



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

20 December 2020

Fourth 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**

20th December	8.00am Worship <i>'Love'</i>	Sue & Phil Howes
	9.30am Worship Luke 1: 26-38, 46-56 <i>'The terror of Mary's pregnancy'</i>	Ian Pearson
	2.00pm Chinese Service	Hua Ruan
21st December	7.30pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving	Ian Pearson
24th December	11.00pm Holy Communion	Ian Pearson
25th December	9.30am Luke 1:8-14, 15-20	Marion Gledhill
27th December	9.30am Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3, Luke 2:22-40 <i>'... and what have we done?'</i>	Ian Pearson
	2.00pm Chinese Service	Esther Shih

Please note there will be no refreshments after services and we ask that everyone leaves the premises at the completion of the service. The latest easing of government restrictions means registering with the office for worship each week is no longer required.

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.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP. 9.30am worship needs 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, running the Powerpoint and announcements

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	21 Dec	Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving	7.30pm
Wednesday	24 Dec	Christmas Eve Communion Service	11.00pm
Thursday	25 Dec	Christmas Day Service	9.30am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS. The church office hours have been reduced to four days a week while we are with just one secretary. The office will be closed next Thursday, 24th December and will re-open Monday 4th January 2021.

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



SOCIAL ZOOM. The next 2 Fridays being Christmas Day and New Years Day, the social Zoom sessions will not be running again until early in 2021. Please contact the office after January 3 for more details.

CONGRATULATIONS to Phil and Peggy Looby on the birth of a new granddaughter, Daisy Jack Roberton on Friday 11th December in WA.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

Monday 21st December at 7.30pm



HELP NEEDED TODAY to sort goods for the hampers CCA will distribute to disadvantaged children and families in our community, after the 9.30am service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



John Brunton	Thursday	25th December
Elaine Luckie	Thursday	25th December
Bronwyn Murphy	Thursday	25th December



SHARING LOVE WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE IN JORDAN

God's love often appears at the most difficult time. In Jordan, your giving is helping Syrian refugees harness their love and determination to help each other stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

Life was already tough for the millions of Syrian refugees living in camps in Jordan. Now they are suffering even more with the spread of COVID-19

Reem* is a mother of five who knows how quickly coronavirus would spread in her community: a crowded urban slum with little sanitation. But the cost of face masks is out of reach for refugees like her, especially since the initial lockdown measures have affected the little income they had.

That's why Reem decided to start making cloth face masks for her community. Reem works with a team of volunteers and accesses sewing machines from Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR).

She said: "I am very happy that we can find practical solutions during the most difficult closure time in Jordan. We hope with this work, we can stop the pandemic in our camp."

Love gives us the strength to overcome the most extraordinary obstacles. But there is still no end in sight to COVID-19 – or the war in Syria – for struggling refugees like Reem. Please share God's love with them this Christmas, so they can survive the hardships still to come.

Your love will translate to lifesaving food ration packs and medical care, jobs training and psychological support. You'll help women like Reem earn a living, and bring much-needed psychological care to refugee communities. They need support to heal from their past, and to live with the anguish of not knowing if they can ever return home.

As Fares Al Swais, Executive Director of DSPR said: "We appreciate your support, solidarity and love. But in the aftermath of the lockdown, we expect more poverty. Our journey to help the vulnerable is not over."

**Reem's name has been changed to protect her identity as a refugee.*

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.

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.

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.

2020 has been a challenging year for us all and the impact of the COVID-19 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.

You can bring hope and joy to people seeking asylum in our community. This is an opportunity for you to provide much-needed practical and tangible help. Donations can be made in the lead up to Christmas and throughout January and February 2021. 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 to send on your behalf.



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.

Visit the **Everything in Common Gift Stall this Sunday** on the piazza. 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.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Monday	21st	7.30pm	Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving
Thursday	24th	11.00pm	Christmas Eve Communion
Friday	25th	9.30am	Christmas Day Service

OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING

The Wise Ones asked,

Where shall we find him?

You'll find him with the tax-collectors and Pharisees
in the sinners he eats with,
and the open table he offers all who are hungry for acceptance.
You'll find him in the welcome he gives those the world ignores

Where shall we find him?

You'll find him with the least and the lost
those who have been bound up and oppressed by prejudice.
You'll find him giving life back in creative possibility
by opening up the traditions and welcoming in new life

Where shall we find him?

You'll find him with Samaritans and Gentiles,
 making neighbours with our enemies.
 You'll find him opening relationships
 with those we fear, misunderstand or ignore.

Where shall we find him?

You'll find him among the children he likes to see and to hear
 who are more kingdom-like
 more fit for heaven
 than any of us who have grown up

Where shall we find him?

You'll find him among those with mental ill health
 once so hurtfully called 'demon possessed.'
 You'll find him caring for the wellbeing of people suffering pandemic,
 in bringing each back into community
 and welcoming them home.

Where shall we find him?

You'll find him in the stories we tell and are
 in the words that become life
 you'll find him, the light that shines for all,
 in the deepest shadows of the world

Where shall we find him?

Friends, come and see
 as we plead in the challenging words of Jesus.

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us in the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory
 are yours now and forever. Amen.**

We are all ministers in Christ's name

Minister:

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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 可見的 비전을 가질 수가 있고
 Inclusive 包容的 포괄적이 될 수있고
 Relevant 相關的 적절하고
 Active 積極的 역동적이 될 것이다

LECTIONARY READINGS:

Dec 20 Advent 4: 2 Sm 7:1-11,16, Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4,19-26,
 Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38

Dec 24/25 Christmas Is 9:2-7, Ps 96, Ti 2:11-14, Lk 2:1-14, (15-20),
 Is 62:6-12, Ps 97, Ti 3:4-7, Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20,
 Is 52:7-10, Ps 98, Heb 1:1-4,(5-12), Jn 1:1-14

Dec 27 Christmas 1 Is 61:10-62:3, Ps 148, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:22-40

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