



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

**6 December 2020
Second Sunday in Advent**

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO ARE WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME.
MAY YOU EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE AS WE FIND DIFFERENT WAYS
TO WORSHIP AND BE COMMUNITY**

6th December	8.00am Worship	Chris Wakefield
	9.30am Worship Isaiah 40:1-8 and Mark 1:1-8 <i>'Good news is found in the most surprising of places'</i>	Ian Pearson
	2.00pm Chinese Service Includes Baptisms	Tennyson Chan
13th December	8.00am Worship	Maria Allerdice
	9.30am Holy Communion	Ian Pearson
	2.00pm Chinese Service	Tak Wong



欢迎所有第一次来参加崇拜的朋友们。

希望你们在和我们一起崇拜的时候感受到上帝的存在。

유나이팅 교회에 처음 방문해주신 모든 분들을 환영합니다. 함께 예배하는 가운데 살아계신 주님을 만나고 돌아갈 수 있길 소망합니다.

We are glad to have you with us today, to share in this Worship service led by Rev. Ian Pearson, supply minister for the next few months. We hope that you enjoy the time of worship, and feel welcomed and included even as we work within the new COVID-19 guidelines.

WORSHIP RESOURCES Bible readings and sermons for Sunday are available by audio, on the church's website. Printed copies of the news sheet and readings will be delivered to those without internet access.

The Assembly website has a list of livestreaming and online worship services. <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/ministry-during-covid-19> .Updates on services and news are also available on the Presbytery website: <https://sydneycentralcoastpresbytery.uca.org.au>

Synod has stipulated that **every group** that either meets in the name of Eastwood Uniting Church (including Bible studies in a home) or uses the Church premises for any activity, **must provide Church Council with a safety plan** that complies with regulations and guidelines set out by both the NSW Government and the NSW/ACT Synod. Chris Wakefield kindly agreed to be our contact person with Synod on behalf of Church Council.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. The Joint Nominating Committee have met and agreed they would like to call a Congregational meeting on Sunday **13th December**, after the morning service, to introduce the candidate they believe has been sent to EUC.

PASTORAL CARE Please continue to keep connected with each other by phone, email and text.

'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'

Merrill B, Jason M, Margaret S, Elizabeth C, Liz M's mother Katy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	7 Dec	English Classes	9.30am
Tuesday	8 Dec	English Classes—online only	7.30pm
		Chinese Speaking Resource Worker	
		Umbrella Group Meeting via Zoom	5.30pm
Wednesday	9 Dec	Women's Bible Study	10.00am
		Church Council Gathering	7.00pm
Thursday	10 Dec	Advent Bible Study via Zoom	8.00pm
Friday	11 Dec	Advent Bible Study via Zoom	10.00am
Sunday	13 Dec	Congregational Meeting after 9.30am service	

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS. The church office hours have been reduced. Currently the office is closed on Wednesdays.

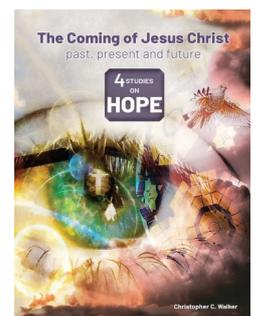
2PM CHINESE SERVICE All welcome. Please contact Tennyson 0411896274 for any inquiry.



SOCIAL ZOOM each Friday at 7.30pm Janine organises a 'Social Catchup' via Zoom. It is a relaxed meeting. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office for the link.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES. 'Hope for Advent' by Rev Dr Chris Walker, will be used to guide each study. Studies are via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 8 pm, and Friday mornings 10 am.

Contact the church office or Trevor Bird on 0412657494 for the Zoom link. The study book is available from Mediacom in hard copy or digital. Link: <https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/the-coming-of-jesus-christ-past-present-and-future/>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Len Hough	Monday	7th December
Chris Dixon	Thursday	10th December
Ian Smart	Saturday	12th December
Sienna Weatherburn	Saturday	12th December



COVID-19 has changed everything – but most of all, for those who have least. Buy gifts that fight poverty and share the love so that no one goes without this Christmas.

