

Diary Dates

Sun, 1	Advent Week 1 9am Tamworth City Worship & Holy Communion with Rev Will Pearson. Food Hamper/ Christmas Appeal Sunday. Morning Tea. 11:30am Korean Reborn Church & Lunch	Thu, 5	9:30am Stepping Stones DH 9:30am Yoga in St AR 2pm Advent Study 2 4:30pm Church Music 7pm Advent Study 2
Mon, 2	9:30am Kairos Sewing JH 10am-4pm Op Shop M-F 10am Uniting in St A Room	Fri, 6	10am Craft Group StAR
Tue, 3	9am-2pm T-F Church Office 10am Pres Bookkeeper 4:30pm Property C'tee StAR 7pm Friends of Nioka StAR 7pm Prayer for Tamworth at St Paul's Church	Sat, 7	9am-12noon Op Shop 6:30pm Carols in the Bicentennial Park
Wed, 4	9am Op Shop Sorting—Vest 10am Bereavement Support Group in StAR 5pm Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service in Church and StAR 6-9:30pm New Vogue JH	Sun, 8	Advent Week 2 9am Tamworth City Worship & Baptisms with Rev Will Pearson. Morning Tea. 11:30am Korean Reborn Church & Lunch 7:30pm Coffee, Cake & Carols at St John's

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 8 December—Advent Wk 2

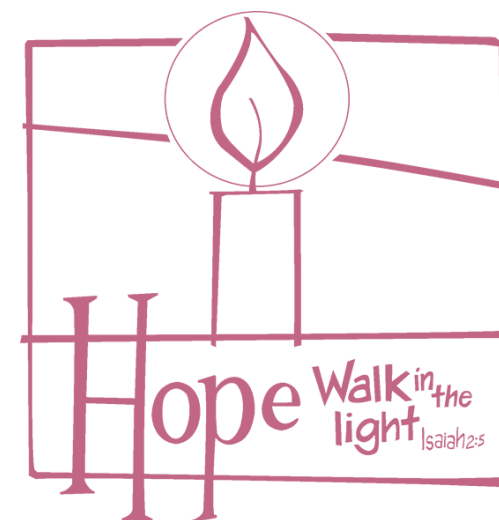
8:30am	Gowrie Service with Meg Mangan
9am	Tamworth City Service with Rev Will Pearson Baptisms—Elder: N Dezius; Door: J Dezius, w Townsend, Kathy; PPoint: J Phillips; Organ: R Richardson
9:30	Tamworth Southside
11am	West Tamworth with Meg Mangan HC



1 December 2019

Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping
with us today at Tamworth City. Rev
Will Pearson will be leading our
service and sacrament of Holy
Communion. Please stay for a chat
and morning tea.



Contact Details:

- **Supply Minister:** Rev Will Pearson 0431 150 253
pastorwill@bigpond.com
- **Office:** 144 Marius St, PO Box 501, Tamworth 2340
Ph 02 6766 5311, Email tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com, Hrs 9am-2pm Tue-Fri

Other Useful Local Contacts:

- **Southside Office:** Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101, South Tamworth 2340, Email tsucoffice@gmail.com, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- **Southside Lay Ministry Worker:** Suzanne Holloway 0438 608 373
tsucminister@gmail.com
- **Young Family Worker:** Sarah Wright 0423 617 813 Email: sarah.familyworker.uca@gmail.com
- **Peel Valley:** Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- **UNITING St Andrew's Village** 1800 864 846
Chaplain Rev Henry Swindon 0466 445 632
- **UNITING Rainbow Cottage** 6766 7655 Sharn Mason

Advent Bible Studies

Re-orienting your Christmas Compass...

Week 2: A call to turn back to God

What sort of saviour were God's people waiting for?

As we saw last time, the message of the OT prophets was usually focused on the needs and pressing situation faced by the people. God may indeed raise up a deliverer (as promised in last week's passage from Jeremiah) but the focus of the prophets often falls on how the people themselves are living and their need to repent.

