



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS**  
**Sunday 17 December 2017**  
**ADVENT 3**

**PREPARATION**

Joy is a sign of the presence of God.

When God restores the fortunes of his people,  
it is like a dream come true.

*Then our mouths are filled with laughter,  
and our tongues with shouts of joy!*

The joy of the Coming One be with you all  
*And also with you.*

Rejoice always:

*'Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waves cover the sea.'*

**PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Holy Light, God of faithful witnesses, please shine in our hearts with all the joys of your coming Son.

May we be delivered from trusting the artificial lights of our generation, and from the ephemeral, decorative lights of this season.

Bring us into the open place where, dazed yet not afraid, we may praise you with wonder and adore you with profound joyfulness.

Through Jesus of Nazareth, our Christ and Saviour.

***Amen!***

***Bruce Prewer..... Used with permission.***

***Welcome to Seacliff Uniting Church!***

*If you are new to the area, visiting friends or family, or on a holiday, to you we extend a warm welcome, and invite you to share fully in worship and fellowship.*

*Our Minister is Peter Moss ☎ 8381 2943*

## **This Week at Seacliff**

**Lessons and Carols Service**

**Today 9.30am**

**Christmas Eve under the Pine Tree**

**6pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**Christmas Day Service**

**9am Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

### **What's News**

#### **Peter unavailable 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Peter is having another small ear operation on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December and won't be available for pastoral matters. He will be on "light duties" working from home on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – you can ring him there but he won't be allowed to drive anywhere.

#### **Church Office Closure over Christmas Holidays.**

Would you please note that the office will close on **16<sup>th</sup> December and re-open on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018.** Thanks to all those who have manned the office in 2017. Dennis

#### **Last Weekly Newsletter for 2017**

This edition of our weekly newsheet is the last one for the year. I would like to wish all who have received the weekly newsletter over 2017 a blessed Christmas in the Love of God's gift to us, Jesus Christ. Dean Dixon.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE under the PINE TREE - 2017**

*As the waiting ends and we celebrate the Gift of Love this Christmas season, we also have an opportunity to share that gift with our wider communities - an invitation at this time of year may be what they've been waiting for. Bring a friend, a neighbour, a grandchild....*

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.00pm** – Sausage Sizzle

✘ Sausage and bread, Tea/ Coffee/ Cordial.

✘ Christmas Music 6.30 –7pm.

**7.00pm** - Christmas Carols

✘ Christmas story and activity for kids.

✘ Supper in the Hall afterwards - Tea/ Coffee/ Cordial/  
Christmas Cake/ Cheese and Biscuits.

**Christmas Day Service Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 9 am.**

## **A thought from Peter's files**

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember:

Noah was a drunk  
Abraham was too old  
Isaac was a daydreamer  
Jacob was a liar  
Leah was ugly  
Joseph was abused  
Moses had a stuttering problem  
Gideon was afraid  
Samson had long hair and was a womanizer  
Rahab was a prostitute  
David had an affair and was a murderer  
Elijah was suicidal  
Isaiah preached naked  
Jonah ran from God  
Naomi was a widow  
Job went bankrupt  
Peter denied Christ  
The Disciples fell asleep while praying  
Martha worried about everything  
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once  
Zaccheus was too small  
Paul was too religious  
Timothy had an ulcer  
AND Lazarus was dead!

Now! No more excuses!

God can use you to your full potential.

Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

*(Author unknown)*

## **Beyond Seacliff**

### **Act for Peace: Christmas Bowl**

Christmas Bowl began on Christmas Day 1949, when a minister named Rev Frank Byatt in Victoria placed a simple empty bowl on the table before him. The Christmas Bowl appeal is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering.

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Worship Leader for Today: Rev. Peter Moss.

Lectionary for Today December 17 Advent 3: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 : 1 Thess 5: 16-24; John1: 6-8, 19-28.

Reminder for Stewards 24, 12.2017

John Bollinger

Richard Lane

### **Welcome to our Church.**

There are a few things you need to know especially if you are a visitor.

**Fire exits** are marked. Please take note. In the case of an emergency evacuation please gather on the Western Lawns under the Pine Tree.

**St John First Aid Kit** - on top of the pigeon holes up from the ramp.

**Toilets** are available through the door front right of the Worship Area or out through the turn around point on the ramp.

**Morning tea** is held after the service – we hope you will join with us.

Children normally leave for the children's programme after the children's talk during the Service. More information is available from the Steward's Table and displays scattered around "The Middle Hall".

### **Items for the Newsletter**

Please email items to.

[deandixon7@bigpond.co](mailto:deandixon7@bigpond.com)

[m](mailto:m) and seacliffuc-

churchoffice @adam.com.au

by 9.30am on Wednesdays. If you do not have access to email, please phone or call in at the church office and it will be forwarded for you.

### **Contact Details – Peter Moss**

Peter is at the office in Wheatland House - Tuesdays, Fridays, and usually Wednesday or Thursday mornings; Office : 8296 1517. If he's not in the office, you are welcome to ring him at home and leave a message if he's not there. Home :

8381 2943 Email:

[peter.moss.534@gmail.com](mailto:peter.moss.534@gmail.com)

### **Church Office Information**

Open Thursday and Friday

9.30am – 12.30pm

☎ 8296 1517

Email: [seacliffuc-churchoffice@adam.com.au](mailto:seacliffuc-churchoffice@adam.com.au)

Website: [www.seacliffuc.org](http://www.seacliffuc.org)