

Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Ps 25:1-10

1 Thes 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36



Preaching

9am Rev David MacGregor

WELCOME TO AUC!

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

CONTACT US

Church Office

47790060
PO Box 195
Aitkenvale QLD 4814

aitkenvaleuc@bigpond.com
aitkenvale.unitingchurch.org.au
Facebook:
Aitkenvale Uniting Church

Please pray for:

Leaders at Assembly, Synod and Presbytery for wisdom and discernment in making decisions affecting the wider church.

Our elders and members of the Church Council as they make decisions affecting the life of our church.

The Joint Nominating Committee and Presbytery as they seek to discern the calling of a new ministry agent for our congregation.

Many of our number who are in need of healing, comfort and strength of heart.

The youth of our city.

An end to the hostilities in Ukraine and the Middle East; and an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict; and pray that the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon holds.

HELPLESSLY HOPING

I remember a wonderful song by that iconic 1970s folk rock band Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young called *Helplessly Hoping*. It's a haunting song, in the band's pristine 4-part harmonies. Google it.

Today marks the first Sunday of the Christian season of Advent - that period over four Sundays when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ not only as the babe of Bethlehem but also as the one who promises to come again in glory.

Hope is our Advent word this Sunday. Peace, joy, and love are ahead of us-hopefully in many ways! Hope. Do you ever find hope to be more about helplessly hoping than hoping with any confidence? Our scripture passage for today from *Luke 21: 25-*



36 finds Jesus predicting a horrendous time ahead. This is apocalyptic writing just like just two Sundays ago.

Yet Jesus calls the believers in that earliest Christian community to be people of hope. Not helpless hope but hope that finds its energy and life in Jesus himself. But "Keep awake," says Jesus.

One of my favourite New Testament commentators Tom (NT) Wright offers these words of encouragement in keeping awake in our Christian discipleship:

"The answer is the same for us as it was for the Jerusalem Christians nearly a generation after Jesus. Keep alert. This is what you were told to expect. Patience is the key. Pray for strength to keep on your feet. There are times when your eyes will be shutting with tiredness, spiritual, mental, emotional and physical, and when you will have to prop them open. This is what it's about: not an exciting battle, with adrenalin flowing and banners flying, but the steady tread, of prayer and hope and scripture and sacrament and witness, day by day and week by week. This is what counts; this is why patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Read the story again. Remind one another of what Jesus said. And keep awake."

Advent season blessings ,

David Rev David MacGregor dmacgreg2@gmail.com 0414392802

Seka Kiyingi and his wife Beatrice showing their daughter, Ssanyu

Sharon Nakkadde, visiting from Uganda, the Church organ plaque.

The plaque was placed on the wall in appreciation of all those who contributed funds for its purchase, including Seka and Beatrice's contribution in honour of their late daughter Makula Kiyingi.



Last Sunday 3D men offered their song Tukutendereza Yesu. The song is a South African revival song from the early 20th century.

This was an important song in Uganda at the time and remains so to the present day.

Wendy McHugh's induction service

Last Saturday, our dear friend and sister-in-Christ, Rev Wendy "Pink Boots" McHugh was ordained as Deacon for the Jindabyne Uniting Church Congregation NSW. God bless you Wendy and may your ministry be a blessing. We miss you.

Check out the wonderful view through the window behind the sanctuary!

(And Wendy's pink boots)



Pocket Prayer Quilts

In this Time of giving, there are some people out there that think that they are alone. If you know anyone that is struggling this Christmas Season then get them a small, simple gift of a pocket prayer quilt for just a gold coin donation. If you would like one they are located in the foyer.

Marissa

Church Bulletin Bloopers

Hymns

- † "Angels we have heard get high".
- † "Hark an awful voice is sounding"
- † "Crown Him with many cows"



Sunday Service 01 December 2024 Live Streaming:

We welcome and thank **Rev David MacGregor** for bringing the message to us today. Welcome to our service here and to those at home. To participate in worship, please click on the link below and sit back and wait for the service to start.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM_yuTGxZEXsdQPd3XEQbtA/live

If you miss it, or would like to share it with someone, the recordings are on our website.

Thin places

Last week David talked (amongst other things) about “thin places” and how at Iona he had experienced “thin places”.