This frequently came as a call to love and care for one's neighbour rather than to exploit them.



Contemporary examples might be a call to be hospitable to asylum seeker families or foreign students, or to commit to sustainable environmental practices.

The first passage this week is from Malachi, a prophet who lived in the fourth century BCE. For most Protestant Christians, this is the last book in the OT and is thus interpreted as God's final word before the NT.¹ This book is very critical of the Temple priests who were seen as responsible for bringing God's instruction to the people but whose leadership had become corrupt. So God will raise up a different sort of messenger.

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 2

Southside Scene



Worship: 9:30am Sundays. HC 3rd Sunday. In recess 5pm Dec/Jan.

Ladies Breakfast: 7:30am on 4th Tuesday each month.

Stepping Stones: 10am-12noon in Acacia Room on Tues, school terms.

Prayer Team: 3pm Tuesdays.

Lectionary Study & Worship

Preparation: 4pm Tuesdays.

Motor Bike Ride: 9am 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Faith & Art Group: 1pm Thursdays, alternate weeks, school terms.

Men's Choir: 5:30pm on alternate

Thursdays.

Men's Bowls: 9:45am 2nd & 4th Friday North Tamworth Bowling Club

Men's Breakfast: 7:30am on 1st Saturday each month.

Hands & Hearts: Fairtrade Sunday, 1 December from 11am.

Carols on the Carpet: 5:30pm on 15th December. Farewell for Sarah.

Website: www.tsuc.org.au or

Facebook: Tamworth Southside UC

Our Vision: To be a faithful & enthusiastic part of God's church in our community,

Peel Valley Congregations

GOWRIE, HALLSVILLE & WEST

TAMWORTH CONGREGATIONS

Our Goal "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve"

Website: ucapeelvalley.org.au

Email: ucapeelvalley@gmail.com

Pastor Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Contact: Margaret Crowell 0408 660 025

Preaching: Ross Davidson 6760 8369

Elders: Margaret Crowell, Ross Davidson, and Bruce Jarrett.

Fri, 29 Nov—6pm Friday Family Church at Hallsville with Ross

Davidson.

Sun, 1 Dec—11am West Tamworth Service with Ross Davidson. Lunch to follow service.

Tue, 3 Dec—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth

Sun, 8 Dec—8:30am Gowrie Service & 11am West Tamworth HC Service with Meg Mangan. 12noon

Congregation

Christmas

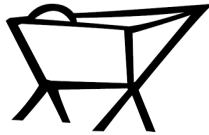
Lunch at

Hallsville.



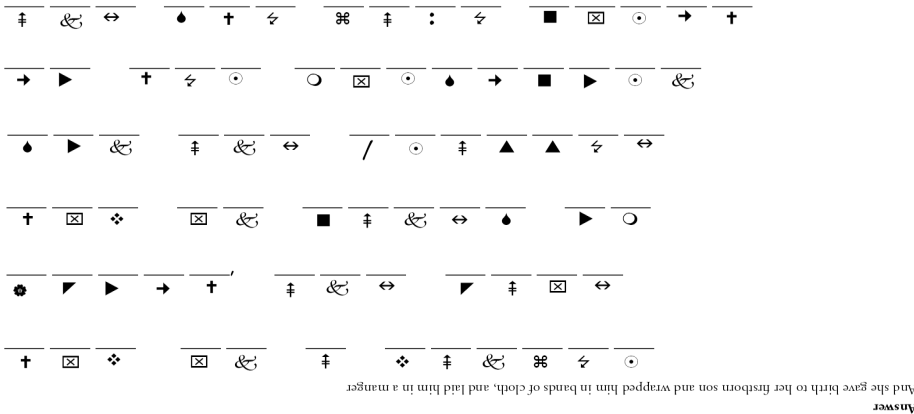
"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 15

