. At this time could you please check your details and update if need be and promptly return your slip to the office. Only members that have given permission to be included in the church directory will be issued with a directory for 2024.

Please Note:

No morning worship service on Sunday, 24th December, 2023.

Church Council has approved the recommendation that, instead of a morning worship service on Sunday, 24th December 2023, the congregation gathers for a pre-Christmas finger food meal (bring a plate to share) at church at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Carols for Everyone Service at 7:00 p.m. and the Reflective Christmas Eve Service at 11:30 p.m.

Lost Property

We have in the office keys and an ipad that have lost their owners. Please see Jan if they are yours.

Thank You To All

A very special thank-you to everyone for their service to God and Western Heights during 2023. Thank you to the leaders and members of all the groups within the church and for caring for one another pastorally. Thanks to all who committed to rosters and who fulfilled their duties so wonderfully. Thank you to those who assisted at special church services including funerals. Thanks to those who enabled alternate forms of worship such as the labyrinth and taize services. Much appreciated by many. Thanks to all who contributed to the trading table and to those who made purchases. Thanks to all the musicians and singers who helped us to praise and worship God on Sundays. Thank you to our minister, Temukisa, for her part in all of this and thank you to those who assisted her before and during services, including communion. A special thank-you to Jan Grigg for keeping us informed. And for anyone that was not mentioned, thank you. This is how we 'Love God: Grow Together, Partner the Community and Share our Faith. (Velma Oliver, on behalf of the Church Council)

Minister & Pastoral

Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-
Vaeluaga
0400 664 991

QUIET TIME TO PONDER - All the Way to Joy



*We could play hard and fast,
not let anything touch us at all,
keep composure, have all the
answers.*

*Or we could crack ourselves
open and let everything in. We
could feel everything, every
touch, every marvel. We could
stand gaping at the beauty of
the world, mouths wide open
(because sometimes a mouth
wide open is the very best*

*gratitude). We could laugh so loudly that the whole
restaurant looks and err on the side of goofy whenever
possible.*

We could put our defenses down.

We could grow soft.

We could choose awe.

We could take her by the arm.

We could let her lead us all the way to joy.

Tasks people are doing today.

17th December 2023

Vestry Steward: Velma Oliver

Reader: Allister Coots

Stewards: Glenn Chidzey, Colin Rookes

Greeter: Joan Murphy

Morning Tea: Heather Rookes, Joan &
David Walker

Hall Cleaner: Maralann Damiano

Musicians: Melinda Bell, Les Oliver,
Dudley Holroyd, David Andrews

Singers: Ashley Payne, Bill Fleming,
Velma Oliver, Bianca Brant

PA/Data: Peter Morgan / Allister Coots

Tasks people are doing next week.

25th December 2023

Vestry Steward: Velma Oliver

Reader: Neil Douglas

Stewards: Colin Rookes, Neil Douglas

Greeter: Janet Pavlakis

Musicians: Daniel Payne, Geoff Coots,
Dudley Holroyd, Les Oliver

Singers: Lynda Scott, Ashley Payne, Bev
Hunt

Data: Tim Hunt / Allister Coots

LUKE 1: 5-19

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my

wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.'

LUKE 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

MATTHEW 1: 18-24

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

LUKE 2: 1-15

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to

deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

[hayeswinckle] Find us on facebook

Western Heights Uniting Church Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
Carols for Everyone @ 7pm
Welcoming Christmas...Quietly @ 11:30pm

Christmas Day Celebration @ 9am

1800 633 998
phc@united.org.au