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Worship Leader for Today: Rev. Gary Stuckey
Lectionary for Today, 10th December: **Isaiah 40:1-11,**
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2nd Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
Reminder for Stewards: 17th December:
Pauline Galliford, Brian Gepp

Welcome to our Church.

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. According to our **Covid plan**, please note the seating arrangements within the building for your safety.

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to
newsletter@seacliffuc.org.au
by 5pm on Wednesdays.
If you do not have access to
email, please phone the
church office and it will be
forwarded for you.

Our Minister is Rev. Gary Stuckey.

Contact :

Mobile : 0488 017 187,
Home phone : 8270.2862
email :
minister@seacliffuc.org.au

Church Office Information

Phone / Email contact only

☎ 8296 1517

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Website: <https://seacliffuc.org.au>



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS
Sunday 10 December 2023
ADVENT 2

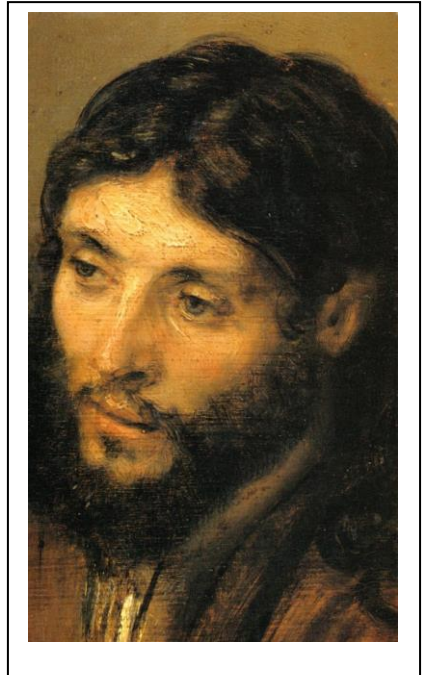
The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

John was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptised to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being

baptised by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announces, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

Common English Bible



Is this just the start of the story of Jesus?

Or does the story start with John the Baptist?

Or is the writer saying God is making a new creation?

This Week Advent Reflection – Tuesday 10.30 and Thursday 2pm

What's News

ADVENT REFLECTION

Each Advent we, at Seacliff, have offered a three-week reflection exploring the events we have celebrated many times, Advent, and Christmas. In the invariable busyness of the season, we can perhaps feel a bit disconnected from the story of Jesus' birth and its meaning for us in the 21st Century.

Sessions will be held on Tuesday 12/12 at 10:30am and Thursday 14/12 at 2:00pm.

If you are intending to come, could you please indicate from today on a 'sign up' sheet your intention. This is simply so I know how many copies of the reflection materials I need to run off.

Thank you.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations received in the service last week. They will no doubt make some people's Christmas brighter. And thank you to Maureen for taking them where they need to go.

Gary

Gary's Holidays.

I will be on leave from Monday 8th to Monday 29th of January 2024. I know many of you will also be away at this time. I hope your break is enjoyable and refreshing.

Gary

Stage Curtains

Our new stage curtains have now been installed and are looking very smart. The old curtains now need a new home with someone who can perhaps repurpose them into something useful, such as robes for the 'Wise Men'. If you would like to take some or all the material, please contact Annette Craven 043866410.

Frontier Services

Our friends in the bush are dealing with a lot right now. There's the cost-of-living crisis, which is hitting them extra hard. Basics such as groceries and petrol were already expensive in rural areas. Now it's becoming even harder to balance the family budget. This Christmas, what our friends in rural and remote Australia truly need are people like you who care.

Please donate \$30, \$50, or \$100 to Frontier Services today to help Aussies in the bush recover and be better prepared for future challenges. www.frontierservices.org/donate-xmas23 or call 1300 787 247



Notes from the Treasurer

'**Act For Peace**' is an organisation, run by the National Council of Churches, which conducts a number of Appeals including:

- the **Christmas Bowl Appeal** for which special envelopes are now available. If you want to donate using your credit card, EFT or writing a cheque please send it directly with them. If you would prefer to use **cash**, please use the special envelope provided and Offering Bowl to do so on Christmas Day or otherwise and I will collate and forward the money to them at the end of the year, so can we make Sunday December 31st the last day for your donations please?

- the **GAZA Refugee Appeal** continues and we have already received several hundred dollars via labelled envelopes in the Offering Bowl.

David

A privileged place

Seacliff is indeed a privileged congregation: we have very extensive leadership resources in skill, willingness, time and commitment to God. And we have the delight that comes with being a large congregation by Uniting Church standards: the average UCA weekly attendance is around 35, and many, many are under 25.

At the recent Presbytery meeting on Nov 11th, there was a short conversation around the possibility of a Pool Ministry to help some of those small congregations. Among the questions asked was: *what can your congregation give to the Presbytery?*

We already do, in various ways, of course: several of us are absent on Sundays from time to time because we are helping other churches with their worship – either preaching or music. So the question to think about is – what might we be able to offer, on Sundays or other days, to share our very significant privileges with people who are short of the resources they need?

Max.

Joint Nominating Committee

Comments made to me (at Presbytery level) suggest that there is an outside chance of something happening as a result of the Placements Committee meeting on Jan 22nd. I think it's a very, very outside chance myself!!! But just in case, I'm amending the timetable for us to appoint our Seacliff members of the **Joint Nominating Committee** who will work with the Presbytery to fill the placement. (One of the Presbytery will convene and chair the meetings.)

Nominations can be made any time, and we'll take the steps to appoint our JNC people on Jan 21st. Pray that people with wisdom and discernment may be found – a primary group of about 6, with a couple of “reserves” perhaps.

Max.