A Child Is Born



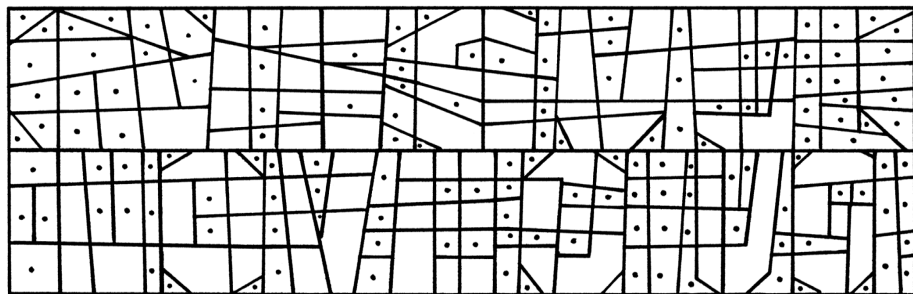
Luke 2:7 is part of the Christmas story. Use this code to discover these verses.

A	‡	D	↔	G	⌘	J	≡	M	✦	P	▲	S	♣	V	:	Y	∴
B	■	E	↵	H	+	K	●	N	&	Q	▽	T	→	W	/	Z	=
C	⊗	F	○	I	⊠	L	▶	O	▶	R	⊙	U	□	X	#		



Savior

We also know Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. Jesus is called our Savior because he saved us from being separated from God by our sins. He was even willing to die on the cross for us. Why did he do that? Color in the shapes with a dot in them to find out.



Lectionary Readings

Sun	1	Psalm 122*	Fri	6	Matthew 3:1-12*
Mon	2	Isaiah 11:1-10*	Sat	7	Psalm 72:1-7
Tue	3	Isaiah 51:21-52:6	Sun	8	Psalm 72:8-19*
Wed	4	Romans 15:4-13*			* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings
Thu	5	Luke 1:57-80			

Read Malachi 3:1-4.

Fast forward to the NT and the Gospel of Luke which begins by telling the story of a certain priest named Zechariah who has a vision from God while serving in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 1:5-23). His wife Elizabeth subsequently conceives a child – John – and after John is born, Zechariah prophesies that John will be a mighty prophet in the manner of the OT prophets while the unnamed Jesus will be a saviour for the people.

Read Luke 1:67-79.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- The process of refining silver or gold involved heating it over a hot flame to remove any impurities. What are some of the reasons we shy away from allowing God to carry out such a process in our lives? How can we spur each other on to take seriously the goal of holy or righteous living?
- Malachi and later John reminded God's people of their calling to follow God's ways of justice and love. What are some of the ways we fail to uphold justice for our neighbour?

1 Catholic Bibles – and indeed the Scriptures used by the early Christians – contain several more books written during the inter-testamental period which are usually referred to as the Apocrypha.

- In these two passages from Malachi and Luke, what does 'salvation' look like? What sort of saviour was God promising?

Preparing the way of the Lord

In each of the four Gospel accounts, the ministry of Jesus is introduced and preceded by the ministry of John the Baptist. John is seen as the one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3).

Read Luke 3:1-6.

Luke makes two subtle changes compared to parallel accounts in the other Gospels. Note first how Luke frames the story. The framework for a story is always important and here Luke is at pains to situate his story within the politics of the eastern Roman Empire (Luke 3:1-2). He names the several major leaders who helped shape the course of history in this region.

The second change is how Luke uses the quotation from Isaiah. While all the Gospel writers link John to this figure from Isaiah, only Luke extends the quotation – apparently to emphasise its final line (Luke 3:6).

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- The rulers Luke names are the 'movers and shakers' of the era. The contrast with John is thus highlighted. While they live in palaces and command armies, John is a relative nobody living in the

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone in your prayers this week.

Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

We keep the activities of Moonbi/Kootingal Anglican Church, the Baptist Church, C3 Church, School Scripture, Oxley Vale Anglican Church the Lutheran Church and Cornerstone Church in our prayers.

