



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**  
growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

10 December 2023

Advent 2

### Bible Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8



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  
8am & 9.30am only**

### 8am—Worship

Led by Pamela Leslie  
and Jon Humphries

### 9am—Worship at the Willows

Led by Warren Arthur

### 9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb  
and Jon Humphries

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

### 6.45pm—Worship

Community Meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 11 DECEMBER

9am—Sorting & Pricing

for Op Shop lower hall

7.30pm—Remembrance and  
Thanksgiving Service

at the church

#### TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am—Christian Meditation

in the church

#### WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Women's  
Fellowship

upstairs hall and church

#### THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

**FINAL DAY for 2023**

10am—Advent Studies

in the church

7.30pm—Advent Studies

in the church

#### 15 DECEMBER

No Scheduled Activities

#### SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER

No Scheduled Activities

### SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

8am—Carol Service

9.30am—Carols Service

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Carols Service



#### MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

#### 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

#### FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Thank you to all who have  
contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

10 December  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
**PEACE**

## Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-1

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15

Mark 1: 1-8

## **Being at Peace and Peace-filled to Be Peaceful to Share Peace with Others**

Peace is a nice idea, but when we stop to think about it there is a lot to think about when it comes to peace. There are many facets to peace. Peace is a bit like the word love in that way. It is one simple word which describes a whole lot of different things and feelings. There is peace of mind, peaceful states of emotions, peace in our thinking, peace in our relationships – with our self, others, our community, the world, between others, between individuals, between groups of people. Then there is peace in terms of a lack of conflict as well peace in terms of calm, stillness or quiet.

Having worked out all the different kinds of peace and different aspects of peace, then the real issue becomes how we bring peace about, how we work for peace and how we make peace. It is easy to talk about hope, peace, joy and love in Advent. It is easy to declare that Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace.' However, it is another thing to practically live such ideas out. Most of us will have a story about a Christmas family gathering which was anything but peaceful. There is the chaos and stress of having everyone over and making sure everything is prepared. There is the ruckus of everyone

gathering and greeting each other, then the present opening and the hubbub over the meal. If that wasn't enough, many of us will have been at family gatherings full of tension or outright conflict. Peace is a nice enough concept and one that we celebrate at Christmas and during Advent, but it is a lot of hard work.

It is no accident that peace is part of the liturgical season of Advent. With God as Christ being celebrated amongst us, peace is one of our works that God calls us to as a people. Thus a whole week is given over to considering peace and learning more about peace. This is needed each year for the world just can't seem to get to peace for long. Many will know of the story of Christmas in World War 1 where troops on both sides ceased fire and met together to celebrate Christmas together, and then the next day went back to attacking each other. This irony is lived out in us in our lives as individuals and as communities at Christmas.

Peace is there for us to work for and claim. It is there because God is at work in us and with us and in others and with others. God in the person of Christ comes to bring peace. God as the person of the Holy Spirit is always at work for peace. That is why one of the Fruit of the Spirit is peace. We have work to do if we are to truly be God's people the Church. Where is there peace-lessness in our community? What might we need to do to bring peace or make peace? How might we go about doing that? How do we keep doing that or keep the peace once we have found, built or established it? Peace is something to deeply think and pray about.

*Continued next page*

## **Something to think about** continued

*I wrote this prayer as I was thinking about peace and preparing for peaching about it. Maybe it can be helpful for us. God bless and peace to all people.*

### **Peace is There**

*Peace is there, God.*

*Peace is there when we look for it*

*It may not be in stillness.*

*It may not be in silence.*

*It may not be when things quiet.*

*It may not be in the way that we would have it,*

*But peace is there if we just stop and see it.*

*Peace is there when we choose to stop agitating.*

*Peace is there when we stop ruminating.*

*Peace is there when we stop complaining*

*Peace is there when we stop coveting.*

*Peace is there when we stop arguing.*

*Peace is there when we stop agitating.*

*Peace is there when we stop disturbing.*

*Peace is there when we stop provoking.*

*Peace is there when we stop harming.*

*Peace is there when we stop fighting.*

*Peace is there in our agency.*

*Peace is there within our power.*

*Peace is there when we choose to act for it.*

*Peace is there when we work for it.*

*Peace is there, found when we find forgiveness for others.*

*Peace is there, found when we find forgiveness for ourselves.*

*Peace is there when we find satisfaction in what we have instead of what we have not.*

*Peace is there when we accept things as they are, but with faith and hope still abounding.*

*Peace is there in justice.*

*Peace is there in equity.*

*Peace is there in sharing.*

*Peace is there in reconciliation.*

*Peace is there in meaning and purpose.*

*Peace is there in striving.*

*Peace is there in doing our best.*

*For peace is there,*

*Always waiting patiently,*

*Because you are there,*

*For you are where peace is.*

*Peace is there when in faith and hope we are in connection with you,*

*Peace is there with you,*

*And you can lead us into peace.*

*There may still be chaos.*

*There may still be trouble.*

*There may still be struggle.*

*There may still be hardship.*

*There may still be sadness.*

*There may still be grief.*

*Things may still be wrong.*

*There may still be evil.*

*But, with you we can be peace-full.*

*There is peace with you.*

*There is peace to teach us.*

*There is peace to learn.*

*There is peace to be found.*

*Find us when we have lost our peace.*

*Teach is where our peace can be found.*

*May there be peace in us,*

*So that there may be peace with others,*

*And there may be peace in the world.*

*There is peace, we pray.*

*Amen.*

*God bless.*

*Jon*



## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

3 – 9 December

*Myanmar, Thailand*

## SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter  
for 1 December 2023 please see link :

[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](https://uca.org.au)



