



**EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH**  
*14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood*  
**24 December 2020 - 3 January 2021**  
**Christmas**



**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**

- 24th December      11.00pm Worship      Amelia Koh-Butler  
**Link for online service**  
<https://vimeo.com/492352292>
- 25th December      9.30am service via Zoom      Marion Gledhill  
Luke 2:8-14, 15-20  
*'Where do angels sing?'*  
See page 2 for the Zoom link for service
- 27th December      9.30am Worship      Ian Pearson  
Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3, Luke 2:22-40  
*'... and what have we done?'*  
Youtube link for message (available from 26/12/20)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6YyCuAkl2s>  
  
2.00pm Chinese Service online WeChat group
- 3rd January 2021      9.30am Worship      Ian Pearson  
Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:1-9, 10-18  
*'One more time around the sun:  
the dawn of new possibilities'*  
Youtube link for message (available from 2/1/21)  
<https://youtu.be/WEwv9XFLzw0>  
  
2.00pm Chinese Service online WeChat group

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.

**CHRISTMAS DAY ZOOM LINK.** Eastwood Uniting Church Christmas Service - Live Zoom Time: Dec 25, 2020 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83083973510?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83083973510?pwd=dEFnWHB6RGZMSkdYi8vZ0ROVtJmdz09)  
pwd=dEFnWHB6RGZMSkdYi8vZ0ROVtJmdz09

Meeting ID: 830 8397 3510

Passcode: q9%SV@

**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**

No worship services or activities are able to be held at the church until further notice

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS.** The church office hours have been reduced to four days a week while we are with just one secretary. The office is closed until Monday 4th January 2021. For urgent matters contact Ian Pearson: 0403 062 253

**2PM CHINESE SERVICE** will use WeChat for services and to maintain relationships and support. All welcome. Please contact Tennyson 0411896274 for any inquiry.

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



**CHANGES TO BANKING.** Direct debits and transfers to the church account remain unchanged. All counter deposits that were previously done at Westpac branches are now to be done at Australia Post outlets starting January 1 with new deposit books. Please contact Janelle and return any Westpac deposit books.

**COFFEE FOR TIMOR LESTE** Australian coffee company, Blackstar Coffee Roasters, as part of their own commitment to creating a more just world, have agreed to donate 10% from each Blackstar Coffee subscription towards UnitingWorld's projects in Timor-Leste! They are offering free delivery as well as a 10% personal discount on subscriptions by using the code: UWC4TIMOR when ordering on their website: <https://blackstarcoffee.com.au/>

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



John Brunton	Thursday	25th December
Elaine Luckie	Thursday	25th December
Bronwyn Murphy	Thursday	25th December
Shirley Watton	Sunday	27th December
Sophira Chenery	Thursday	31st December

## **LIGHTING THE WAY FOR SHATTERED FAMILIES IN ZIMBABWE**



How can we share God's divine light with those who are struggling most on our Earth? In Zimbabwe, the coronavirus has left people already devastated by drought, disaster and inflation struggling to feed their children. Yet simply by sharing your blessings this Christmas Bowl, you can help families survive and stay resilient.

When Martha's crops failed in Zimbabwe's crippling drought, she had no food for her three children. She sold her cattle in the hope of buying maize meal for her family. But with widespread food shortages, Martha often returned from the shops empty handed.

There was no food – and not enough money to send her twin daughters to school. Martha said: *“This really worries me. If my children don't go to school they may get married at an early age especially girls. I wish them a good education and a good job and to lead a better way of life.”*

People like Martha were already in a desperate situation. Now COVID-19 threatens them with catastrophe. Zimbabwe's lockdown has helped slow the spread of the virus but has also closed local markets, disrupted food aid and forced millions out of work. Worryingly, most families don't even have the clean water they need to stop the spread of the virus.

Since the crisis began Act for Peace's local partner has been distributing food rations, soap, clean water and vital health information. With your kind help, they're now supporting communities to grow their own food so they can get through this crisis – and towards a more secure future.

The people of Zimbabwe are incredibly resourceful, but they urgently need more help to make it through this dark and difficult time. Through your gift this Christmas Bowl, you will bring them lifesaving relief.

Martha is proof of what is possible when you share your own love and light with those in need. Caring supporters like you helped bring her the tools and training to become a conservation farmer. Today, she can grow enough food to feed her family – and has faith they will survive through this pandemic.

Please give again this Christmas Bowl, and show our sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe that Christ's light can transform even the toughest of circumstances.

## **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.

## **OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING**

*Christmas Day:*

For the rustling of angels wings  
close to those who are grieving:

***We are thankful, great God.***

For the skies  
lit up with hope  
arching over a groaning creation:

***We are thankful, great God.***

For the sight  
of the face of a child  
excited in anticipation of wonder-filled truth.

***We are thankful, great God.***

All these remind us of your coming, Christ Jesus.  
All these call us away from discouragement  
into the enchantment of God  
which gives us strength to face the future.

***And we are thankful.***

***We are immensely thankful. Amen.***

Dorothy McRae-McMahon *Words for Worship* alt. Year A 2004 Christmas © Mediacom

*Sunday 27th December:*

O God, as we sing

"Away in a manger"

we think of the many people who are away from home  
- not with their families this Christmas season –

those who are sick in hospital,  
those who are in prison,  
those not at home

because of work commitments  
and all those who are travelling.

We think also  
of those who, away from their loved ones,  
are sick with COVID symptoms in the next room.

As we sing

"no crib for a bed"

we pray for the many homeless throughout our world –

those who have suffered loss

in hurricanes,

fires and earthquakes,

as refugees from civil wars,

those drifting from city to city looking for work.

As we sing

"the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head"

we think of those needing rest –

those fearing what lies ahead,

those who cannot sleep because of pain,

those who are struggling to make ends meet,

and those who work today

for the health and safety needs of our community.

As we sing

"the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay"

we pray for the light of your love to touch

all those who have lost faith,

those who need their confidence and hope restored,

those who face an uncertain future,

the leaders of our churches and country

And for ourselves.

May your love

be born afresh in each of us this Christmas,

so we may spread the light of your love to others. **Amen.**

**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:

### Phone:

### Email:

Rev Ian Pearson (supply) 0403 062 253

Tennyson Chan 陳志偉牧師 0411 896 274 tennyson@euc.org.au

Esther Shih 莊娜麗傳道 0411 128 069

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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 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

Jan 3 Christmas 2 Jer 31:7-14, Ps 147:12-20, Eph 1:3-14,  
 John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**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](http://www.euc.org.au)

**Banking Details for Direct Giving:**

**BSB: 634 634**

**Account #: 100020668**