

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

19th December, 2021

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Kathryn**
Leader (pm): *********
Manager: **Max**
Marshal (Church): **Neil**
Marshal (Hall): **Tim**
Reader: **Kathryn**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Kidz Connect: *********
Morning Tea: **Bob, Faye & Owen**
Audio Desk (am): **Ruan**
Audio desk (pm): *********
Camera : **John**
Computer (am): **Rykhardt**
Computer (pm): *********
Overflow Overseer: **Tim**
Cleaning: *********

Next Week's Roster

26th December, 2021

Preacher: **James**
Leader (am): **Neil**
Leader (pm): *********
Manager: **Max**
Marshal (Church): **Coral**
Marshal (Hall): **Chris H.**
Reader: **Coral**
Musician: **Pat**
Kidz Connect: *********
Morning Tea: *********
Audio Desk (am): **Rykhardt**
Audio Desk (pm): *********
Camera: **Lucinda**
Computer (am): **Ruan**
Computer (pm): *********
Overflow Overseer: **John**
Cleaning: *********

Christmas Hampers and Church Council Election

Thank you once again for your support for the Christmas Hampers. We delivered hampers to Banksia Park and Golden Grove Schools, who had a number of families in need and were very grateful for the delivery.

Congratulations to Chris Holroyd, who been re-elected to the Church Council for 2022.

Golden Grove Gazette

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

www.goldengroveuniting.org.au

Sunday, 19th December, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

Preacher: **Jonathan**

Theme: **Mary: The First Christian**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 1: 26-38**

Mission Statement: To draw people

to our Lord Jesus Christ



and nurture them through
our church



Love Jesus Christ, or Hate Him...

...but whatever you do, don't just tolerate Him!

A lot of Australians tolerate Jesus Christ. Christmas has mostly become a secular holiday. Yet, because of its overt connection with Christ, people may tolerate some mention of Him, or perhaps carols that have words about Him, ...*but not too much!* Carol singing crowds can get pretty "tetchy" if anyone insists on saying too much about Jesus.

The reason for this is that the truth about Jesus Christ completely intrudes into our lives. It insists that He came into the world to save us from our sin, and therefore that we are sinners; it insists that we can only be saved and fulfilled by Him, through grace, therefore that we can't be "self-made" people; it insists that Jesus is Lord forever, and therefore must be the Lord over every part of our lives.

No human being likes that truth!

To acknowledge the truth about the baby Jesus born at Christmas is to acknowledge that we must either accept and submit to Him as the Saviour and Lord of our lives, or reject Him totally. We can't just tolerate Him - i.e., say "He's ok", yet hold Him at "arms-length", and insist that He doesn't bother us too much.

(concluded over the page)

(from the previous page)

It would be more honest to reject Jesus completely. And the reality-shock might also bring us closer to realising the folly of trying to live without the true Jesus, so that we might turn and embrace Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Grace and peace, Jonathan.

A Message from the Elders

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 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.

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 to the shepherds, of love and peace (Luke 2:14), when the angel informed the shepherds of the birth of their (and our) Saviour, Messiah and Lord (Luke 2:8-20).

The best way to prepare our hearts and minds for the true meaning of Christmas, is by celebrating the season of Advent and by embracing and encouraging all around us, wherever we go – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Read and pray this week about the words from 1 John 4:7-21.

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



OUR REMAINING DECEMBER DIARY DATES

- **Fourth Sunday in Advent: 19th December (LOVE)**
- **Sunday Morning Worship: 19th December: 10.00 am**
- **Blue Christmas Service: Sunday, 19th December: 6.00 pm**
- **Estia Worship Service: Monday, 20th December: 2.00 pm**
- **Thursday Morning Prayers: 23rd December: 8.00 am to 9.00 am**
- **Lessons and Carols: Friday, 24th December: 7.00 pm**
- **Christmas Day Service: Saturday, 25th December: 9.00 am**
- **Boxing Day: Sunday, 26th December**
- **Sunday Morning Worship: 26th December: 10.00 am**

Working Bee: The first working bee for 2022 will commence at 8.00 am on Saturday, 8th January. (Max)

