



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

8 January 2023

Baptism of Jesus

Bible Reading

9am and 6.45pm



Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

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 both services

• 9am Summer Worship Service

• 6.45pm Worship Service

9am—Worship

Led by Mary Pearson
and Clive Pearson

KUCA in recess

6.45pm—Worship

includes Communion

Led by Jane Cole
and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 9 JANUARY

No Scheduled activities
Church Office reopens

TUESDAY 10 JANUARY

9.30—11am—Christian Meditation
in the Church

WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY

No Scheduled activities

THURSDAY 12 JANUARY

No Scheduled activities

FRIDAY 13 JANUARY

No Scheduled activities

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 15 JANUARY

9am—Worship

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
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WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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8 January Baptism of Jesus/Epiphany 1

Epiphany on the Jordan

Isaiah 42:1-9 Matthew 3:13-17

It is usual to associate Epiphany with the visit of the magi in the gospel of Matthew. Their gifts signify that this infant is born to be king, possesses (gold), a priestly nature (frankincense) and will die (myrrh for mourning). The way in which Matthew tells this Christmas story these gifts follow on from the naming of Jesus ("he will save his people from their sins" and Emmanuel ("God with us"). The idea behind epiphany is that something sudden, striking is manifested, realized. There is usually a gap between epiphany and Jesus' baptism, but not this year because of the way in which Christmas fell on a Sunday. But the idea of epiphany remains because on being baptized the spirit of God declares that Jesus is the beloved son in whom God is well pleased.

Throughout the season of Advent John the Baptist played a prominent role. That is despite there being no birth narrative for him as there is for in Luke. We have had John on the banks of the Jordan baptizing with Matthew adding words from Isaiah, 'Prepare the way of the Lord'. Then we had the much later account of the imprisoned John sending his disciples to Jesus asking is he the one to come, or should they expect another.

Today we take a step back in the script, back to the banks of the Jordan. Somehow John knows who this Jesus is but is reluctant to baptize him. John's baptism is a baptism for repentance. Why Jesus says that it is has been a mystery for Christian thinkers down through the centuries. We cannot know. What we might say is that it shows how Jesus identifies fully with what it means to be human.

The descent of the spirit and the declaration that Jesus is the beloved son is one of those instances sometimes described as an 'episode in the career of Christ'. What is meant by this strange turns of phrase is that there are several occasions where the spirit, a voice breaks into the ministry of Jesus to declare that there is something more than earthly about him. His baptism is one of those occasions.

One of the habits of Matthew is to make sure that what he writes about Jesus represents a fulfilment of Scripture. He frequently draws upon ideas taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah. Our passage this morning comes from book 2 of Isaiah which begins with those words of comfort at the beginning of chapter 40. Book 2 runs though to the end of chapter 55 and is noted for a succession of servant songs. IN their original setting the people of Israel are being advised that God will raise up a servant to deliver them from their Babylonian captivity. That will happen through the rise of Cyrus of Persia. It has been a convention of the Christian faith to appropriate and claim they are fulfilled in Christ.

There are four servant songs in Isaiah. The first is our reading today from Isaiah 42. It carries the theme of 'justice to the nations' in a time of empires changing; it refers to the chosen one of God 'in whom my soul delights' and then describes the humility (rather than the clamour of a military commander or a campaigning politician) of the servant. Its tone is inspirational and one can imagine its impact on a captive people who had lost so much. That list could include status, roots, traditions, customs, freedoms, identity and a sense of belonging.

Songs for Epiphany:

The Christmas Hallelujah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41xzmdRuPxc>

Melissa McCrory Epiphany song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hppm1PUYlnY&t=131s>

'Brightest and best of the sons of the morning'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q5A4TctOn0>

The Piano Guys We Three Kings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qu5RY94ldDc>

The First Nowell Hillsong Young and Free

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

Flashmob / Five Strings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU7BCH9i-oY>

King's College, Cambridge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mItWsC8RtM>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Graham Cotterill
Reg Chapple
Cecile Layt

Mary Ross
Ken Caldwell

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

8—14 JANUARY

Iran, Iraq, Syria

**JANUARY SUNDAY
SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES**
at the church

1st January - 9am includes Communion

8th January - 9am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

15th January - 9am & 6.45pm

22nd January - 9am & 6.45pm

29th January - 9am & 6.45pm

Live streaming continues for all services

**Volunteers needed to help with gardening
and trimming the hedges on the lower side of the church**
in January or February 2023.

Also if anyone has a mulcher that we can borrow for that
time. Please contact George Haines, Bruce Court or
Katherine Pedersen if you can help or loan us a mulcher.

**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.**



West Epping
Uniting Church

WEST EPPING UNITING CHURCH LEISURE MINISTRY

Bookings are now open for a Coach Trip on
Tuesday 17th January 2023.

Total Cost of \$60 includes comfortable coach
travel, Morning tea and admission to

Alison Homestead Museum and Central
Coast Zoo and Amazement Farm & Fun Park.