



Surfcoast Uniting Churches

20th December 2020

Everyone is welcome to the Surfcoast UC service, available on our website each Sunday from 9:00am : www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Bellbrae will meet to worship in their church @ 11:00am (max 16)

Airey's Inlet is Live on Zoom at 1:30pm

Rev. Suzie Castle : m:0421023197 e: suzie.castle@gmail.com

Spill the Beans worship resource has a monologue of how Joseph might have felt on the day Jesus was born. I thought it was worth sharing with you this week.

"I was tired and weary. I had not slept for the last few days, and we had walked from Jerusalem all the way to Nazareth. My relatives would have nothing to do with us because Mary was pregnant, and we were not married at this point. Even my own brother turned his back on us. The innkeepers all said they were fully booked until one kind person finally offered us the cave he used as a stable at the back of his hotel.

By then, Mary had gone into labour. The Baby was about to arrive at any moment, the women were fussing over her, and handing out orders at what I had to do, but they made it quite clear I was not a part of this.

Its strange really, because I never felt I was a part of this baby. When Mary told me she was pregnant I knew for certain that I was not the father. She swore she had never been with another man, and that it was God who had made her pregnant through the Holy Spirit. I just could not believe her, and I wanted to break the engagement. A few days after that I had a restless nights sleep, and I kept hearing a voice telling me that I should stick by Mary, that she was telling the truth, that this child was special, and I was to have a role in caring for and bringing this child up within our faith tradition. It sounded like the same voice that Mary talked about.

Well, I loved Mary. I really did love her, and after days of wrestling with what she told me I said I would stick with her. And now look at that baby lying there wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger. Look at that smile, those eyes, those tiny fingers and toes, his wee nose and mouth, and everything about him looks just perfect. I feel like any other dad! Dad, could I really be a dad to this child. This was God's son not mine, yet because he is God's son he is also a child of mine.

None of the family came to visit us when news broke that Jesus was born. But there were shepherds who came in from the cold having witnessed choirs of angels telling them that Jesus the Messiah has been born. There were kings from the east who had followed a special star to be at the birth, and they brought expensive and unusual presents for our special baby.

Something very wonderful has happened today. The Light of the world has come, and I believe we all have something to live and hope for now. Whatever lies ahead for Mary, Jesus and me, I trust that God will see us through it, and because of today I just know that he will."

Whatever lies ahead for us, let us trust that God will see us through. Whatever you are looking forward to or not looking forward to on Christmas Day, remember the true reason we celebrate.

God's peace and love is upon you as revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, our God.

Rev Suzie Castle, Minister of the Word

You are invited to a special outdoor service on

Christmas Day @ Airey's Inlet at

9.30am

BYO Chair

Carols booklets are provided.



Lectionary Readings:

Advent 4: Dec 20th

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Luke 1: 46b—55 OR Psalm 89

Romans 16: 25-27

Christmas 1: Dec 27th

Isaiah 61:10-62.3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4: 4-7

Do join us: Aireys Inlet Uniting Church Worship by Zoom - Contact Mary by email bremnerkm@gmail.com.

We acknowledge that we meet to worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present. Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.



JOIN US FOR A SURF COAST COMMUNITY LUNCH

ONE BIG TABLE

Celebrating our diverse community, in a welcoming and safe space, to share a moment together over lunch.

December 25th, 11:00 for 11:30
at the St Therese Hall
Lunch provided + gifts for children
RSVP essential at
www.OneBigTable.com.au
or call 0432548362
*This is a dry, no alcohol event.

Since 2020 has been quite the non traditional year, let's welcome non traditional get together.
All welcome.

Talk to Suzie if you'd like to join or support this event.

What's happening this week:

- Friday 18th:** Schools are officially on summer holiday
- Saturday 19th:** Opshop Roster: Jane S, Tricia G, Carleen T & Helen G
- Sunday 20th:** Torquay Coffee & Chat will convene in person at the RACV at 10am for those able to come.
- Wednesday 23rd:** many offices close, make sure you have shopped, made your Christmas donations and have a mince pie ready for tomorrow.
- Friday 25th:** 9.30am Outdoor Service @ Aireys Inlet BYO chair

"A very big thank you for all your wonderful support and help during this crazy year. Also, for the loads of chocolates which were donated—such a lovely gesture. To everyone who has been involved helping us this year, we look forward to seeing you again in 2021. Take Care & Merry Christmas - Sue Ball, Lifestyle Director at ELOUERA Aged Care.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Jean Elder, Alex Duncan and Jeanette Jones.



The Prayer Shawl knitters have not been able to meet during the covid19 pandemic. Shawls that have been given during this time were made before the lockdown or by individuals. We hope to begin knitting again as a group in February 2021. If any one wishes to come along to knit together you are most welcome. I will send details of when and where early in the new year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



Merry Christmas Marilyn Wendt 0427750369

Luke 1:28. The angel went to her and said,
"Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."



Third Sunday of Advent

The joy of returning home

Today there are more than 60,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. With the civil war over, many wish to return home to live in peace and freedom, and help rebuild their nation. Act for Peace's local partner, with your support, is helping returnees rebuild their lives by providing training and livelihood support to help families earn an income. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



Christmas Bowl

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet. aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

Bellbrae: Bellbrae Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae

Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM: Uniting Church Hall, School Road, Bellbrae. Ph: 5261 5139

NOTE: Torquay and Airey's Inlet are currently closed for worship as per COVID 19 restrictions

Weekly offerings can be made via direct debit or credit to the congregation account :

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403 Please add notes in the deposit area to identify your congregation:

Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

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