Presbytery Prayer Points

We continue to pray for life-sustaining rain to fall across our Presbytery and firefighters in affected areas also. Exciting Christmas outreach activities around our Presbytery. Our annual Preaching Workshop 7/8 February 2020.

Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who led classes in our high schools this year—Belinda and Darrel. Participation rates over the past couple of years has fallen from 90% to 50%, due enlarge to the now opt in arrangements and societies move away from it's Christian heritage. We are funded from donations. If you would like to contribute: A/c name TSCEAI, BSB 032 621, A/c No. 372 372. Thank you.

Prayer Chain

If you have a concern that you would particularly like prayer support for, please contact Judith Archbold 6766 6716 or Ted Woodhart 6766 1804.

Maintenance Items

Food Hamper Sunday

Food Hamper Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the month. Bring along something to the office anytime. A shopping list might look like this: 2x1lt UHT milk, 500g sugar, 25 tea bag box, 50g coffee, 100gm tuna/sardines, 2xcuppa coup, 2xrice/pasta pack, 250g biscuits, tin baked beans/spaghetti (ring pull), tin steak & veg (or similar), 2minute noodles, small tinned fruit, small cereal. Thank you everyone.

Bread Tags for Wheelchairs in South Africa

Please save your bread tags—they can be recycled to fund wheelchairs in South Africa. Now collecting in Australia too! Leave in the office.



Rainbow Cottage Concert

Annual concert in Jubilee Hall on Tuesday, 17 December from 5pm.

Craft Group

Our craft group meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning of the month at 10am in the St Andrew's Room. Bring along some craft, have a chat and a cuppa. Our next get-together will be on Friday, 20 December.

Adult Fellowship & Lunch'n'Chatter Christmas Lunch

Join us on Friday, 20 December from 12noon for our Christmas Lunch in the Dunn Hall. Please let Lorraine Furze (6761 7371) know you will be there for catering. Thank you.

Worship on Sunday, 22 December - Advent 4

9am Worship Service with Rev Henry Swindon. Elder: R Duns; D: H McKenzie, M Duns, B McLean; PP: J McClelland; O: R Greer. Morning Tea.

Diary Dates to Note

- 24th Christmas Eve—5pm Carol Crawl; 7:30pm Service
- 25th Christmas Day—8am Service
- 20th 10am Craft Group; 12noon Adult Fellowship Lunch

2020 Dates

- 6-11 January SU Chaffey Dam Watersports Camp.
- 8 January Rev Betty Stroud joining us.
- 11 January SU SUITE Talking your faith naturally.
- 13-17 January SU Outback Adventure Camp.
- 7/8 February NENW Presbytery Preaching Workshop.

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on the Uniting Church in Australia, Ordained Ministry, Councils of the Church, those who deliver and receive home communion today. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.



backwaters of the wilderness near the Jordan River. What does this suggest about the type of person God delights to work through?

- John's message is summarised as a baptism of repentance (Luke 3:3), which involved a change in one's thinking that also affects one's actions and way of life. What might repentance look like for us as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, especially in a culture that encourages excessive consumerism and over indulging at this time of year?
- Luke's quotation from Isaiah ends with the promise that all people shall see God's salvation (Luke 3:6). This theme is emphasised in Part 2 of Luke's story, the book of Acts, as the gospel message spreads throughout the Roman Empire. What steps might your community take to share in this mission, not just during Advent but throughout the year? Agree on one action your group will commit to in sharing the good news in your context.



*This resource is produced by the Centre for Theology & Ministry
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania*

<http://ctm.uca.edu.au>

© Peter Mallen 2009

Please use freely with acknowledgment

Centre for Theology & Ministry



Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 1 December - Advent 1

9am Worship Service and Holy Communion with Rev Will Pearson. Food Hamper/Christmas Appeal Sunday. Morning Tea.

