



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH



21st November Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

THIS SUNDAY
21ST NOVEMBER
@ 10:00 AM

*We're
Back*

THE
NEWS TEAM ARE
EXCITED,
ARE YOU?



Worship At Home The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Sunday
November 21st
2021

Gathering & Lighting the Candle

One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of the morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

(2 Samuel 23:3b-4)

Today is Christ the King Sunday,
As we light the candle, let us remember that we live in God's kingdom where Christ is the King.

Call to worship

Our King is a king like no other
He comes, not with a crown and sword
to conquer and rule
But with arms outstretched in love,
the servant king.



Acknowledging

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and these waters. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Singing - TIS 143

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Your great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, But ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains
high soaring above
Your clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

You give life to all, Lord,
to both great and small;
In all life now living,
the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish;
but ever unchanged you will be.

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Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Your angels adore you,
all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces
this grace, Lord impart
take the veil from our faces,
the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render:
reveal to our sight
What hides you in only
the splendour of light;
and so let your glory,
Almighty, impart
through Christ in the story,
your Christ to the heart.

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Prayer

Jesus Christ, son of man
you came to be the servant of all,
especially the sick, the weak and sinners:

Lord Jesus, king of the creation, your
love is so great that you laid down your
life for us all. You gave us an example to
follow, You lived simply, You shared
what you had, You accepted everyone
And called us to be with you in the
kingdom. Forgive us when we have not
done likewise. Bring us your healing
forgiveness, Lord, and let us share in
your kingship by helping us grow in
your truth, your love and your spirit of
service. Amen.

Residents of the kingdom, remember
you are loved, forgiven people. Amen

Listening

Read: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 & John 18:33-37

For these words of faith and for Jesus the
Word: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflecting -

“What have you done?”

I wonder how you read that question?
The ambiguity in the four words
demonstrates the nuance is completely
contextual. Last week we read the
wonderfully expressive response from
Hannah as she gave praise to God for
her pregnancy. This week David gives

a response for all his life had been. We know
David did not have a perfect life, far from it, yet
he was able to acknowledge all he had done and
not done. David called on God to protect him and
God answered. The psalmist wrote Zion would
become the habitation for God, God's own resting
place and which would provide shelter and food
security and importantly would look after those
who were in need. Hannah and David able to
answer, “What have you done?” with positivity
and blessing.

We celebrate Christ the King today, the life and
reign of God through life and through time. At
this time every year we look back to see where
God is and where we as church are and reflect
whether the church is a community which has
normalised God's protective care to all. This then
directs us to look ahead to the start of a new
Christian liturgical year where once again we aim
to mirror the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
Christ as communities of faith and the body of
Christ.

Since 1991, the 16 Days of Activism against
Gender Based Violence has run from the ‘Day for
the Elimination of Violence against Women,’
(25th November) until ‘Human Rights Day,’ (10th
December). This year after 30 years of
campaigning, fighting and advocating we are
encouraged to ask what action as individuals and
as communities and governments we have done.
30 years later and gender-based violence is as
prevalent now as 30 years ago and is on the
increase. There is a movement 'Thursdays in
Black' in which participants wear a badge and a
black top to be visible and make a powerful global
statement against gender-based violence.

The United Nations suggest one in three women
experience violence and this increases tenfold if
the woman is disabled. In almost all cases the
violence is perpetrated by someone known to the
woman. These figures have increased during
Covid-19 and the United Nations has described
this as a “shadow pandemic.” Survivors face
enduring trauma. In the same way that Pilate
asked Jesus, “What have you done?” so too
survivors can be faced with similar questions
which assume there must be a reason to have
been betrayed by someone close. This was what
Jesus experienced in the betrayal by the disciples.

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When David called upon the God who was worthy of praise, he encountered a God of justice and not of the injustice offered when the “cords of Sheol” or the “snares of death” were confronting him. Pilate made a choice to remain silent, to allow the social systems of retribution to remain unchallenged resulting in the brutal murder of Jesus, an innocent victim. We come to the end of this Christian liturgical year, so we can look forward to mirroring the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the new liturgical year. My hope is we look deep within our hearts, our communities and our faith for ways to be able to respond with positive and affirming actions to the question “What have you done?”

Responding:

Prayers for World & Community

Loving Lord

We come to you as the king of creation.