Come to our **Everything in Common Gift Stall this Sunday!**

Find us on the piazza today and every Sunday morning leading up to Christmas. UnitingWorld's Everything in Common is a gift catalogue with a difference.

Every gift card you buy supports the life-giving projects of our overseas church partners as they transform communities through education, health, income generation and leadership development.

Christmas greeting cards are also on sale.

Pay by credit card or cash. All gift cards are tax deductible.



Enabling better lives.

Would like to invite us to partner with them by taking part in their Christmas Volunteering Program. Each year CCA hosts a Christmas Hampers give away for the disadvantaged Australian children and families.

Helping vulnerable community members over this festive season by:

- Partnering with CCA and host food & toy collections.
- Volunteering this December to help prepare, wrap, and distribute the hampers for the community in need or deliver food for the elderly.

Hampers will be packed and prepared for delivery here at EUC from Sunday 20th December.

The Christmas hamper 'wish list' of goods is:

0-5 year olds: books, puzzles, dolls, toy trucks, learning toys for babies.

5-13 year olds: school lunch box and drink bottles, books, board games, craft items, colouring and puzzle books, sports balls, Lego.

14-18 year olds: wallets, beach towels, sports equipment, jewellery.

All ages: movie tickets, vouchers for massage or facials, zoo or aquarium tickets.

Food items: chocolates or lollies, snack foods, canned fruits, biscuits and crackers, coffee or tea, canned meats.

Personal items: deodorants, soaps, hand cream, hair brushes and hair accessories.



HELPING ROHINGYA REFUGEES SHAPE PEACEFUL FUTURES

What does peace look like for the Rohingya people? After fleeing violence in Myanmar, they now face the threat of a deadly COVID-19 outbreak in Jamtoli refugee camp in Bangladesh. For Rohingya people living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh, life was frightening enough before the coronavirus pandemic.

The refugees live in cramped conditions, in makeshift tents that can get swept away in the monsoon rains. Food is in short supply and a third of households don't have soap or regular access to water, so sickness is already rife.

Dr Mehidi Hassan and his medical teams see up to 1,500 people every day at the health clinics scattered across the camp. Dr Hassan said:

“Without support from the outside world, it will be devastating here. People will die of lack of food and treatment.”



Dr Mehidi Hassan treats people for fever, chest infections and related issues.

Now COVID-19 has reached Jamtoli refugee camp. There is widespread misinformation about the virus that is making it harder for doctors like Dr Hassan to stop a catastrophic outbreak.

This Christmas, vulnerable communities urgently need your care. Please help them keep families safe through this pandemic, and shape the just, peaceful lives they deserve.

Act for Peace's local partner, Christian Aid, has teamed up with doctors, community workers and Rohingya religious leaders to distribute vital health messages. They are teaching people how handwashing and physical distancing can help stop the virus' spread.

Christian Aid is also dispelling dangerous COVID-19 myths that might stop infected people from seeking medical care.

Together, we can help give refugees in different parts of the world the long term support they need to build safe, peaceful futures. **Christ tells us that peace is always possible. Please give to the Christmas Bowl and help bring the miracle of peace to refugee families.**

A NOTE FROM THE FRIEDS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for last Sunday's closure of placement service, and for your very kind generosity.

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, we realise that limited numbers precluded some people from attending.

We leave Eastwood with many happy memories, and new friendships. Thank you to all of you who have been part of our journey together in the past 9½ years.

Thank you again, and every blessing in the future.

Nicholas, Sue, Matthew and Rebecca Fried

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP

Worship at 9.30am is needing assistance with:

- Welcomers—greeting, ensuring people sanitise their hands on entry and fill in the attendance record, checking that people stay 1.5m apart
- Bible reading, praying and running the Powerpoint and weekly announcements

Please note there will be no refreshments after services and we ask that everyone leaves the premises at the completion of the service.

2020 VOUCHER APPEAL: SUPPORTING JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE AND HOUSE OF WELCOME

Alexandra Hogan, Social Justice Advocate with the Uniting Advocacy Team sent this request for vouchers that will be distributed evenly between the clients of JRS and House of Welcome.

