

Preaching

8.30 am Graham Huth
4.30 pm Graham Huth

Readings

Mal 3:1-4,
Luke 1:68-79,
Phil 1:3-11,
Luke 3:1-6



WELCOME TO AUC!

Please join us for refreshments
in the breezeway after the
service.

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As we discovered last week, the word 'Advent' means "coming". If you know someone is coming, or something is going to happen, you prepare for it. If a storm or cyclone is coming, you batten down the hatches and prepare to ride it out. If you have a special guest coming to visit, you tidy things, make sure your house is in good order, and perhaps prepare some refreshments. Preparing generally involves some work, and then waiting with anticipation hoping you haven't forgotten anything.

This Sunday is the Advent Sunday of peace. In Luke 3:4 John the Baptizer, the one calling in the wilderness proclaims, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' This message rings down through history to us today. We are still called to prepare for the Lord, the one prophesied by John's father, Zechariah who would come to "give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:79)

Advent is not about preparing for Christmas. Nor is it just about preparing for Christ's return. We don't need to wait until end times to find the peace promised by Zechariah, and proclaimed by Angels. The Advent message is also that Jesus promises peace to his people right now, even amongst the pressures, struggles and terrors of the world in which we live; if we are prepared to allow him in. Amidst the darkness, Jesus Christ brings peace when we allow him to shine his light in and through us. So this Advent Season, may 'every heart prepare him room' and discover right now the peace that only the Prince of Peace can bring.

May the God of Hope bless you with Joy & Peace this

Christmas Season, Pastor Graham Huth

Please pray for

Our minister, Pastor Huth and members of the Church Council.

All of our youth and youth leaders.

For Teachers and Students a school finishes. Pray that they will have a restful and safe break.

For safety on the roads as many travel over this holiday period.

For the Advent season.
For those involved in Stable on the Strand that many will hear the message of Jesus and come to know him.

For Ken & Bronwyn Adam at the recent sudden death of their son and step son Geoff.

Recycling Update



Headline news: In just 3 months, banning the plastic bag has eliminated 1.5 billion plastic bags already! That's **AMAZING!**

A big thanks to everyone's support for the recycling station in the kitchen.

Please note - the hook on the wall is for collecting soft (scrunchy) plastics – bread bags, cling wrap, biscuit plastics (the soft outer part of the packet), etc.

If there's a bag on the hook and it becomes full of scrunchy plastic, could you please tie off the bag and put another empty bag on the hook - ready for more recycling!

I'm happy to collect them and take them to Coles and Woolworths, whenever I'm at church. However, I'm away for a month over Christmas, so if anyone would like to be a champion (angel!) for our church recycling efforts, it would be greatly appreciated. If you could take the full bag to Coles or Woolworths next time you're there and put it in the soft plastic recycling bin, that would be **AWESOME!**

If you have any questions, please email me (millsmob@gmail.com) or phone – 0449 182 126.

Blessings, Kate



Stable on the Strand

on the Strand

North Queensland Christmas Festival

www.stableonthestrand.com

18 - 22 December 2018
5:30PM-9:30PM
Strand Park Townsville

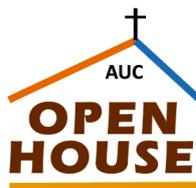


Free Entry



OPEN HOUSE NEWS

The latest OPEN HOUSE Program is out and available. A hard copy can be collected from the foyer. Please feel free to share with family, friends and neighbours. We look forward to spending time with you soon.



Thank you if you have already brought biscuits for Morning Tea over Christmas/New Year period. It would be appreciated if we could continue to receive biscuits over the next 2 Sundays ready for morning tea on 16th, 30th Dec. and 6th Jan. Many thanks. Betty Savage. Ph 0432626533. A basket is in the foyer.

| OPEN HOUSE Activities and Themes | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Kids Connect | Youth Space | Refine | Prayer Room | Worship |
| Today | Jesus! The Greatest gift! | Talking about our faith | Because of Bethlehem Part 3 God guides the wise | Soaking Prayer | Advent A time for Peace |
| Next Week | Jesus! The Greatest Gift | Christmas Service Preparation | Because of Bethlehem Part 4 Every heart a Manger | Healing Prayer | Advent A time for Love |

Because of Bethlehem - 4 Week Advent Study

A remarkable gift can arrive in an unremarkable package. One did in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. No one expected God to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message.