We pray for our world, we bring you our concerns for creatures and plants as we exploit the world for our own benefit. Help us to walk lightly.

We pray for all the people of the world, those with much and those with little, all are part of your kingdom. Help us to share.

We pray for governments and those in authority, help them to take responsibility and govern with justice and mercy, following your example.

We pray for our communities, may they demonstrate the way of the kingdom, serving those around them in love and grace.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

November 2021

Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Offering

God of love and grace, may these gifts we share in your name remind us that we offer the whole of who we are - mind, body, soul and strength to Christ who reigns in our hearts. Amen.

Notices

This week is the last of the Church's liturgical year which means that next week we begin the season of Advent, or preparation for Christmas.

Singing - TIS 547

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee,
Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
and I with Thee one.

Riches I need not,
nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance,
now and always:
Thou and Thou only,
first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven,
after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joy,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

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Blessing

Jesus answered: "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice".

So go and live as people who belong to the truth.

In the name of the One who is creator, redeemer and friend. Amen

Thanks to:

Rev. Moira Dodsworth, liturgy & Marian Bisset, reflection Presbytery of Gippsland

Editor: Rev. Arnie Wierenga pastoral.ucagipps@gmail.com



Blue Christmas Service:

A service of remembrance, comfort and hope.

Sunday 5th of December at 3.00pm

As a year comes close to its end, as we think about festivities to come, however they might look in this strange and disturbing year, we acknowledge that although many of us are filled with excitement and anticipation, for others, this can be a painful time.

As we emerge from the lockdowns, and upon reflection on our journey in the last two years, we are keenly aware of the impact COVID 19 has had in our lives. The anguish of broken relationships, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of this 'happy family time'. And for some of us, this is our first Christmas without our loved one.

We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know that God is with us; Emmanuel.

Join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God is present with those who mourn, for those who grieve, for those who struggle. God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

All are welcome.



Photo by Lorraine Leitch

The Foxglove Fairy

*"Foxglove, Foxglove,
What do you see?"*

*The cool green woodland,
The fat velvet bee;
Hey, Mr Bumble,
I've honey here for thee!*

*"Foxglove, Foxglove,
What see you now?"*

*The soft summer moonlight
On bracken, grass, and bough;
And all the fairies dancing
As only they know how.*



Belmont Uniting Church November/December Roster 2021

→ **ROSTER BELOW IS DEPENDENT ON DOUBLE VACCINATIONS** ←

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Nov 21	10.00am	L. Leitch	S. Jennings	L. Moss	B. Couper	R. Ferguson	B. Vaitohi	L. Rankin
Richard Buckwell								
Nov 21	Communion		Flowers	Morning Tea		Covid Marshall - Glen		
N/A		E. Wood		S. & B. Jennings				
E. Wood								
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Nov 28	10.00am	G. Coomber	Ros Buckwell	D. Zucarro	R. Jeffers	R. Ferguson	G. Schneider	L. Rankin
J. Jeffers								
Nov 28	Communion		Flowers	Morning Tea		Covid Marshall - Ray		
N/A		E. Richards		A. & R. Bunting				
M. Bullock								
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Dec 5	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	J. Ferguson	A. Merritt	E. Wood	B. Vaitohi	M. Richards	L. Rankin
C. Schaller								
Dec 5	Communion		Flowers	Morning Tea		Covid Marshall - Ray		
Ros Buckwell, G. Coomber		J. Kelly		G. Coomber				
B. Couper, C., Collins				L. Moss				

Thank you to these willing people for keeping our Church services going. If you need to swap please endeavour to do so or if finding it difficult phone Julie 0418996592

Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Lord, show us what You want us to do each day to be a blessing to others. Give us the skills and the faith to minister hope, help and healing to other people. Help us to make a difference in our community because You are enabling us to touch lives for Your glory.

Dear Jesus, thank You, that because of You we have been saved through the shedding of Your blood. Thank you for forgiving us; for the richness of Your mercy and grace which You have lavished on us.

Loving God, may we look to the future, not through eyes of doubt but through the means of ever - increasing faith. Help us to refer frequently to Psalm 145 which proclaims Your greatness, love and goodness to all who believe.

