

### 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](mailto: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

27th December, 2020

Preacher: **James**  
Leader (am): **Ceri**  
Leader (pm): \*\*\*\*\*  
Marshal (Church): **Cath**  
Marshal (Hall): **Andrew**  
Reader: **Chris H.**  
Musician: **Pat**  
Stewards: \*\*\*\*\*  
Manager: \*\*\*\*\*  
Crèche: **Vacation**  
Kidz Connect: **Vacation**  
Morning Tea: \*\*\*\*\*  
Audio Desk: **Rykhardt**  
Camera Operator: **Tim**  
Computer: **Ralph**  
Overflow Overseer: **Ruan**  
Cleaning: **Coral & Neil**

#### Next Week's Roster

3rd January, 2021

Preacher: **Reverend Ross Honey**  
Leader (am): **Neil**  
Leader (pm): \*\*\*\*\*  
Marshal (Church): **Andrew**  
Marshal (Hall): **Cath**  
Reader: **Coral**  
Musician: **Heather**  
Stewards: \*\*\*\*\*  
Manager: \*\*\*\*\*  
Crèche: **Vacation**  
Kidz Connect: **Vacation**  
Morning Tea: \*\*\*\*\*  
Audio Desk: **Ruan**  
Camera Operator: **Rykhardt**  
Computer: **Lucinda (Rykhardt)**  
Overflow Overseer: **Cath**  
Cleaning: **Coral & Neil**

#### 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

[www.goldengroveuniting.org.au](http://www.goldengroveuniting.org.au)

Sunday, 27th December, 2020

First Sunday after Christmas

Preacher: **James**

Theme: **The Promised King**

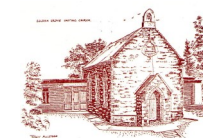
New Testament Reading: **Luke 2: 22-40**

### Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church



### The Grace of God

Theologians point out that there is a sharp distinction between the use of the word 'grace' in the Old and New Testaments.

In the Old Testament, it can be used to designate kindness and graciousness in general, with no particular tie or personal relationship between the individuals involved. It is also used to signify a specific kindness that gives pleasure to both giver and receiver, thereby implying some sort of special relationship between them.

In the New Testament, grace indicates quite specifically God's redemptive love, which is always active to save a person to keep them in relationship with him. It implies God's continual, unending faithfulness both to his covenant and to his people forever.

Think of grace in terms of a statement: 'You are accepted.' You and I are accepted, fully and totally accepted by God, now, always, without condition, without deserving, without question. To be accepted in this way means to be cherished, to be loved, to be guarded from ultimate evil. It means that who we are is valued, honoured and respected. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ.

Grace is God's initiative. It is an expression of God's love for us, of God's desire, of God's unconditional acceptance, an expression of the very nature of who God is.

**Such amazing grace!**

(Reverend Gordon)



### Church Council: 2021

The new church council comes into existence on 1st January, 2021 AD.

It comprises:

Reverend Jonathan Button (ex officio)

Councillors: Tim Checkley, Chris Holroyd, Coral Larcombe and Neil Larcombe

Elders: Jonathan Button, Ray Holroyd, Ceri Jones, Cath McKechnie and Rykhardt Wilkinson.

### **The Christmas Spirit**

Christmas is undoubtedly a time of goodwill and a generosity of spirit to most people.

This being so, I am happy to present a great opportunity to give a practical expression to your fine feelings!

Unfortunately, one of our sponsors is unable to continue sponsorship from the end of this year.

I am therefore seeking sponsorship for 5 year old Jacob Gabatilla. I have his photo and details and would be delighted to share them with you. Payment has been given for this term, and so no payment is needed until March 2021.

Please see me if you are just considering this step, so that I can give you the details of the scheme.

Incidentally, if more than one person/couple/group expresses an interest, this will not be a problem as Luciano has many more children who would benefit greatly from your support.

Thanks and blessings,

Gordon Cooksey



### **OUR 2020 AND 2021 DIARY DATES**

- **Sunday Morning Worship: 27th December: 10.00 am**
- **Jonathan on leave from 1st January, 2021**
- **First 2021 Working Bee: Saturday, 9th January: 8.00 am**
- **First Café Church for 2021: Sunday, 10th January: 6.00 pm**

### **A Message from the Elders**

This year the season of Advent concluded on Thursday 24 December; and this past Christmas Morning, we lit the final candle of our Advent wreath. This white, central candle is known as the "Christ Candle", which symbolises His arrival, and the colour represents His purity as our sinless and pure Saviour.

The three comings of Jesus Christ: in the flesh when He was born in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily and in glory at the end of time, is the central and primary theme of Advent: tying together the other themes of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love, that were celebrated in each of the four weeks of Advent.

As this liturgical season and the year 2020 draw to a close, let us reflect on the good things this year has brought and let this season remind us that Jesus is coming and must always be the central theme in our daily lives.

If 2020 has left you shaken and unsure of the future, know that God remains unshaken and fully in control

Read Isaiah 40.

Put your faith in Jesus Christ and trust Him with your life!

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

## ENVELOPES IN DEMAND

**Christmas Bowl Envelopes:** These envelopes are available for immediate collection from the table in the hall or from the table in the sanctuary. Please make your contributions without further delay. Thank you very much.

**2021 Offering Envelopes:** These envelopes are also available from the same sites. Please collect the former as soon as possible, as part of our preparations for an untarnished (as yet) new year. Thank you very much.



### Today's Hymns and Songs

We have a Gospel to proclaim (Together in Song 245)

I will give thanks to You (Together in Song 726)

Spirit of Heaven (Getty Hymn Book)

According to Thy Gracious Word (Together in Song 515)

It passeth knowledge, that dear love of Thine  
(Together in Song 230)

Just as I am, without one plea (Together in Song 584)

My heart is filled with thankfulness (Getty Hymn Book)

Now unto Him who is able to keep (Praise and Worship 470)

## The First Roster for 2021

Over the page you will find the roster for January. Please do not be dismayed by all the gaps in February and March. In a time of uncertainty that is fraught with escalating daily changes, it has not been possible to complete the first quarter. The situation has been exacerbated by an inability to discover when members of the congregation will not be available to serve on the roster. Thank you for your patience.

## TIME

There was a minister who was admired for always finishing his services at exactly eleven o'clock. Then, one Sunday, the impossible happened. He preached until 11:30. On the way out, one of his elders angrily enquired, "What happened to you?"

The minister answered, "For years I have always put a mint lolly in my mouth as the service started, and I would tuck it away. It was always gone at exactly 11. That way, I never had to look at the clock or worry about what time it was. But this Sunday it didn't go away, and I finally realised I had put a button in my mouth."

There was an ancient teacher of wisdom who was called Ecclesiastes. He taught the Hebrew people that time should not be a tyrant that demanded all our allegiance. In fact, there was a time for everything. God is the creator of time. God sets the rhythm of reality - the time to mourn, the time to dance, the time to gather in and the time to let go. Our task as Christians is to be good stewards of time, setting our priorities carefully so that we can live every day to the glory of God.

Thinking of making a New Year's resolution? Why not - "I will live every day to the glory of God." ?

***(Reverend Gordon)***