



Prayer for the Week

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Advent theme for next week is Love

Name: _____ Date: _____

Christmas Joy

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword grid with the provided words.

4 Letter Words
BELL
SNOW

5 Letter Words
ANGEL
COCOA
ELVES
HOLLY

6 Letter Words
LIGHTS
SLEIGH
TINSEL
WINTER
WREATH

7 Letter Words
CHIMNEY
GARLAND
PAGEANT
RUDOLPH
SNOWMAN

8 Letter Words
CAROLING
DECEMBER
EXCHANGE
ORNAMENT
PRESENTS
REINDEER
WRAPPING

9 Letter Words
CHESTNUTS
CHRISTMAS
EVERGREEN
FRUITCAKE
MISTLETOE
NORTH POLE

10 Letter Words
POINSETTIA
SANTA CLAUS

11 Letter Word
GINGERBREAD

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You're invited to

Christmas on the Corner

24th December 7pm

Out the front of:
Golden Grove Uniting Church
Corner One Tree Hill and Crouch
Roads, Golden Grove

Join us Christmas Eve for an outdoor evening of carols, candles, children's activities & community spirit.

6pm: Enjoy sausages & ice blocks
7pm: Carols begin

Bring a chair/rug, a smile, and your Christmas spirit!

Join us again on Christmas Day at 9:00am for a joyful celebration of Christ's birth

See you there!



"Gracious God, Kindle in us the quiet joy that comes from knowing You are near. Even when life feels heavy, let Your joy rise within us —like a smile we didn't expect, or a blessing we nearly overlooked. Make us people who share joy freely so that others may glimpse Your goodness through us."

Important Dates 2025

Youth 3:16 In Recess

Advent Friend Sunday 21st December Love

Estia Nursing Home Service Monday 15th December

Church Council Meeting Tuesday 16th December 7:00 pm

Carols on the Corner Wednesday 24th December 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Service Thursday 25th December 9:00 am

Contact Information

For Church information, contact our Administrator, Cath McKechnie on the church number which is - **8251 4298**
For pastoral assistance contact—Your pastoral carer (listed on the hall notice board) Or Cath, James or a Church Council member.

Church Office email: office@goldengroveuniting.org.au

Editor can be contacted at ctwstokes@bigpond.com

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.

** Payments can now be made by EFTPOS on Sunday.

Café Church

6:00pm

A relaxed, contemporary service held every Sunday in the Church Hall. This week's team will be:



Leader: James **Technical Crew:** David **Topic:** Christmas in Adversity

Today

Leader— Rykhardt(am) & James(pm)

Preacher— James

Reader— Barrie

Welcome— Lucinda

Manager— Ray

Musicians— Brunetta

Technical Crew— Lucinda & Ruan
(am) David (pm)

Editing— Lucinda (audio)

Morning Tea— Katherine & Chris De B

Next Week

Leader— Kathryn (am) James (pm)

Preacher— James

Reader— Alison

Welcome— Ray

Manager— Neil

Musicians — Brunetta

Technical Crew— Lucinda, Rykhardt,
Ruan (am) Ralph (pm)

Editing— Rykhardt (Video)

Morning Tea— Faye & Sue

The Weekly Word

Sunday 14th December 2025



Golden Grove Uniting Church Mission Statement

We are a Gospel-driven, connected, generous church family, mission-minded and outwardly focused.

Today

Preacher— James

Reader— Barrie

Theme – God in a Girl's Womb

Reading: Luke 1:46b—55

The Candle of Joy *

Joy can feel like a big word, especially when life has taken twists we didn't expect. But Advent joy is not about pretending, it's about recognising that *God is present*—and that His presence brings a deep, quiet gladness.

Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness depends on circumstances; joy springs from Christ, who is unchanging. Advent joy can be experienced even in homes where chairs are empty, memories ache, or burdens weigh heavily. It is a joy that rests in God's loving presence.

Easy circumstances didn't control Mary's joy. When we light the Candle of Joy, we remember her song: "*My soul magnifies the Lord!*" Her joy didn't come because life was easy but because **God was faithful**. And the same God who sustained her sustains us.

When the angels announced to the shepherds that a Saviour had been born, they rejoiced. After seeing the baby Jesus, they went on their joyful way, sharing the good news.

You can't spell Christmas without Christ, and you can't enter the true joy of the season without Jesus. The apostle Paul had many testing experiences, but he encourages us in Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always! I will repeat it, rejoice!" May His joy strengthen your spirit and brighten your path.

* Also called the "Shepherd's Candle" or "Gaudete Sunday", Latin for rejoice.

Rev Gordon