Peter Woods

Lectionary Readings

Nov 21 - Christ the King	Nov 28 - Advent 1	Dec 5 - Advent 2	Dec 12 - Advent 3
2 Sm 23: 1 - 7	Jer 33: 14 - 16	Mal 3: 1 - 4	Zep 3: 14 - 20
Psalm 132: 1 - 12, (13 - 18)	Psalm 25: 1 - 10	Lk 1: 68 - 79	Is 12: 2 - 6
Rv 1: 4b - 8	1 Thes 3: 9 - 13	Phil 1: 3 - 11	Phil 4: 4 - 7
Jn 18: 33 - 37	Lk 21: 25 - 36	Lk 3: 1 - 6	Lk 3: 7 - 18

Books Of The Bible

1. People who preside over courts.
2. Wise sayings.
3. Word with a similar meaning to alpha.
4. To fade out.
5. The sections of a play.
6. Only partly warm.
7. Now said to bring or have bad luck.
8. Sought when unemployed.
9. Sobblings and wailings.
10. They were ruled by the Caesars.
11. Often taken for gold.
12. What a Mathematician deals with.
13. To go out.
14. A foreign piece of money.
15. There are not as many now.
16. The first half of a harsh disposition.

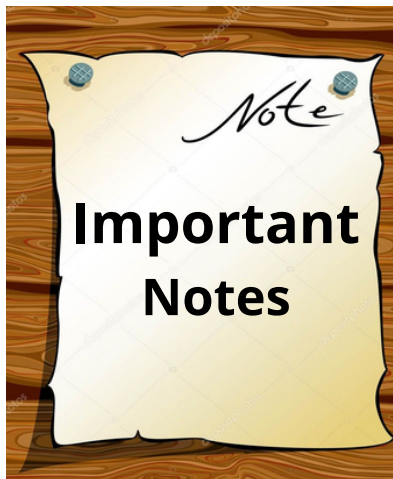
Thanks to Mary Thomas

CROSSLIGHT UPDATE

We seem to have lots of leftover Crosslights each issue.

If you no longer wish to receive a copy, would you please let Liz Moss know either at church or by contacting her on 0428 579 479 so that a new list can be compiled for Lloyd Yates.

Thanking you.



WELCOME MAT IS BACK

The Welcome Mat meets with others for friendship & company.

Every Friday from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. at Belmont Uniting Church We enjoy a cuppa and chat, then play games – Crazy Whist, Beetles, Hoy and Scrabble. Lunch is at 12 noon.

The committee: Fay Harper, Muriel Bullock. Carl Schaller

Belmont Uniting Church Evening Fellowship

Christmas Meeting and Lunch Wednesday November 24th at 11.30 am for 12 noon

We will gather in our Church Hall at 11.30 am for a 12 noon start. After setting up for our Christmas Lunch we'll begin with Devotions led by Jean Murray, then move into our last meeting for 2021 followed by the Annual General Meeting. Ray Ferguson will chair this meeting and the election of office bearers. Lunch will be enjoyed after these meetings. Between courses Fay Harper will read us some Christmas readings.

Also please bring your monthly \$5 for each of NOV, DEC and JAN and any you missed.

We are thankful to Miriam Moore for her list of food to bring. All members have been contacted about the lunch but if anyone has a query please phone Julie on 0418 996 592 Please note - Remember to bring a \$5 Kris Kringle gift to place in the Christmas basket so everyone will receive a little gift after lunch. Thank you everyone it will be lovely to celebrate Christmas together in our own Church Hall after such a long time.

Best wishes to and prayers for Miriam Moore who has had some time in Epworth this week.

SCONES SCONES SCONES

Join the Social Justice Group this Sunday 21st November for morning tea after the service – scones. If you are able, we hope that you will contribute a small donation to support the Alola Foundation.

The Foundation was set up in Timor Leste to support women and children experiencing violence. It has expanded its aim and seeks financial help to educate young women and girls. Any money raised will go towards providing scholarships for girls. \$75 will keep a girl at school for a year. EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PROGRESS AND SAFETY.



Sympathy to Sharon Welgus on the loss of her youngest sister Jacky on November 15th. Jacky had been in great pain and is now at peace.

Please pray for Sharon and Jacky's family especially now and also as they move forward into the future without her.

Love to all.