New Hymns

We've been enjoying some new hymns over recent months with Rev Will leading us. If you would like to follow along, there are hymns books available. Please ask a door steward for a hymn book.

Korean Reborn Church

11:30am Sundays for worship. Jubilee Kitchen & Dunn Hall for lunch.

Christmas Bowl Appeal

Envelopes are in your notice sheet today and can be brought back to the offering place any Sunday up to Christmas. A retiring offering on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will also be taken up. We will hear about projects through Advent. Please give generously.

Congregational Lunch

Thank you everyone, we had a great time at the Dragon Palace last Sunday.

Mission Envelopes

Thank you for returning your Mission Envelopes—Joy Balazo's Peace Village in the Philippines.

UnitingWorld—Everything in Common Gifts

Gifts that fight poverty and build Hope. Gifts range from \$10 to \$500. Something for everyone. Grab a brochure at church today.

Hospitality/Visitation

While Rev Will Pearson is here with us, he would like to visit as many people as possible. If you'd like to have a visit please let Will know (0431 150 253).

Doing It For Our Farmers

We continue to support our local farmers with drought relief packages, vouchers and prayers. There is always someone in need. Keeping those affected by the bushfires in our prayers as well.

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 6

Ben Mettham Drama Co

Using the Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 14 December from 9am.

Worship on Sunday, 15 December - Advent 3

9am Worship Service, Youth Vision Presentations & Kids Play with Rev Will Pearson. Elder: N Dezius; D: W Purss, S Hardin, F Kerr; PP: J Carthew; O: R Cathcart. Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea.

11am West Tamworth Service—Rev Will Pearson.

Carols on the Carpet

Tamworth Southside are hosting Carols on the Carpet on Sunday, 15 December from 5:30pm. BBQ, carols and Kids Play, farewell for Sarah Wright. Everyone's welcome.

Christmas Appeal

A very busy week in the St Andrew's Room. Christmas Appeal hampers and gifts sorted and wrapped. We are including the farming community in our appeal this year, so it will be a very busy time. Come and join in the fun!

Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster

Our next rostered day will be Tuesday, 17 December from 8am.

Christmas Blessings from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth

*Merry Christmas from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth.
We extend a warm welcome to you to worship with us:*

Tamworth City (Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts) Tamworth Southside (Op Golden Guitar)

Each Sunday	9am	Each Sunday	9:30am
Christmas Eve	7:30pm	Christmas Eve	11:30pm
Christmas Day	8am	Christmas Day	8am

Peel Valley

2nd & 4th Sunday	8:30am at Gowrie
1st & 3rd Friday	6pm at Hallsville
Each Sunday	11am at West Tamworth
Christmas Day	9am Hallsville (Manilla Rd)



"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 11

Coffee Cake & Carols

Tamworth Choral Society invite you to their Coffee, Cake & Carols to round off their 70th Anniversary Platinum series of concerts we will be celebrating the 100th Birthday of Sir David Willcocks, famous for his arrangements of Christmas Carols. Our format this year will be that of the famous Nine Lessons & Carols. Sunday, 8 December from 7:30pm at St John's Anglican Church. Tickets \$10/head (\$20/family).

Rainbow Cottage Xmas Rehearsals

Commencing Tuesday, 10 December 10am-12noon each day until Concert on 17 December at 5pm.

Stepping Stones Christmas Parties

At our regular playgroups on Tuesday, 10 and Thursday, 12 December from 10am. Santa photos and fun.

Church Council Meeting

Our December Church Council AGM and regular meeting is coming up on Tuesday, 10 December from 7pm in the St Andrew's Room.

Meditation Service

Weekly meditation service lead by Rev John Marsh on Wednesdays evenings from 6pm in the Chapel area. During School Terms.

Nursing Home Service

9:30am Cottage Home service. Please join their last service for the year.

