



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

6th December 2020

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

**Bellbrae will meet to worship in their church @ 11:30am (max 16)**

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

**Torquay Coffee Zoom at 10:00am**

**Rev. Suzie Castle : m:0421023197 e: [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)**



Dear friends

**Mark 1:1-8** Being the messengers of news can be both exciting and daunting because, depending on the circumstances, the news can be, on one extreme, uplifting when it's good but devastating when it's not. News, especially if it comes out of the blue, can pull the rug from under your feet and very often can be life-changing. The impact of news depends if it's something new and exciting or bringing to an end something we would rather have held onto.

Then there's the other side if you are the bearer news. How do you do it? Is it better phoning, or writing, texting or going in person? Do we obfuscate: 'Do you want the good news or the bad news first?'

The Good News, written in Scripture and encountered in Christ, is both welcoming and challenging for us. Mark's Gospel has an urgency to convey the Good News with the declaration of some amazing and life-changing news. This is a declaration of intent that is short, sharp and very much to the point. Mark opens with John the Baptist which heightens the sense of urgency to prepare others to receive the promised light. John gets straight to the point. From nowhere came the message and the messenger; from the desert place came hope. He doesn't dress up for the occasion in any way that might attract others to him or what he had to say, neither does he dress up the message: he tells it as it is.

So while it may be Good News he brings, it's also life-changing and, as such, is disturbing. You see, to receive the light it is necessary to turn towards it. Many were not in the right place but had turned from God and therefore from the light, or perhaps circumstances had drawn them further away isolating them in their own desert places.

There's a temptation during Advent to dress up the message in the glitz and the glamour, the tinsel and the trappings that it gets dumbed down, lost even. As preparers of the light, in attracting the attention of others it's easy to emphasise the good and conveniently neglect the disturbing side of the Gospel. We are sometimes called to go to take the message to challenging places: the dark, uninviting wilderness places of the world but we can shy away from that challenge.

So might be we remember that Jesus came to bring the full Gospel and it is that full Gospel that his own are called to share and live out.

Have a blessed week.

Peace be with you  
**Rev Suzie Castle**  
Minister of the Word

## Lectionary Readings:

### Advent 2: Dec 6th

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3: 8-15a  
Mark 1: 1-8

### Advent 3: Dec. 13th

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19  
1 Cor 1: 3-9  
Mark 13: 24-37

**Do join us: Aireys Inlet Uniting Church Worship by Zoom - Contact Mary by email [bremnerkm@gmail.com](mailto:bremnerkm@gmail.com).  
Torquay Zoom Coffee Chat - Contact Jane Skelton [janeskelton2@gmail.com](mailto:janeskelton2@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](http://www.wadawurrung.org.au).**

#### A new Linked Council Treasurer:

We are delighted to announce that we have a new Linked Council Treasurer who will commence in the position on Jan 1st, 2021. Mr Douglas Thomson, is a working accountant and a member at Western Heights Uniting Church. He has been treasurer at Uniting. We are delighted to welcome Doug.

**A VERY BIG THANKYOU goes to Robin Dennis who is retiring from this role, after many years looking after all the Linked Churches accounts. A well deserved retirement Robin.**



Our Bellbrae OpShop is almost too popular with queues forming last week to enter, browse and buy. **We really need more volunteers ...**



The OpShop opens only on Saturdays from 10.00am till 4.00pm throughout December and January.

If you could spare some hours on a Saturday, please contact Helen Gaylard on [0438639609](tel:0438639609). A short induction regarding COVID processes and some paperwork is required



#### News from Airey's Inlet...

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Aireys Inlet Combined Churches Community Carols, planned for December 6th. The COVID19 restrictions and our inability to work with the children to put together the nativity pageant make it impossible to go ahead. We look forward to staging a wonderful event next year.

#### News from Bellbrae...

A very joyful, Covid compliant service was held at Bellbrae on Sunday 29 November. 13 people and 2 dogs attended. It was so wonderful to be back again sharing our worship space together. Please note our very compliant trombonist!



#### BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC & BOOKROOM EXTENDS

##### A BIG THANK YOU TO THE

TEAM OF 6 GARDENERS FROM TORQUAY WHO CAME TO BELLBRAE AND TIDIED UP OUR GARDENS IN TIME FOR THE REOPENING OF OUR OP SHOP ON SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER. We're sure it contributed to the really successful day we enjoyed.

#### This week for the Surfcoast Uniting Churches



**Thursday 10th** from 10 to 11.30: our last coffee catch up in 2020 at Bombora's café

Happy Birthday to Julie Andrews this week



**Sun. 6th** at 11.30am: Worship Service @ Bellbrae for Week 2 of Advent (16 max)

**CHARITY CHECK UP:** 1. **Torquay Food Aid** is a community organisation established in 1994 by Torquay Churches to support families and individuals in need in the area. Torquay UC supports this work. Please leave food donations at the Torquay IGA in Gilbert Street. 2. **The Christmas Bowl** appeal has begun and financial donations may be delivered to Robyn Harper in cash or deposited directly: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

Welcome to  
Week 2 of  
Advent 2020

"The Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," begins with the words of the early preachers: "Listen! I will send My helper to carry the news ahead of you. He will make the way ready." His voice calls out in the desert, "Make the way ready for the Lord. Make the road straight for Him!"  
Mark 1, New Life Version



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PEACE

**UNITING** are now organising the Christmas Hamper Program as well as working with the Geelong Advertiser and the **Adopt a Family** program to assist families with gifts and food over Christmas.

#### PLEASE HELP WITH DONATIONS OF:-

Staple foods such as pasta sauce, tinned fruit and vegetables, rice, tuna, long life milk and cereal. Christmas treats such as puddings and cakes, custard, tinned ham, sweets and chocolates, And juices and drinks are bonus items we offer if available. Grocery gift cards for purchase of food

**Donations can be delivered to the Harpers or to the Grovedale office at 272 Torquay Rd by Monday**



**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet. [aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com) DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm



# Welcome to Week 2 of Advent 2020

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the Son of God, <sup>2</sup>begins with  
the words of the early preachers:  
“Listen! I will send My helper to  
carry the news ahead of you. He  
will make the way ready. <sup>3</sup> His  
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‘Make the way ready for the  
Lord. Make the road straight for  
Him!’

Mark 1. New Life Version

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