



Bible Reading

8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Isaiah 65:17-25

Luke 21: 5-19

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.

Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.

OPEN FROM 9.30AM

Livestreaming

at all . **8am**
three . **9.30am**
worship . **6.45pm**
services

8am—Worship

Led by Roland Bryant and Clive Pearson

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

Led by Warren Arthur

9.30am—Worship

Led by Hugh Darling and Clive Pearson

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Barbara Gibb and Nicola Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation in the church

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12noon—In Stitches

in the upstairs hall and church

10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard Bella Vista

THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

7pm-9pm—ALIVE Youth Group

upstairs hall

7.30pm—Choir Practice

in the church

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

2pm-4pm—Church in use

7pm—Trivia Night

in the upstairs hall



SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER

8am—Worship

includes special choir item to celebrate Church Anniversary on Tuesday 22 November

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship



SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024

Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*

Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*

Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Weekly newsletter available on website

EMAIL: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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The good, the bad and the ugly

Isaiah 65:17-25 Luke 21: 5-19

These two readings represent endings of sorts. They are set down for the last week in the season of Pentecost and the second last week of this liturgical year. This year we read them in the midst of so much uncertainty – from the war in Ukraine, the conference on climate change in Egypt, the mid-term elections in the United States and inflation.

The Isaiah reading comes from a section named Trito- (or Third) Isaiah. This prophetic book is presented to us as one, but it actually covers three very different time zones. The people of Israel have now returned from exile. The Persians have defeated the Babylonians. It is a time of restoration and a new creation. The captivity of the past has come to an end. What is to unfold is not without controversy: how should those who have returned relate to those who remained in Israel? What happens to the land which is now owned by those who remained but belonged to the families of those taken into exile? Who should govern and how? The oracle speaks of new heavens and a new earth. It is to be a time of joy and rejoicing. The distress of the past has now passed. The vision is one of a utopian fertility and the well-being of peoples. It is like a new start. It is a vision that will require great care to negotiate.

One of the features of the return from exile was the rebuilding of the (first) Temple that had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. In the Luke passage Jesus foretells the destruction of the second and rebuilt Temple (which happened in 70AD). Under the future Emperor Titus the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem for five months. There had been much upheaval within the city. Finally the defenders were overwhelmed and the Temple was set on fire. Over the ensuing weeks the city itself was burnt to the ground. The destruction of the Temple was a watershed moment in Jewish history, the implications of which remain with us to this day. The Sadducees and the Temple-based sects went into eclipse; the Jewish people were scattered and a new form of rabbinic Judaism (arising out of the Pharisees) emerged.

Jesus uses the questions concerning the Temple to speak about his return. It is clear that he has no idea of that exact timing. This time of waiting and being prepared is not depicted as peaceful and idyllic. It is highly unsettled and noted for its natural disasters and betrayals / hatred. The imagery is apocalyptic and ugly but the disciples are to endure. In such times the importance of compassion, mercy, hospitality and tending to the innocent victim (as did the Samaritan) is critical. Those close in time to the destruction of the Temple and the siege of Jerusalem would have been familiar with the terror of the days, famine, intense division on how to respond to the Romans and – so it is said – incidences of cannibalism.

On-line resources:

Judith Wolfe, Begin at the End

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0Y4mOlxDn8>

The Siege of Jerusalem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y741QbTlYEo>

N T Wright -The Temple and Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QArkjk6eMs>

Music:

Lyrics for The Line of Women by John Bell (with lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfyrRu5op9I>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIy_EZCwJQA

‘Isaiah the prophet has written of old’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ULxJrkGTb8>

Paul Harvey, ‘A New Heaven and a New Earth’ (Isaiah 65:17-25)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wNfV0w4rXc>

Theme for 6:45pm service:

‘Captive to the Word of God’

How the Bible ‘forms’ us.

Yours in Christ,

Clive

Nomination and Voting of Elders

The congregation will have an opportunity to nominate members to eldership. The nominations will close on 20 November; The election of elders will take place on site on 4th December - If you are not at Church on that Sunday, you may vote in the week from 4th December through to Thursday 8th December.

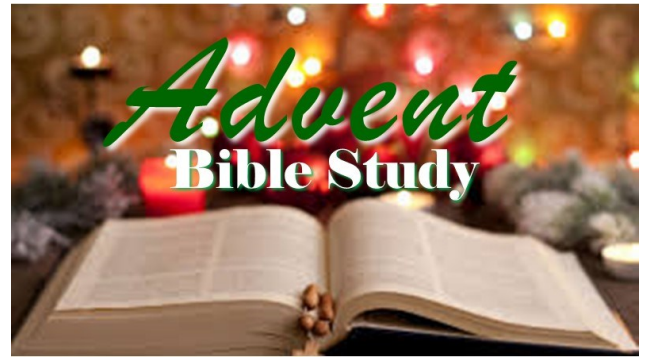
We would be looking to also have another 2 or 3 new Elders be nominated from each congregation so as we will have a balance of representatives from each.

If a congregation member feels someone in the congregation may be interested or would be ideal as an Elder of St. Matthew's please nominate them.

Advised they do not wish to renominate	George Haines Christine Haines Anne Oliver Ken Caldwell Jan Caldwell Marijke Prinsloo
Advised they are happy to renominate for less than 3 years	Sandra Drayton (1 year) Melissa Gibson Darling (1 year)
Advised they are happy to renominate for a 3 year term	Jane Cole Robyn Burn Vivienne Strong Erin Mathewson Robyn Mathewson Eulalie Herat Pamela Leslie Helen Olley

If you need further information regarding the role of an Elder, please feel free to speak with Clive, Helen Olley or Melissa Gibson Darling.

Nomination Forms available from Sunday 30 October from the church foyer.



Advent Studies for this year

The coming Season of Advent in the Christian calendar commences on Sunday 27th November. We traverse from a gospel year in Luke into a year featuring Matthew.

This means that we move from a year featuring gentiles and the needy to a focus on Jewish people, the chosen people of God as viewed by Matthew.

We will be engaged in Three studies this advent, at weekly intervals.

The first will be led by Clive Pearson who will provide us with much food for thought. He will draw comparisons between the Advent story of Christmas as presented by both Matthew and Luke and provide some clues about what will follow in Matthew as we explore this Gospel in 2023.

Drawing on the information provided by Clive, the following two weeks of the study will be led by Michael Strong and will first involve reflections on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The second will consider the entry of Herod and horrid actions he inflicted on male children in Bethlehem and the flight of Jesus and his family to Egypt. This exploration will continue through to the exchanges between John the Baptist and Jesus.

The studies advertised above will be held at the following times:

Onsite at the church at 10.30am

Tuesday — 29 November

Tuesday — 6 & 13 December

Or ZOOM online 7.30pm

Wednesday — 30 November

Wednesday — 7 & 14 December

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

Anyone that will be participating in Clive and Mike's study via Zoom Online and would like a copy of the study, please contact the Church office and a copy will be sent to you.

ST MATTHEW'S

TRIVIA NIGHT 2022

NOV 19

7:30 PM

TABLES OF 8
\$15 PER PERSON

ST MATTHEW'S
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
DANIEL@STMATTHEWSUNITING.NET.AU



PEOPLE NEWS

Janine Cameron
Janice Caldwell

Allan Garbutt

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 13 November—19 November

Aotearoa-New Zealand, Australia

The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au Click on the metal dove image / publications.

A message to all groups and individuals using the Church property

When using any part of the Church property at any time, please ensure that when you leave, you turn off all lights, fans, air con's and properly lock and alarm the premises if required. This is the responsibility of all groups and individuals, please don't think that someone else will do it for you. There have been too many times in the recent past that things are getting left on and unlocked.

From St. Matthew's Op Shop:

Do you have a 'stash' of knitting yarn that you would like to declutter? St. Matthew's Op Shop needs donations of knitting yarn to sell in the Op Shop, for creating items to sell and also to donate to the charities we support in The Philippines and Ukraine.



We would also appreciate donations of buttons and quality second-hand children's clothing. Donations can be left in the lower church hall.

Thank you for your support of St. Matthew's Op Shop.

Being prepared for next week's worship:



**20 November 2022
Christ the King**

Theme:

Stocktaking

Sunday

20 November:

**8am, 9:30am &
6:45pm**

Bible Readings:

**Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Luke 23: 33-43**

This Sunday is the last Sunday in the Christian year. We have travelled through the past 12 months since last Advent in the company of Luke. Like each one of the other gospels this one has its own distinctive themes. I wonder what our life together would look like if we evaluated the past year through the lens of Luke's themes and how this gospel us to follow. You may remember that one of the key texts was the agenda-setting passage in Luke 4 where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah: 'the spirit of the Lord is upon me'.

The year ends in what might seem a strange place. The reading set down turns our attention to the last temptation that Jesus faces in this gospel – and it takes place while he is on the cross. It begins with 'If you are the king of the Jews'. It is placed alongside another question 'are you not the messiah?' The gospel of Luke features 24 parables. These parables are all parables of the kingdom.

Jesus' teaching has to do with proclaiming the kingdom of God that is breaking in. The idea that Jesus is 'the king' only emerges in the trial scenes and here on the cross. This kingdom is unlike the pomp and majesty that we might associate with earthly kingdoms and empires. It presumes an understanding of life that is often at a far remove from the politics of our day. The Jeremiah reading looks to a time beyond the distress of Israel's captivity. It is a time and culture that assumes that the people of Israel are like the flock of God's pasture. Their well-being and future will come through new shepherds who will be raised up. The link is made to a 'righteous branch' of David who tended the sheep as a boy and will become Israel's king. These two readings together invite us to consider how we lived out our personal lives and our lives together in the kingdom and how we have allowed ourselves to be shepherded by Christ through all its ups and downs.

Christmas Services At St. Matthew's

Remembrance & Thanksgiving Service

* Monday 12 December 7.30pm

Carol Services

* Sunday 18 December 8am & 9.30am

Children's Christmas Eve Celebration

* 24 December 5pm

Christmas Eve Late Service

* 24 December 11.15pm

Christmas Day Worship

* 25 December 9am



Grantham Heights
Uniting Church



Safe Church Awareness Workshop

Presented by the National Council of Churches
in Australia as part of the Safe Church Program
(A NCCA workbook will be provided)

Details

Location:

Grantham Heights Uniting Church
19 Nipigon Rd, Seven Hills NSW 2147.

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/XiPRkrqT728o88in7>

Date: Saturday 26 November 2022

Time: 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Cost: \$35 per person

Morning Tea provided, **please bring your own your own food for lunch.** (No food for lunch will be provided)

RSVP by 19/11/22 to TrevorS@nswact.uca.org.au

Enquiries 0414886527

Places are limited

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



VOL. 17, NO. 1
14 NOVEMBER 2022 – 12 FEBRUARY 2023

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS /
EPIPHANY

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common Lectionary

Volume 17,
Number 1

14 November 2022
to
12 February 2023

is available
in the church foyer.

Please place \$5
in offering bag
to cover costs.

The Galston Concerts 2022

Sunday afternoon 20 November

1.30 organ prelude - concert 2 till 3ish,

in Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston

The NSW Police Big Band

with vocalist Belinda Parsons

Bookings on-line at <https://www.trybooking.com> (search Galston)

Adults \$30; Seniors \$25; High school & tertiary undergrad \$10; 12 & under FREE

Enquiries to Galston Uniting office, 9653 2039 (Tuesdays & Fridays)

or to Robert Harris, Artistic Co-Director, 0428 248 348

Our final concert in 2022, with five concerts planned for 2023.

To join our audience database please forward your email info to 0428 248 348

