



Surfcoast Uniting Churches

27th 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

Surprises and Expectations from Spill the Beans

There can be such a build-up at Christmas, with great expectations when it comes to the gifts, the parties, the many plans that people may have made. If all goes well this can lead to a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction, but it can also lead to disappointment.

From those whose hopes are built up only to be dashed, to those who might even be looking and waiting in the wrong places, hope can yet be born anew with the Good News that the greatest gift, the gift of God's Light, appeared in the darkness of an out of the way place.

Because we know the whole big story of Jesus, it is difficult at times to get our heads around how the appearance of the Messiah, and the manner of that appearance, would not have fulfilled the expectations that most people had for the one who was to lead them into the future. A humble family, not a royal one, were the first to welcome the one who was to change their lives and the lives of countless others since. The place of shelter for animals, not a royal palace, was to be where he first laid his head and shone a fragile light that became the dawning of a new day leading beyond the darkness of even the longest of nights.

The first to see the light with their own eyes was not the great and the good in our society's eyes but the outcast and the stranger. The light still comes when we least expect it, in the longest night when we think that there is no end to the darkness. It can come to us in and through the most unexpected of people.

It is piercing, searching and life changing. When it breaks through it is an exciting moment and, at the same time, a scary one, as the shepherds discovered. It comes to us where we are in our daily living as it did on the hillsides, in the everyday routine and the messiness of life. It comes and overshadows us so much that even the hearts within us bow before him.

So enjoy this day, celebrate the coming of Light, bask in the incarnational illumination of the Christ child, sing songs of joy, and relish the sense of expectation that things can be different. Celebrate how you have made it through this most unusual year but maintained your faith and cared for your community.

Celebrate that throughout you have carried the Christmas story within your hearts and minds, ever looking forward and ready to deliver Jesus to those who await the Good News.



Rev Suzie Castle
Minister of the Word

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.

Lectionary Readings:

Christmas 1: Dec 27th

Isaiah 61:10-62.3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 2: 22-40

Christmas 2: Jan 3rd

Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Psalm 147: 12-20
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1(1-9), 10-18

After a year of renovations and extensions, the new multi purpose development at Torquay is complete and the key was handed over by builder Aaron Sevier of Basebuild. Thank you to Kim Quach from Synod, and daughter Tahlia, Alan & Robyn Harper & Ro Thompson for being there. Bookings for the spaces may be made using the address OaktreeplaceRentals@gmail.com.



What's happening this week:

Thursday 24th: 10pm Christmas Eve Service at Bellbrae (maximum 16)

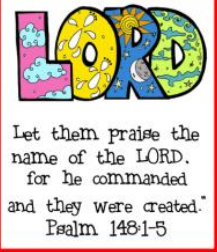
Friday 25th: 9.30am Christmas Day outdoor service at Airey's Inlet. BYO chairs.

Surfcoast Service on line. From 9am

Sunday 27th : Bellbrae Service at 11am.

Airey's Inlet on Zoom at 1.30. Surfcoast Service available on line from 9am.

It's not too late to make an offering to the Christmas Bowl Talk to your congregation treasurer or donate online at <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>



You are invited to attend "Adventures in Colour" an art exhibition opening at 5pm on 1st January at Bellbrae Uniting Church. Open days are 10 to 4pm every Friday & Saturday in January. **Frances Griffiths** is the artist and says "It's an exhibition of work I recalled from my adventure travelling around Australia solo last year. It's about colour and the mood of colour and many interesting things I observed." There are also some interior images and a couple of special places I travelled overseas. All this work was produced during the COVID lockdown. I needed a purpose to keep me centred and I kept myself very busy!"

Come & Enjoy. Every Friday and Saturday in January. 10am to 4pm



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

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