BECAUSE OF
Bethlehem

Your'e invited to join us this
Holiday Season.

In a 4-part study by Max Lucado we will explore how the one who created everything, chose to make himself nothing for us.

Friday Evenings: 7pm at the church

As part of Open House Sunday Afternoons at 3.30pm

Study books are provided, but if you would like to own one to take notes, the cost is \$13. Come and rediscover that most remarkable gift – Jesus Christ – Immanuel – ‘God with us’

ARRANGEMENTS AND TIMES FOR SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

This year we are making some changes to our arrangements and times for Christmas services.

1. On Sunday 23 December only, the 8.30am service and Open House will both be cancelled and will be replaced by a combined service at 5.30pm

The event that we are calling ‘Christmas on the Corner’ will start at 4.30pm with a barbecue tea followed by **the special combined service at 5.30pm**. The service will involve various members of our congregation from both services and will be a service of readings, Christmas carols and songs, verse and drama telling the Christmas story. After the service dessert will be provided.

Need help with transport? There will be a list in the church foyer for anyone who wants to attend this service but who may have problems getting there. We would like to ensure that as many members as possible attend this service.



2. There will be no 11.00pm service on Christmas Eve.

Please let as many of your friends or acquaintances who might normally attend this service know of the change.

Invite them to attend the 8.00am service on Christmas day.

3. The Christmas day service will be a combined service at 8.00am.

FINAL WEEK OF UNITING WORLD ‘EVERYTHING IN COMMON’ STALL

This week is your final opportunity to buy gifts or cards from the Uniting World gift stall in the foyer. This to allow time for postage & distribution of gifts before Christmas

To make a purchase:

- Choose your gift
- Fill in your choice of gifts on the front of the coupon
- Fill in payment details on the reverse side
- Fill in address details to be sent a receipt
- Hand the coupon (and payment if cash) to the person minding the stall, to an Elder, or to Pastor Graham



As from next Sunday, 16th December, we will be supporting the [Christmas Bowl Appeal](#) as usual, and envelopes will be available from the church foyer.

Our Distress Fund

This is just a reminder that our Church does have a Distress Fund which is used to help needy people who seek assistance from our Church. Church Council recently approved a policy document which outlines the purposes of the fund, types of assistance and who is authorised to provide assistance. A copy of this document is located near the entrance to the church.

“Distress Fund” envelopes are clearly marked and provided in the pews. You are welcome to contribute to this fund on any Sunday by placing your contribution in the envelope marked “Distress Fund” and then putting it in the offering bag when we make our usual weekly offering. Some of our church members like to make a monthly “Distress Fund” contribution on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month. It is up to you.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,
 May we be a blessing to others, as we strive to be more like Jesus. Help us be kind, caring, compassionate, loving, giving, forgiving and humble. Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

Amen



Advent Calendar of Devotions

We have a number of Advent Daily Devotion Booklets for anyone who would like a daily devotional resource for this special and Holy season. This calendar by author Sue Mink will help us focus on what matters most - the world-changing birth of a baby in Bethlehem throughout the hustle and bustle of the Advent/Christmas period. Pick one up today from the foyer. If you would like to help cover the costs of providing this resource, a gold coin donation would be appreciated but not necessary.



Dates and activities in December

- 10** Good Shepherd 11am
- 18-22** Stable on the Strand
- 23** Combined Church Service (Christmas on the corner)
 BBQ Tea 4.30pm
 Service 5.30pm
- 25** Christmas Day Service

Rosters & Readings for 16th Dec 2018

| 8.30am Service | | Open House | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Preacher | Graham Huth | Preacher | Graham Huth |
| Reader | Vi R | | |
| Door Stewards | Ken & Lesley N | Greeters | Geoff |
| Minister's Steward | Ron N | Sound | |
| Sound | Bill R | Data | Cath |
| Data | Liz B | Music Leaders | Angie |
| Organ | John | Kitchen Angels | Judy & Jayne W |
| Flowers | | | |
| Morning Tea | | | |

Lectionary Readings

Zeph 3:14-20 Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18