



### Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

### Preaching

9am Rev Matthew Stuart

### WELCOME TO AUC!

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

### CONTACT US

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### 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.

### Don't Rest on Your Laurels

I have often been confronted by those who are certain in their worldview or their beliefs. The authority that they exude, like an aura, can be intoxicating and even reassuring. Though there is a silent danger in "certainty" which I think John the Baptist articulates in the Luke reading this morning.

"Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3:8b-9 NRSV

The silent dangers of "certainty" can be arrogance, judgement, isolation, and even bitterness.

- Arrogance. We see all that we do as being right, regardless of the impact upon others. We hold our views, ideas or actions as being always in the right.
- Judgement. Anyone who is different to ourselves, in views or actions, are lacking and should know better. We can think of them as being lazy or that they are arrogant to not recognise where they are wrong.
- Isolation. If there are many around us different or we feel like we are alone we can hunker down to protect our views and beliefs. We can seek groups who are the "same" as us and adopt language that creates barriers like "us/them."
- Bitterness. If the above attitudes have become common for us over a long period of time we can find ourselves seeing others as being distasteful or we become distressed.

John invites us to take on humility and empathy.

- Humility to be grateful for all we have in our lives and to be faithful in the tasks we are responsible for.
- Empathy is committing to be open to the needs of others and to be prepared to care for them.

I wonder if we are able to take on humility and empathy what that might look like? I wonder if certainty blocks us from seeing where God is working in our communities? I wonder how we become more humble and empathetic as faithful disciples of Christ?

Rev. Matthew Stuart

### Carpark before and after

Last week the resurfacing of the carpark took place. I think all will agree that the resurfacing is a great improvement on the old carpark surface and will last many years.

Marking of carpark bays has yet to happen and will depend on when the contractor has the necessary equipment available. In the meantime, please be patient and careful. RS



### CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

On my first day as interim Blue Care Chaplain, I was disheartened to see white-haired, wrinkled people sleeping or vacantly look at the ceiling as life and time quietly ticked away. I wondered, “are they suffering”, “are they spinning cocoons, wrapping themselves in invisible silk thread until that expected day of eternal release?” Then I realized that this is a time of transition, preparation for new creation. Those who come to share bread and wine with them are blessed when they stop by a bed, call the sleeping one’s name, smooth their hair, hold a hand. They recite Ps 23 or the Lord’s prayer and sense a stirring, an awakening, eyes flicker, lips try to speak for the first time in a week as familiar words come to mind. Bread and wine is given, and both receiver and server are nourished with Christ’s body and blood. Holy Communion is as vital in one’s latter days as in radiant youth. May we all be remembered when it’s our turn to spin silk. Kate, Fred & Wendy

### 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

- † Diana and John request your presents at their wedding.
- † Lent is that period of the church year for preparing for Holy Weed and Easter.



### Sunday Service 15 December 2024 Live Streaming:

We welcome and thank **Rev Matthew Stuart** 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](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.

## Important dates



Much is happening during the next few weeks. Note these events in your diary/ calendar.

### At Aitkenvale Uniting Church

Sunday 9.00am 22 December:

***A service of Lessons and Carols***

Monday 7.00pm 23 December

***A Blue Christmas service***

Wednesday 25 December 8.00am

***Christmas Day service***

And don't forget

### At Riverway

18 -22 December 5.30 – 9.00pm each night ***Stable at Riverway***

On Tuesday evening Julie Adamson's Choir, *Tropic Voices*, held their annual concert in the Church. It was a wonderful evening of song and much appreciated by all who attended. Thanks Julie.



## A God of our own making

It's so important that in Advent we are not waiting on a God of our own making: just a larger version of ourselves! With many others on the pilgrim path, I think it would enlarge the vision of thousands of people if in these Advent days our churches and temples were not filled just with prayers and thoughts about ourselves, our families, our near neighbours – important as they all are in the eyes of God – but also about the wider world in which we hear the tears of millions; about the wounding and breaking of creation; about our endless enslavements to power, greed and money; about the generations yet unborn. Thus allowing us to enter more meaningfully into the mystery of God. Giving us an opportunity to recognise that Native Americans are right when they tell us that we are relatives of all that live upon our gentle, welcoming Earth. To hear again all those who remind us that the weak ones in our society have so much to teach us.

*Lord of Advent,*

*come to our world of military might, political blindness and fake news,*

*and overturn our tired ideas of power and glory*

*until your wisdom invades our understanding.*

Peter Millar, from [The Light Which Illumines the World](#) and [Big Book of Worship Resources](#)

## 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 10 Dec 2024

Week 13.09.22

Budgeted Offerings 34,960.00

Offerings year to date \$37,425.79

Difference plus \$2,465.79

Donations carpark \$11,240.10

Other donations \$420.00

## 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 22nd December 2024

### 9am Service

Preacher	David M
Reader	Val D
Greeters	Ruth M
Offering	Greg S & Royce D
Livestream	Carmel S
Data	Reg D
Organ	Don A
Morning Tea	Peter & Lyn P

### Lectionary Readings

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 80:1-7  
Heb 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

## AUC Prayer Network.

([aucprayer@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.)

