



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS**  
**Sunday 17 December 2023**  
**ADVENT 3**

A promise from the pen of Isaiah a few hundred years before  
Jesus:

The Sovereign Lord has filled me with his spirit.

He has chosen me  
and sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to heal the broken-hearted,  
to announce release to captives  
and freedom to those in prison.

He has sent me to proclaim that the time has come  
when the Lord will save his people  
and defeat their enemies.

He has sent me to comfort all who mourn,  
to give those who mourn ... joy and gladness instead of  
grief,  
a song of praise instead of sorrow.

They will be like trees that the Lord himself has planted.

The Lord says:

"I love justice  
and hate oppression and crime.  
I will faithfully reward my people,  
and make an eternal covenant with them.

They will be famous among the nations:  
everyone who sees them will know  
that they are a people whom I have blessed."

## **This Week**

### **Christmas Eve Under the Pine Tree**

Gather from 6pm for BBQ and conversation, and from 7pm: carol singing and a message for Christmas.

### **Christmas Day 9.00 am**

Everyone is welcome to gather for Christmas Day worship at 9am, to celebrate Jesus the presence of God among us, and to remind ourselves why we do all those other things associated with Christmas Day.

## **What's News**

### **Thank you.**

A feature of our journey through Advent to Christmas is the annual service of lessons and carols which we celebrate today. As you will see, this involves the time and talent of many people, so I offer a big thank you to all our musicians, singers, readers, sound and recording people, stewards and anyone else I've forgotten (with apologies). Thank you for leading our celebration and opening us to the joy and wonder of this time of year.

### **Speaking of Christmas...**

This year is one of those that comes along from time to time, where Christmas Eve is a Sunday, followed, obviously, by Christmas Day on the Monday. Throw in Carols Under the Pine on Christmas Eve and we have a fairly full schedule of services and events.

In light of this, next Sunday's (24th) morning service will be a shorter service, probably with a bit more singing than usual- simply a chance to continue the celebration of this time of year in a joyful atmosphere.

And on Christmas Day- on this day, more than at other times, we might find children attending the service. In planning for the Christmas Day service children will be catered for in and through the service.

*Gary Stuckey (Rev)*

## **Gary's Holidays.**

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

*Gary*

## **Joint Nominating Committee**

A reminder that nominations and volunteers are invited for membership of the **Joint Nominating Committee**. This is the group who will work with the Presbytery reps (who will convene and chair the meetings) to fill the placement. I'm hoping to appoint our people on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> or thereabouts. We need a group of 6-8. I have 5 nominations so far (including 4 blokes!!) and a gender balance is highly desirable!!

Membership of this group is open to everyone. Pray that people with wisdom and discernment may be found.

Max.

## **Annual General Meeting Part 2**

A reminder that Part 2 (Reports) of our AGM is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>. So:1. If you are responsible for a report, please get that to secretary Rosemary by Jan 28<sup>th</sup> at the latest;

2 .A major item of business that day will be the election for membership of Church Council; Rosemary has nomination forms: please see her to request a form. Please bear in mind that, as this is a Council of the Church, membership is available to formal Members and Members-in-Association of this congregation.

Nominations need to be submitted by **11.30 am on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January**.

*Max*

## **Cogs n Coffee**

Second to last ride for the yr. with eleven of us riding to the city down the Linear bike way ( Torrens) to Henley Beach and on to the kiosk at the caravan pk. Home just as the rain started.

For our breakfast ride next Wed meet at the Warradale shops at 8.30 for ride to the newish hotel at Mitsubishi site, used to be the La Loft.

*Brian*

This is the final newsletter for 2023. A huge thanks to Dean and Libby for their faithful commitment to this task this year.

The next newsletter will be published on **January 28<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Some Diary Dates for 2024**

### **January 28**

First newsletter for 2024

Deadline for nominations for Church Council

### **February 4**

Annual service where we commit ourselves to be the people of God in this place

### **February 11**

AGM part 2 (Reports)

Church Council election

## **Professional Rooms for rent in Wheatland House**

- Reception/Waiting area
- Consulting Rooms
- Larger room for Groups
- Shared Office facilities
- Shared kitchen/toilet facilities

*Enquiries/Inspection: [office@seacliffuc.org.au](mailto:office@seacliffuc.org.au) or Ph. 8296 1517*

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Worship Leader for Today: Rev. Gary Stuckey  
Lectionary for Today, 10<sup>th</sup> December: **Isaiah 40:1-11,**  
**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8**  
Reminder for Stewards:

*24<sup>th</sup> December:* Dennis Wood, Margaret Tucker  
*Christmas Day:* Bob Heywood, Colin Theakstone

### **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](mailto: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 :**

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email :

[minister@seacliffuc.org.au](mailto:minister@seacliffuc.org.au)

### **Church Office Information**

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