Senior's Communion

Our last monthly Senior's Communion for the year at the Uniting St Andrew's Village Community Hall from 10am on Friday, 13 December. Rev Mark Armstrong will be leading the service.

Kirinari Community Services—Christmas Lunch

Are you alone for Christmas Day? If so, Kirinari Community Services will be hosting a Christmas Day Lunch and invite you to share it with us. 12-2pm on Christmas day at the Tamworth Community Centre. Gold coin donation. Our focus is on people with a disability and our elderly residents who have no one else to share with. Transport can be organised. RSVP by 13 December to Lorraine Legge 0418 194 819.

Target/UnitingCare Christmas Appeal

Do you know someone who'd appreciate some help this Christmas? Let the office know. You can buy a Bauble at Target or make a donation to the office. Wrap a box in readiness for our big drive from Monday, 16 December. Collection day is 19th December. Every little bit helps. This year we are including our DIFO farmers, so it's all hands on deck!

Calrossy School

Offering the possibility of access to education at Calrossy for those who are struggling to afford attending through drought/fires. Access can be in person or through eCalrossy online setup. Do you know anyone who might benefit from this? Contact the principal, David Smith at david.smith@calrossy.nsw.edu.au.

This Week's Events

Kairos Outside Sewing Group

Kairos Outside Sewing Group will be meeting in the Jubilee Hall on Mondays from 9:30am-3pm each week during school terms.

Opportunity Shop

Our Opportunity Shop is located at 24 Darling Street. Normal hours 10am-4pm Mondays to Fridays and 9am-12noon on Saturdays. Contact Lorraine (0401 762 463) or Judy (0418 662 081).

First Sunday of Advent

Harvesting hope in Zimbabwe

Hope is scarce for mothers like Nyevero, who couldn't feed her family after losing her crops to merciless drought. Your gifts help women like Nyevero to farm through the toughest seasons, lifting their families out of poverty and giving them hope for the future. **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

UNITING Support Group

UNITING Support Group meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Mondays from 10am-2pm from Home & Community Care.

Church Office

Regular office hours 9am-2pm Tuesday to Friday. *Nicolette*.

Locomotive Line Dancing

In recess until January 2020.

Property Committee Meeting

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 3 December from 4:30pm.

Friends of Nioka

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 3 December from 7pm.

Minister's Fraternal Citywide Prayer

Prayers for Tamworth on Tuesday, 3 December 7-8pm at St Paul's.

Op Shop Working Bee

Sorting each Wednesday in the Vestry. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work and then a cuppa! All helpers welcome. A very industrious morning.

Bereavement Support

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 4 December from 10am.

Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service

You are invited to join the Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service on Wednesday, 4 December from 5pm in the Church followed by a light supper in the St Andrew's Room.

New Vogue Dance Group

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall 6-9:30pm Wednesdays.

Stepping Stones Play Group

Join us at Tamworth City from 10am-12noon on Thursdays in the Dunn Hall. Or at Tamworth Southside Tuesdays 10am-12noon. Christmas Cookie Decorating.



Yoga Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursdays from 5 September 9:30am.

Advent Studies

Rev Will Pearson has offered to take our annual Advent Studies continuing 5 December at 2pm and 7pm. The studies will be in the notice sheet each week so that everyone can join in.

Craft Group

Our craft group meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning of the month at 10am in the St Andrew's Room. Bring along some craft, have a chat and a cuppa. Our next get-together will be on Friday, 6 December.

Carols in Bicentennial Park

Everyone's invited to join in the Community Carols in Bicentennial Park on Saturday, 7 December from 6:30pm. Bring along a picnic blanket/chair and a lovely night under the stars singing carols.

Next Week & Beyond

Worship on Sunday, 8 December - Advent 2

9am Worship Service and Baptisms (E: M Hobson/P Battle) with Rev Will Pearson. Elder: J Bennett; D: W Townsend & Kathy; PP: J Phillips; O: R Richardson. Morning Tea.

