

Vision Statement:

We see a Jesus-orientated church having a passion for the Gospel and compassion for the world expressed through dynamic worship, love in action, the empowering of the servant leaders and the growing of disciples.

Reverend Jonathan Button can be contacted at j.button@bigpond.com.

I am available in the event of emergencies at any time, but other than that would appreciate not receiving calls on Wednesdays, where possible, as this is my day off.

Church Telephone Number: 8251 4298

This Week's Roster

15th December, 2019

Preacher: **Ceri**
Leader (am): **Cath**
Leader (pm): **James**
Welcome: **Sandy**
Duty Elder: **Cath**
Reader: **Chris H.**
Musicians: **Brunetta & the Boys**
Stewards: **Neil & Sheila**
Manager: **Max**
Crèche: **Eileen**
Kidz Connect: **Sandy**
Morning Tea: **Bob & Faye**
Audio: **Jim**
Visual: **James**
Cleaning: **Chris, Graham, Sandy & Trevor**

Next Week's Roster

22nd December, 2019

Preacher: **Reverend Gordon**
Leader (am): **Neil**
Leader (pm): **James**
Welcome: **Marlene**
Duty Elder: **Cath**
Reader: **Julia**
Musician: **Pat**
Stewards: **Myra & Ray**
Manager: **Max**
Crèche: **Vacation**
Kidz Connect: **Vacation**
Morning Tea: **Coral, Peter & Yvonne**
Audio: **Cath**
Visual: **Kay**
Cleaning: *********

Have you considered E-giving?

Envelopes with an "E" on the front, prayer requests or thanks can be placed in the offering bags on a Sunday morning.

Our bank details are as follows:

BSB 805-007 Account Number: 00702729 Credit Union SA

Please speak to Chris Holroyd if you require more information.

Golden Grove Gazette

Keeping in touch with the G.G.U.C. family

<http://goldengroveuniting.org.au>

Sunday, 15th December, 2019

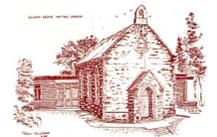
Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

Preacher: **Jonathan**

Theme: **Salvation appears on earth**

Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 53: 1-12**

Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church

Tragedy

Two years ago Kathryn and I were on *Ovation of the Seas* cruising around New Zealand. That cruise didn't go near White Island, but had it, I'm the type of person who likes to visit unusual and precarious spots. The Stokes family are on the current cruise. We believe that they are safe and sound. Many aren't! Our hearts and our prayers go out to them.

Tragedies like the fatal volcano eruption on White Island turn our world upside down... even as Christians. Maybe especially as Christians, since we believe in a faithful Creator, who is love! We can understand that the forces within the creation are awry (Gen 3), and that the creation itself suffers as in "labour pains" (Ro 8:21-23), as God draws it to a great renewal (Acts 3:21). But this still doesn't answer our heartfelt sorrow and confusion over seemingly cruel, random tragedy.

We only find an answer when we see that God Himself, Jesus Christ, became a creation-bound person like us, also subject to its forces, and not only random, but deliberately evil and cruel. He was marred beyond human semblance (Is 53:14)! This was not a contradiction of His loving nature, but a direct expression of it; because He loved the world and us so much, He freely submitted to this! (1Jn 4:9,10). This love was so strong, it broke the power of death and reversed it in resurrection to eternal life, for Christ, and all who believe in Him.

This is a love that holds us firmly in all the blows that come against us, from the random to the most deliberate, from the small to the truly tragic.

Grace and peace, Jonathan

A Message from the Elders

The colour purple (violet) is the liturgical colour used for the first two Sundays in Advent, signifying a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice. This is contrasted with the liturgical colour pink (rose), used specifically on this third Sunday in Advent, which is the colour of joy. Today is also known as Gaudete Sunday (in the Catholic Church). "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice".

In our church, on this third Sunday in Advent, we light the Shepherds' Candle, symbolising Joy. We light it in remembrance of the Angel's appearance to the shepherds and of the joy the world experienced when Jesus was born.

During this week read, think and pray about the message of joy these passages contain:

- Luke 1: 39-56, Matthew 2: 1-12, Luke 2: 1-20, Philippians 4: 4-9, 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 and Psalm 84.

The Dutch theologian Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) differentiates between happiness and joy as follows: "Whilst happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is something deeper. It is the experience of knowing you are unconditionally loved and that nothing - sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war or even death - can take that love away. Joy does not simply happen to us; we have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day."

Our church elders are: Jonathan, Andrew, Cath, David, Ray and Richardt.

Philippines Sponsorship

Thank you for continuing to support our children in the Philippines. Your December quarter donation is now due. I would very much like to be able to let Luciano receive the money before Christmas, and your cooperation in this regard would be really appreciated. Thanks again, Gordon Cooksey.

Volunteering at Golden Grove Helping Hand

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer at this centre? The residents would welcome both two-legged and four-legged visitors. A Police Check is required. If you feel that you would like to help, please see Cath, who has all the necessary paper work. Thanks very much.

Dates for our 2019 and 2020 Diaries

- **Blue Christmas: Sunday, 15th December: 7.00 pm**
- **Carols Service: Wednesday, 18th December: 7.00 pm**
- **Fourth Sunday in Advent (Love): Sunday, 22nd December**
- **Christmas Eve, Children's & Café Services: Tuesday, 24th Dec.: 6.00 pm**
- **Christmas Day Service: Wednesday, 25th December: 9.00 am**
- **Boxing Day: Thursday, 26th December**
- **Jonathan on Holidays: 26th December to 9th January**
- **Proclamation Day: Saturday, 28th December**
- **New Year's Day: Wednesday, 1st January**
- **Working Bee: Saturday, 4th January: 8.00 am**

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you, members of the congregation, for your wonderful support once again with our Christmas Hampers.

With your help, and also that of Pedare Christian College Junior School, twenty-two hampers have been distributed.

May God continue to bless you all.

Steptoe and Son

Steptoe and Son Inc. (alias Ray and Neil) has no intention of retiring or taking a Christmas break. Please contact the father or the son if you are anxious to dispose of some once loved metal.



Today's Hymns and Songs

We have come into His house Light one candle of hope
Joy to the world Rejoice, the Lord is King
Let us sing to the God of salvation How deep the Father's love for us
May the feet of God walk with you