



Surfcoast Uniting Churches

Lectionary Readings

ADVENT 3 December 15th.

ISAIAH 35:1-10
PSALM 146:10 OR
LUKE 1: 46b—55
JAMES 5: 7-10
MATTHEW 11:2-11

ADVENT 4 December 22nd

ISAIAH 7: 10-16
PSALM 80: 1-7, 17-19
ROMANS 1: 1-7
MATTHEW 1: 18-25

SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

This Sunday 15th December

Anglesea: Rev Bernie Long 9:00
Airey's Inlet: Rev Suzie Castle 10.30
MEDIA MINISTRY
Torquay: Rev Suzie Castle 9.30
Bellbrae: Rev Suzie Castle 11:00

Next Sunday 22nd December

Anglesea: Rev Margaret Russell 9:00
Also BLUE CHRISTMAS ECUMENICAL @ 4pm
Airey's Inlet: Media Ministry 10.30
Torquay: Rev Suzie Castle 9.30
Bellbrae: Rev Suzie Castle 11.00

15th December 2019

Minister: Rev Suzie Castle

Sunday to Tuesday
Thursday & Friday

M: 0421 023 197

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Congregation Contact Information

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P.O. Box. 536 Torquay. 3228 VIC.

Aireys Inlet

CHRISTMAS DAY @ 10.30am

St Aidan's Church

29 Great Ocean Rd, AireysInlet.

aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

Anglesea

CHRISTMAS DAY @ 9am

Trinity Uniting Church

Murch Crescent. Anglesea.

Bellbrae

CHRISTMAS EVE @ 11pm

Bellbrae Uniting Church

School & Anglesea Rds Bellbrae.

Torquay

CHRISTMAS DAY @ 9am

Torquay Uniting Church

27 Anderson Street Torquay

A reflection on Joy

The third week of Advent is the week of joy. Joy is different to happiness. The word happiness shares its origins with the word happenstance. We are happy because of things that happen to us, our circumstances or context affects our condition. Joy is the opposite. Joy arises from a place within.

In the case of joy, it is our condition that affects our context. Imagine the scandalous story of Mary and Joseph, an unwed mother giving birth to a child whose father was not her betrothed! In spite of the fear and shame associated with such an event, there is also much joy: the joy of the miracle of birth, the joy of the miracle of love, the joy of 'God with us.'

And it is the joy of Jesus' arrival that becomes a polemic to the shame of the circumstances surrounding his birth. Joy changes our circumstances. True joy confronts, re-interprets, and reshapes our context. Or as Isaiah so beautifully imagines, there will be 'streams in the desert' (35:6) and the way of joy will make 'sorrow and sighing flee away' (35:10). Christians believe that joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit – in other words, joy grows within us as the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives.

What joy are you experiencing in your life that confronts your notions of conformity? What joy do you see around you that challenges your previous assumptions? What opportunities do you have to share this joy with others?

Peace be with you
Rev Suzie Castle
Minister of the Word



www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Check our website regularly!

"Life is important. We know that in the future, stronger hurricanes and cyclones will hit our country. So we never give up training our people in disaster preparedness."
— Asena



BOOK ROOM & BRIC A BRAC AT BELLBRAE

CONTACT: Ph: (03) 5261 5139 OR

**We are open throughout Christmas and January except for public holidays.
OPEN BOXING DAY!**

CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

Joy is the theme of the Second Sunday in Advent. Projects supported by the Christmas Bowl can help encourage people to find joy even if times are difficult.

Our focus this Sunday is on the lives of people in Tonga who face potential disaster each year when the cyclone season comes. Your gift can help more families in Tonga to be resilient in these times

A PRAYER FOR TONGA

We pray for Tonga, our neighbours in the Pacific where there has been so much sorrow.

Rising tides and changing weather patterns continue to present risk, and the constant threat of disaster.

We give thanks for the wisdom and faithfulness of church leaders, and the way that joy is woven deeply into their lived experience despite difficult circumstances.

Lord have mercy. Amen



Joyful Community Carols at Airey's Inlet last week. Many thanks to everyone involved, musicians, writers, costume makers, and of course the wonderful children of Airey's Inlet Primary School.

DIARY DATES : December & January

14th : Carols by the Sea at Torquay 7.15pm

18th : Carols in the Pub (@ Torquay) 6pm

24th: Christmas Eve at BELLBRAE 11pm

31st: NEW YEARS EVE 6pm

Long Table LINK gathering , @ Elephant Walk in Torquay; BYO everything—table, chairs, food and fellowship.

11th January: Anglesea Annual Fete



Surf Coast Uniting Churches

Invites you to our first ever

BEER & CAROLS in the PUB

With the Blackcurrent Band

6.00pm December 18th

TORQUAY HOTEL

36 Bell Street

EACH WEEK WE LIST MEMBERS FROM OUR COMBINED CHURCH DIRECTORIES FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CARE (IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)

TORQUAY: Margaret POWELL	TORQUAY: Russell & Robin PURDEY
TORQUAY: Barbara & Don PURNELL	TORQUAY: Barbara & John ROBINS



YOUR NEWSLETTER can be delivered to your INBOX every Friday, just email us to be included.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm