

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

5th December 2021 Edition 146

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Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae and Torquay.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Worship Services: Sunday December 5th– Advent 2



Airey's Inlet @ 9.30 am : Torquay: @ 9.30am : Bellbrae @11:00am

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

Wise words from Dr. Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM.

(Aboriginal activist, educator, artist and 2021 Senior Australian of the year)



"My people are not threatened by silence. They are completely at home in it. They have lived for thousands of years with Nature's quietness. My people today recognise and experience in this quietness the great Life-Giving Spirit, the Father of us all. It is easy for me to experience God's presence. When I am out hunting, when I am in the bush, among the trees, on a hill or by a billabong; these are the times when I can simply be in God's presence. My people have been so aware of Nature. It is natural that we will feel close to the Creator. Our Aboriginal culture has taught us to be still and to wait. We do not try to hurry things up. We let them follow their natural course – like the seasons. We watch the moon in each of its phases. We wait for the rain to fill our rivers and water the thirsty earth...

When twilight comes, we prepare for the night. At dawn we rise with the sun.

We watch the bush foods and wait for them to ripen before we gather them. We wait for our young people as they grow, stage by stage, through their initiation ceremonies. When a relation dies, we wait a long time with the sorrow. We own our grief and allow it to heal slowly.

We wait for the right time for our ceremonies and our meetings. The right people must be present. Everything must be done in the proper way. Careful preparations must be made. We don't mind waiting, because we want things to be done with care.

We don't like to hurry. There is nothing more important than what we are attending to. There is nothing more urgent that we must hurry away for.

We wait on God, too. His time is the right time. We wait for him to make his word clear to us. We don't worry. We know that in time and in the spirit of dadirri (that deep listening and quiet stillness) his way will be clear.

We are river people. We cannot hurry the river. We have to move with its current and understand its ways.

We hope that the people of Australia will wait. Not so much waiting for us – to catch up – but waiting with us, as we find our place in this world.

If you stay closely united, you are like a tree, standing in the middle of a bushfire sweeping through the timber. The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burnt; but inside the tree the sap is still flowing, and under the ground the roots are still strong. Like that tree, you have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn.

Our culture is different. We are asking our fellow Australians to take time to know us; to be still and to listen to us."

SERVICES can be found online at

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au



**Use your phone camera
and the QR code below to
access all our services
online**

Lectionary Readings

December 5th- Advent 2

Mal 3:1-4
Lk 1:68-79
Phil 1:3-11
Lk 3:1-6

Our OPSHOP is open

Friday Dec 3- Joan, Lyn, Val

**Sat Dec 4– AM: Mary and Keith,
Carleen**

PM: Sam, Helen, Anna

Preaching Plan notes for our Surfcoast Churches:

Sunday 5th December Carol service at Aireys.. See notice below

Sunday 12th December: Torquay Congregational Meeting.

Sunday 19th December: Usual services in all 3 churches

Sunday 19th December will be an evening Carol Service at Torquay @ 6pm followed by a shared meal.

Friday 24th December will be a Christmas Eve Service at 11pm @ Bellbrae.

We welcome everyone to share in these joyful services.

CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEALPEACE

We continue in this season of Advent to look forward once again to the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Peace is the theme of the Second Sunday in Advent. Projects supported by the Christmas Bowl can help to bring peace in times of violence and discord. Our focus this Sunday is on the situation in Gaza. The recent bombing of Gaza and the escalation of tensions between Israel and Palestine can make peace feel more distant than ever, especially for children affected by the conflict. Through the Christmas Bowl, you'll help children heal from their trauma and rebuild their childhoods. Dr Lubna has worked for Act for Peace's partner, the Near East Council of Churches (NECC), in Gaza for 20 years. With help from Australian Christians like you, they bring vital healthcare and support to children, women and young people.

This care has been helping children and families stay well in the face of huge challenges: protracted fighting, a blockade that makes it hard to access food or medicine, and now COVID-19 hardships. After the recent bombings, Dr Lubna says children are in greater need of mental health support to deal with trauma they've been through: "They draw buildings being bombed and people being killed in the street. They are suffering from anxiety, nightmares and low concentration." Thankfully, tensions in Gaza have eased recently, allowing NECC to re-open their health clinics.

Your gift to the Christmas Bowl will help NECC continue their life-changing care and counselling for traumatised children. And you'll bring children the healing gift of play and laughter, in safe spaces where they can just be kids again. Please share Christmas with children in Gaza, so they can again feel the peace and happiness that every child deserves.

Envelopes will be available and you are invited to make your gift at any time or to be put aside to make a special part of the offering on Christmas Day. May we continue to generously support this appeal as we have done in the past.

Second Sunday of Advent



Bringing Peace to children in Gaza

The recent bombing of Gaza and the escalation of tensions between Israel and Palestine can make peace feel more distant than ever, especially for children. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner run three health clinics across Gaza. They provide medical care and psychosocial support, including counselling and a place where children can play and feel safe. Your support gives children in Gaza a chance at the childhood they deserve. **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



Thursday Coffee@ OTP: is still happening each week—from 10am .Rev Suzie joins us when she can. We will break over Christmas Holidays. All welcome.



**You are invited to the Aireys Inlet
Community Carols**

Sunday 5th December at 7.30pm

Aireys Inlet Community Hall

Entry by donation. You are welcome to bring a present to place under the empty tree for families in need.

Do support this wonderful initiative.

Renae from Aireys Inlet will be cutting off her beautiful hair for a great cause please click [HERE](#) to donate.



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RENAE DONATES HER HAIR!
By Jacinda Renae Carey

PLEASE SUPPORT MY CAUSE

Raised **\$572** My Goal **\$500**

Remember to give to

Uniting Barwon Hampers by Monday

Dec 6th. See notices in church.. All staples and Christmas treats welcome.

Grocery gift cards for purchase of food which is in short stock **Donations can be dropped off at Torquay Uniting Church or Oak Tree Place**

The GIFTS FOR FAMILIES Collection.

Please place your generous gifts under the Tree at OTP.

We need gifts and gift vouchers to suit children of all ages particularly for teenagers who often miss out due to a lack of age appropriate gifts.

⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight paths for him.' ⁵Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶And all people will see God's salvation." Luke 3: 4-6



Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet.

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, Bellbrae

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