“Thin places” is an idea that comes from Celtic religion and suggests that there is only a thin veil (or as David said, tissue paper thin) separating this world and the sacred, or earth and heaven. It is something experienced by people in various places and times during their lives. We tend to think of special *places* where heaven and earth meet but it can occur in other contexts. Many will attest to an experience that occurred in unlikely contexts where God seemed nearest to them. So yes, such experiences may happen in a special place, such as in a place of worship or the natural world; but we can also experience the touch of the divine in forgiveness, reconciliation or prayer where the divine seems almost tangible, where the distinction between sacred and secular is so blurred that it’s all almost one and the same. In some way, all of life is touched and infused by God’s hand

What has been your experience of “thin places?” RS

Letter from the Moderator and General Secretary

Dear Church,

In September we were in communication regarding media coverage involving the Uniting Church, one of our early learning centres and now-convicted pedophile Ashley Griffith. Following guilty pleas to all charges, sentencing of Mr Griffiths will take place on Thursday and Friday this week.

This week has already seen significant media coverage in a related case of a former employee of Uniting Early Learning. The Synod is not a party to these proceedings, with proceedings being initiated by the Queensland Police Service following the Synod becoming aware of and notifying the Police about a serious data breach. The matter remains before the court.

Given the high-profile nature of both cases we anticipate further coverage, including continued mention of the Church. We will continue to engage with the media as appropriate. However, it is important for you to be aware of this and we request your prayerful support.

As a Church, we are deeply committed to the welfare of all children in our care and have strong child protection policies and procedures across all our network. The work of our Safe Church team is vital and I encourage your continued vigilance in this space. In line with our Safe Church policies and procedures (which include the mandatory reporting obligations), should you ever see, hear, or even suspect that the safety and wellbeing of a child or vulnerable individual under our care is at risk, you should immediately report your concerns via the following, or through your relevant processes:

- Safe Church - 07 3377 9823 or safechurch@ucaqld.com.au
- Complaints - 1800 586 591
- Protecht incident reporting platform on the hub - <https://hub.ucaqld.com.au/resources/safe-church>

Reports can also be made in accordance with our [Whistleblower Policy](#). This policy affords employees protection and confidentiality to raise concerns without victimisation, harassment or discrimination.

Reports can be made via whistleblower@ucaqld.com.au.

We recognise ongoing coverage of this story may be triggering for some people. If you are distressed by this news and need to discuss it with someone, please reach out to your local Minister, pastoral or team leader. You can also contact 24/7 confidential support services such as Lifeline on 13 11 14.

We invite you to continue with us in prayer for the families and children affected by these events and for the exceptional law enforcement personnel involved in this difficult work.

Grace & peace to you all,

Rev Bruce Moore
Moderator

Rev Adam McIntosh
General Secretary

Bill and Vi's jam and chutney for sale

Bill and Vi's jam and chutney are for sale again.

A jar only costs \$5. If you wish to buy a jar, they will be located in the foyer.

Large jars cost \$10

All money raised goes to the Distress Fund which helps those in need.



Offerings to date 26 November 2024

Week:- \$1,263.22

Budgeted Offerings:- \$31,920

Offerings year to date:- \$35,501.85

Difference plus:- \$1,581.85

Donations Carpark:- \$10,270.00

AUC Bank Details:

Bank: ANZ

BSB: 014-010

Account Number:

General Acc - 287295271

Distress Fund Acc - 287295327

Account Name: UCA Aitkenvale

Reference: Offering, Donation, (no need to include your name or any other details)



Rosters & Readings for 8th December 2024

9am Service

Preacher	Kate D
Reader	Ruth M
Greeters	Royce D
Offering	Greg S & Ian D
Livestream	Carmel S
Data	Joan
Organ	Don A
Morning Tea	Bill & Vi R

Lectionary Readings

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

AUC Prayer Network.

(aucprayer@bigpond.com)

If you wish to have a prayer request circulated across the AUC Prayer Network, or would like to be included in the prayer network notices, please email your request to our direct email address: aucprayer@bigpond.com, or phone Kate on: 0429 609 509.

(Important: requests for prayer on behalf of others requires their personal permission. This is due to confidentiality requirements and government legislation. Please ask first.)

