

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

22nd December, 2019

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

Next Week's Roster

29th December, 2019

Preacher: Reverend Ross Honey
Leader (am): Eileen
Leader (pm): David
Welcome: Katherine
Duty Elder: Cath
Reader: Barrie
Musician: Brunetta
Stewards: Cath & Graham
Manager: Max
Crèche: Vacation
Kidz Connect: Vacation
Morning Tea: Lucinda, Richardt & Ruan
Audio: Jim
Visual: James
Cleaning: Barb & Patrick

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, 22nd December, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

Preacher: Reverend Gordon

Theme: God became man

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14

Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church

Great Joy!

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' [Luke 2:8-14]

To whom is the baby born at Christmas a Saviour?... and to whom is God's favour offered?... "All"! (Ro 11:32) Therefore, His favour rests on *all who will receive it!*... and therefore, *peace is theirs!*

This is *good news of great joy for all people...* and therefore, *also for you!*

Great Christmas joy, Jonathan & Kathryn

A Message from the Elders

The concept of an Advent wreath originated around the Middle Ages, and, over centuries, its construction and symbolism were shaped to become the modern Advent wreath.

Our church's Advent wreath is circular, symbolising God's unending love. It is constructed of evergreen leaves, which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ. Distributed around the outside of our Advent wreath are the four Advent candles (three purple and one pink), which do not only represent the four Sundays in Advent, but also the four stages of human history: Creation, the Incarnation, the Redemption of Sins, and the Last Judgement.

In our church, on this final Sunday in Advent, we light the Angel's Candle. It is a purple candle, which symbolises Love, and we light it in remembrance of the angel's message of love and peace to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." - Luke 2:14 (KJV)

The white candle in the centre of our Advent wreath is known as the "Christ Candle". This candle is lit on Christmas Day and symbolises the arrival of Christ. The candle's white colour is for purity, because Jesus is our sinless, pure Saviour.

As we spend this final week in Advent in penance and prayer, waiting for the birth of our Saviour, read and pray about the following passages:

- John 1: 1-18, Matthew 1: 18-25, Matthew 2: 13-23, Mark 1: 9-11 and Luke 2: 25-38.

A good way to prepare our hearts and minds for the true meaning of Christmas is celebrating the season of Advent by embracing and encouraging all around us - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

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

Great News

Following my appeal last Sunday, Lyn and Grant Winn have very kindly agreed to sponsor Daniel Petaflorin, *in addition* to the child they are currently sponsoring. Many thanks, Lyn and Grant. This is very much appreciated, both here and in the Philippines. **However, although you have missed out on this golden opportunity, Luciano always has a list of deprived children who would love to be given the gift of a brighter future.** If this is something you may like to do, please speak to me and I will give you information to enable you to help make a decision. (Gordon Cooksey)

Dates for our 2019 and 2020 Diaries

- 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 (Cancelled)
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 6th January: 2.00 pm (Cancelled)

Thanks and Appreciation

- We praise God for all His blessings. We praise God for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have faithfully given us love and support and upheld us in their prayers this year. Thank you and God bless you all this Christmas and always. (*Henk and Julia*)
- Christmas greetings to all my church family. A big thank you for all your support over the last few months as I have struggled to come to terms with the loss of my beloved Glenda. (*Your brother in Christ, Ted*)
- My heartfelt thanks is extended to my dear church family for its constant support throughout the year. 2019 has been a year in which I have continued trying to cope with the loss of my dear Sammy and my various setbacks in health. (*God bless you all, Lila*)
- Thank you so much for your love and support this year. Thank you, too, for the warm manner in which you have welcomed our assorted canine friends. We extend our Christmas and New Year blessings to you all, as we forward a donation to Guide Dogs SA/NT in lieu of sending cards. (*Lesley and Barrie*)
- A big, big thank you to the very special church family of GGUC for the wonderful manner in which you have served the Church in a multitude of ways: your willingness to be rostered, your enthusiastic support of fellowship and fundraising activities, your generous contribution to retiring and other special offerings, your support for Pastor Luciano and the Christian Pastoral Support workers, and your caring for the members of your church family. Well done, good and faithful servants!