The Uniting Church has a long and proud history of defending the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum and you have shown your support by donating to our previous Give Hope Voucher Appeals and being involved in other campaign actions. Thank you so much for your advocacy, generosity and continued support over the years – it is both inspiring and greatly appreciated and shows these individuals and families in our community that people care for them.

This year we're doing things a little differently, by directly supporting the Christmas Appeals of the House of Welcome and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). House of Welcome and JRS are two of the key agencies in NSW

working to advocate for the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum and also in providing case work support, emergency financial assistance, food relief, employment assistance and housing to some of the most vulnerable and at-risk people in our community.

Crisis during COVID19

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year for us all and the impact of the COVID19 pandemic has been particularly severe for people seeking asylum and their families in our community with many facing loss of work and with no access to safety net payments like *JobKeeper* and *JobSeeker*. Rates of unemployment, homelessness, destitution and hospital admissions for mental health conditions have risen along with the demand on agencies like JRS and House of Welcome, whose resources are already stretched.

Can you help?

We're calling on our members again this Christmas to get involved, if you can, to bring hope and joy to people seeking asylum in our community. This is an opportunity for you, your colleagues, family, friends and congregation to provide much-needed practical and tangible help. For your convenience, we will accept any donations made in the lead up to Christmas and throughout January and February 2021.

How to get involved:

Purchase a shopping voucher to the amount of your choice. We suggest a Coles/Myer, Westfield Voucher or gift card to another department store or pharmacy so that JRS & HoW can add these to their client's foodbank deliveries for them to easily buy essential items and gifts for their kids.

Send the voucher to JRS: **Jesuit Refugee Service
Suite 1
10-12 Victoria Road
Parramatta NSW 2150**

Or give vouchers or money to purchase vouchers to Marion G and she will send on your behalf.



AUSTRALIA



Uniting

...to inspire people, enliven communities and confront injustice

OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING

Every second we **exist** is a gift.
Gone in a whisper,
it will not come again ...

***So, God of us all,
we come to you
and ask that you help us unwrap it,
and teach us to share it,
and call us to cherish it –
this precious life we've been given.***

There are gifts we can offer each other:
time, forgiveness, consideration ...
things we cannot purchase,
but which are priceless.

And there are lessons we desperately need to learn –
about love that does what it says,
about concern that changes our behaviour,
about this life we've been given that explodes in beauty
when we understand how to give it up.

***During this time of Advent waiting,
help us to realise
that there are things that need doing now.***

Waiting is part of everything,
but there are times when we are unmoving and stagnant.

When we withhold forgiveness.
When we withhold help
or mercy
or a kind word.

God, forgive us.

When we relax in our comfort zones
even though it causes others pain,

God, move us.

Continued next page

God upon whom we wait,

wake us up.

During this time of Advent,

help us to wait

and watch

and expect the unexpected:

that the poor will be filled with good things,

that the oppressed will receive justice,

that you, God,

and we,

will intervene.

We dare to expect that,

because we wait on you, Lord,

and waiting

is part of everything.

Amen.

Sally Foster-Fulton, *Hope was Heard Singing*, p 25.

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A PRAYER FOR PUTTING ON A FACE MASK

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love.

In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Canada

We are all ministers in Christ's name

Minister:

Phone:

Email:

Rev Ian Pearson (supply) please contact the office

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Please send all notices to the Office



Mission: Witness to the gospel and spread the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.

Vision: Engage and connect with our diverse community through active discipleship.

Values:	Visible	可见的	비전을 가질 수가 있고
	Inclusive	包容的	포괄적이 될 수있고
	Relevant	相关的	적절하고
	Active	积极的	역동적이 될 것이다

LECTIONARY READINGS:

Dec 6 Advent 2: Is 40:1-11, Ps 85:1-2,8-13, 2 Pt 3:8-15a, Mk 1:1-8

Dec 13 Advent 3: Is 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps 126, or Luke 1:46b-55,
1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8,19-28

WEEKLY NOTICES, and **SUNDAY SERVICES** for Eastwood are available for viewing on our website. So, if you are away on any Sunday you can catch up at www.euc.org.au

Banking Details for Direct Giving:

BSB: 634 634

Account #: 100020668