

Christmas Events and Times

- Christmas Eve = Sun 24th Dec: 10am Service and 5pm Carols
- Christmas Day = Mon 25th Dec: **9am Carols and Communion**
- New Years Eve = Sun 31st Dec: 10am prayers
- January service times: 10am Sundays - no rostered duties

Parish day out at beach hosted by Hodgson Family: 13th Jan 2024

Resources for ministry

Giving can be made directly to our Bendigo Bank Warrandyte account
BSB: 633-000 Acct Number: 140334277.

Church Contact Details Rev'd. Mark Hanson (Vicar) 0430 141 006
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*A welcoming Christ-centred community
seeking and working together
through the power of the Holy Spirit
to worship God, share His good news
and grow as disciples of Jesus*

Sunday 10th December 2023

Advent is a period of four weeks and five Sundays preceding Christmas as we consider how a Saviour is God's gift to humanity.

Last week, in our first week of Advent, we considered the quality of hope. In our Christian worldview, hope is not something whimsical or contingent, as if to say; 'I hope the weather tomorrow will be fine.' Instead, Christian hope is certain and assured, based on two unchangeable and rock-solid certainties: the fulfilled promise of God to send the Messiah and the proven resurrection of Jesus by which he demonstrated His authority and capacity to do what he promises.

Our second week of Advent is themed 'Peace'. In a world of trouble, where our repeated prayers for peace seem to be rarely or only partially answered, we could be discouraged that our God is impotent to stop the hand of violence. However, there is another way to see the world which is more fully in accord with Christian teaching and experience: the world continues to be violent because God restrains Himself from imposing His will during this age. And, furthermore, the main end and goal of peace is not the mere absence of violence in this passing age, but eternal Peace between a just God and diminished humanity. In other words, God both gives us opportunity to live up to our responsibilities in the here and now by working for physical peace, and has established a path of eternal peace for those who will trust on Jesus.

The real Peace we are offered is peace between God and person: *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Jesus, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.* (Colossians 1:18-20)

1 If a child is in **immediate danger** at any point **CALL 000**

2 All suspicions or reports of child abuse must be reported to:

Who to report to	What is Child Abuse?	Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?	What sorts of things must be reported?
Police Child Protection Kooyoora Professional Standards	Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to: Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.	Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.	All child safety concerns must be reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm• Allegations, suspicions or observations• Breaches of the Code of Conduct

CONTACT NUMBERS: POLICE 000 CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW KOOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246

Song for the Season

As we enter Advent and prepare ourselves for Christmas, our new song of the season reminds us that Jesus coming to earth is good news for all people. The song, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, is an African-American spiritual based on Luke's record of Jesus' birth being announced to the shepherds. It draws on an image from the prophet Isaiah, who says, 'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! (Isa 52:7 NLT). And it evokes the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, in which Jesus authorizes his followers to go and teach his ways to all the world and gather people into God's family.

Jesus is God's good news to us! This season we celebrate together who he is and what he means for us all. Our song of the season inspires us to share with joy the good news about Jesus to everywhere to everyone.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy light
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born
And brought us all salvation that blessed Christmas morn
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Mark 1:1-11 (New living Translation)

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began 2 just as the prophet Isaiah had written: "Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. 3 He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for him!'"

4 This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. 5 All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. 6 His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!" 9 One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. 10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

2 Peter 3:8-15 (New International Version – UK)

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul has written to you with the wisdom given to him by God.