

From Our Pastor: Jonathan Button

Jonathan 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

17th December, 2023

Next Week's Roster

24th December, 2023

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Kathryn**
Leader (pm): *********
Welcome: **Faye**
Manager: **Ray**
Reader: **Tina**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Morning Tea: **Joy & Tina**
Audio Desk (am): **Ruan**
Audio Desk (pm): *********
Camera : **Lucinda**
Computer (am): **Rykhardt**
Computer (pm): *********
AV Editing: **Jonathan**

Preacher: **James**
Leader (am): **Rykhardt**
Leader (pm): *********
Welcome: **Lila**
Manager: **John**
Reader: **Owen**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Morning Tea: **David & Linda**
Audio Desk (am): **Ruan**
Audio Desk (pm): *********
Camera : **John**
Computer (am): **Lucinda**
Computer (pm): *********
AV Editing: **Rykhardt**

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.

Please speak to Chris Holroyd if you require more information.

Please note: Payments can now be made by Electronic Funds Transfer on a Sunday.

Golden Grove Gazette

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

www.goldengroveuniting.org.au

Sunday, 17th December, 2023

Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

Preacher:: **Jonathan**

Theme: **With Us in Our Suffering**

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 61: 1-4 and 8-13**



Mission Statement: We are a Gospel-driven, connected, generous church family, mission-minded and outwardly focussed.

Emmanuel: God With Us!

Are you going through a rough time this Christmas? We may be feeling burdened or crushed by circumstances, or emotionally broken, or inescapably trapped in a situation that is harmful or painful to us, or overwhelmingly sad because someone we love has died.

God can seem very distant from us when we do go through these kinds of experiences. Yet the Son of God was born in a filthy stable, into a poor Jewish family, under brutal Roman occupation, and, through much of His life, was considered an outcast by His own people, who eventually had Him falsely charged and sentenced to death on a cross.

This means that, whatever suffering we go through, the Son of God not only knows what it is like to go through it – and worse; but, by faith in Him, He is also with us in it now. He does this because of His love for us, but also to give us grace to sustain us through any situation and heal us.

This healing is spiritual, but at the same time, physical and material. It includes God saving us from sin and giving us a new life by grace, and it includes God providing for our physical and material need – sometimes through new opportunities that open for us, sometimes through the kindness and generosity of others, sometimes just plain miraculously, and ultimately in raising us from the dead to eternal life.

Reach out to Him for healing this Christmas!

Grace and peace, Jonathan.

DATES WITH THE FESTIVE SEASON

Coral's Shoe Boxes Update

Hello, Everyone,

I am pleased to send some of the latest news from Corinne, the State Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child.

Today, in New South Wales, we finished processing. So, today, all of the Samaritan's Purse staff came to finish the last boxes. It was the best day I've had here. We processed over eight hundred boxes, had lunch together, and then packed up everything, ready to be stored for another year.

I also have some wonderful news. The majority of our boxes that we sent to Victoria (the first forty feet container) went to Ukraine. The remainder in Victoria, and our second container, that had been sent to Western Australia, was then sent to Papua and New Guinea.

I'm so thrilled that the majority of South Australian and Northern Territory boxes went to Ukraine. What a blessing that South Australia and Northern Territory packed over eighteen thousand and one hundred boxes! The final figure won't be available until all the Pack a Box online ones are included.

God bless you. Thank you for all your prayers and for all that you have done to contribute to another successful Operation Christmas Child year.

I would like to add my thanks to that of Corinne. You have all made a significant contribution to the future of many children whom you will probably never meet in this life.

God's blessings to you all at Christmas,

Shalom,

Lynette and John Beck



Welcome to Our Almost Brand New Members



Last Sunday Jonathan inducted officially three new members into our church family. They were Beryl and Ian McArthur and Ralph Walcott. We welcome you, and may you continue to enrich the life of our church.

- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 17th December: 10.00 am
- Third Sunday in Advent: Sunday, 17th December (Joy)
- Blue Christmas: Sunday, 17th December: 6.00 pm
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 18th December: 2.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 21st December: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 24th December: 10.00 am
- Fourth Sunday in Advent: Sunday, 24th December (Love)
- Lessons and Carols: Sunday, 24th December: 6.00 pm
- Christmas Day Service: Monday, 25th December: 9.00 am
- Jonathan's Leave Begins: Tuesday, 26th December
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 28th December: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- New Year's Eve: Sunday, 31st December
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 31st December: 10.00 am
- Jonathan Returns to Duty: Sunday, 14th January, 2024

Result of Last Sunday's Election

All of those candidates who sought positions on the 2024 Church Council were successful. They were:

- **Councillors:** Chris Holroyd, Sheila MacTier, Katherine McDonald, Ralph Walcott and Trevor Walker.
- **Elders:** Andrew MacTier and Sandy Walker.

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come!

"The Kingdom of God is simply God's power enthroned in our hearts. Faith in the Kingdom of God is what makes us light of heart and what Christian joy is all about."

John Douglas Main, Benedictine Monk

(1926-1982)