Help Required  
to teach SRE  
at Jasper Road  
on Tuesday  
Mornings  
in 2024

Speak to Daniel Gibb for more details



## PEOPLE NEWS

Dulcie Duncum  
Rosemary Sexton  
Lyn Booth

Evelyn Medcalf  
David Sieber  
Joy Stewart

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

## DECEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

3 December – 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
includes Communion

10 December – 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
Community Meal

17 December – 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

24 December – 9am (combined)

31 December – 9am (Summer)

Live streaming morning services only

# st. matthew's Advent Studies



We'd love you to come and be involved as we not only learn more about Advent, but also learn more about each other and encourage each other in faith and discipleship. **Come for one or come for all.**

### Week 1

Wed 29 Nov  
@ 10am

Thur 30 Nov  
@ 7.30pm

### Week 2

Wed 6 Dec  
@ 10am

Tues 5 Dec  
@ 7.30pm

### Week 3

Thur 14 Dec  
@ 10am

Thur 14 Dec  
@ 7.30pm

### Week 4

Thur 21 Dec  
@ 10am

Thur 21 Dec  
@ 7.30pm



# You are invited to a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving Monday 11th December @ 7.30pm

A service specifically designed for all those who experience a sense of loss at Christmas, especially those for whom this is the first Christmas without a loved one. During the service we intend to read out the names of people we have known and loved but see no longer, and whose absence is particularly felt at Christmas. People will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved one after the names are read out. Please contact us with any name(s) you would like included. The names may be phoned or emailed through to the church prior to 11th December.

We also invite you to bring a card, item or memento to place on the Tree of Remembrance.



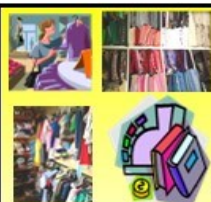
This tree has been supplied by the Baulkham Hills Council and after the service the tree will be planted, together with the messages etc., somewhere in the community. Please contact us if you would like further information, and know that we are thinking of you at this time of year.

st. matthew's  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
growing together



St. Matthew's Baulkham Hills Uniting Church  
Cnr Edgar and Charles Streets  
and St Matthews Ln  
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

PO Box 773, Baulkham Hills 1755  
Phone 9686 3003  
office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au  
Website [www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)



**St. Matthew's O P - S H O P**  
**9am—2pm**  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
& First Saturday of the month  
**9am—12pm**

Please note that St. Matthew's  
**Op Shop closes over the  
Christmas and New year period.**

The **last shopping day** for 2023  
is **Thursday 14 December.**

Re-opens Tuesday **30 January** 2024  
at 9am to 2pm.

**Please hold on to  
your donations;  
until we re-open.**

## St Matthews Op Shop

We want to thank all of the members of our community for their generous donations in 2023. However, we will soon have our summer break and we will also be having renovations done in the church building.

Therefore we **will not** be able to accept any donations from 4th December until the end of January 2024



## St Matthews Uniting Church Op Shop Baulkham Hills

Wishing our customers & volunteers a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Our last day of trading for 2023 is  
**Thursday 14th December 2023** and we will  
reopen on Tuesday 30th January 2024





## *The downstairs foyer and hall are getting a makeover.*

New floors, a bit of paint and the removal of the compactus storage unit from the kitchens. The new floor will be laid on 16 January so the old floors need to be removed before this can be done.

**SATURDAY 6 JANUARY** will be the start of the demolition and then we move onto to the painting.

If you are free anytime during this week to help, please contact David Porter.

This will give St. Matthew's downstairs foyer a welcoming and update look and feel.

*Thank you in advance of your support and help.*

Barbara Gibb

### Second Sunday of Advent

## Bringing Peace to refugees in Ethiopia



Sara\* fled to Ethiopia from Yemen eight years ago with her four children. In Addis Ababa refugees are at risk of severe exploitation, with little access to education, medical care, or basics like food. Through Act for Peace's partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission, you can help provide refugees with medical and psychological care, as well as livelihoods training, giving people like Sara the chance to build secure futures for their families. **Please give today.**

\*Name changed for safety reasons

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

# Give Hope

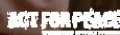
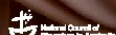


Share God's love so refugees are not forgotten this Christmas

Please give today. 1800 025 101  
[www.christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)

Please give today

The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



## Extra ways to give to Christmas Bowl 2023.

### A St. Matthew's page Just for us at

**[Mycb.link/45881](https://mycb.link/45881)**

### Check it out!

### Envelopes will be available as usual at each service.





## COMMUNITY CONTACT LIST 2023

The community directory is now available - those that have entered their family details are welcome to have a copy by email (please request from the church office by email) OR get a printed copy by calling into the office. The information will not be published on any website or sent out in bulk.

Need to update, fix an error or add your family? Version 1.2 is now open – please click [HERE](#) .

Thanks

David Neideck

The Church Council and Elders are working with Jon to gather some feedback about how we can continue to grow ways nurture people in faith and discipleship. There is a survey that we are asking you to complete. It also asks for feedback about some of the new things that Jon has introduced in recent times.

You can scan the QR code below or use the link below.



<https://forms.office.com/r/EV8b6YqQmY>