Flowers

*They are autographs of angels, penned
In Nature's green-leaved book, in blended tints,
Borrowed from rainbows and the sunset skies,
And written everywhere—on plain and hill,
In lonely dells, 'mid crowded haunts of men;
On the broad prairies, where no eye save God's
May read their silent, sacred mysteries. Thank
God for flowers!
They gladden human hearts; Seraphic breathings
part their fragrant lips
With whisperings of Heaven.*

Albert Lighton
Page 6

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE BANK TRANSFERS TO BUSHIKORI ACCOUNT

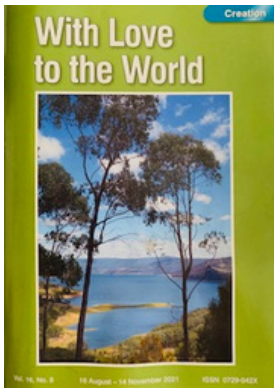
The BSB Number on the Bushikori Account listed for electronic transfers in the news letters in October was incorrect. It should read: 063858 10077253 (not 603858)

My sincere apologies for this error.
Bill Jennings.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 21 November -	10.00am ~ Reign of Christ -	Mrs Lorraine Leitch
Sunday 28 November -	10.00am ~ Advent 1 -	Mr Glen Coomber
Sunday 5 December -	10.00am ~ Advent 2 (Holy Communion) -	Rev Ikani V
	3.00pm - Blue Christmas Service	~ Rev Ikani V
Sunday 12 December -	10.00am ~ Advent 3 -	Rev Ikani Vaitohi
Sunday 19 December -	10.00am. ~ Advent 4 -	Rev Ikani Vaitohi
	7.30 pm. - Christmas Carols Service	- OASIS Group
Friday 24 December -	7.30pm - Christmas Eve Service	- Rev Ikani Vaitohi
Saturday 25 December -	9.00am - Christmas Day Service.	- Rev Ikani Vaitohi
Sunday 26 December -	9.00am - Christmas 1	- TBA

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD 2022



It's that time again to decide if you want to order your 4 Copies of this excellent Australian system of reading the Bible with Commentaries to help with understanding.

You can order your own copies by calling the no. inside the back cover of your last Booklet OR Be part of the Bulk Orders by contacting Liz Main. 0439 450 707 or Liz64main@bigpond.com

Put \$24 in cash or cheque to WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD into an envelope. Write your name , address , and phone no. on or in it and give to me at church or drop it in my letter box before the New Year. OR Order App and read on-line.

Call me on the No. above if you have any other questions.....Shalom. Liz Main

CHRISTMAS CARDS SUPPORTING UNITING VIC/TAS have been ordered and hopefully will be available for purchase NEXT Sunday during morning tea. There will be 5 cards in each bundle @ \$5.50 per bundle, with 5 different designs to choose from. All 5 cards in each bundle will be the same. Please bring the correct notes/coins for your purchase. "The early bird catches the worm."

(A project of the Mission and Outreach Committee.)

Faith Sharing Group

The Faith Sharing Group meet every Tuesday at 10 am in the Church Hall near the kitchen. This group explores and discusses the weekly lectionary Bible readings, enjoying each other's insights and company with a cuppa beforehand.

All are warmly welcome.



The following information is dated as we go to print

Religious gatherings and ceremonies (incl Weddings and Funerals)

- **If all attendees are fully vaccinated**, indoor gatherings are subject to a density quotient of one person per 4 square metres (no number caps). Up to 500 people may gather outdoors with a density quotient of one person per 2 square metres.
- **If vaccination status not known for all attendees**, up to 30 people may attend subject to density quotient of one person per 4sqm.
- **COVID check-in marshals** must ensure all attendees check-in and, if it is a service for the fully vaccinated, that all attendees over 16 have proof they are fully vaccinated or medically exempt. (see p4)

GATHERINGS & CHURCH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

What face-to-face gatherings are permitted at church?

Restrictions easing while there are still COVID-19 cases within the community is something we have not faced previously in Victoria. With an increased likelihood that at some stage an attendee at a gathering will be COVID positive, there are a number of considerations for all Church Councils:

- Have you reviewed and updated your [COVIDSafe Plan](#)?
- Is all COVID signage up-to-date?
- Will your gatherings be for the fully vaccinated? How will your decision be managed and communicated?
- Have you downloaded the updated [COVID Cleaning Guide](#), and considered your cleaning practices or how to deep clean if a Covid-positive person attended?
- **COVID check-in marshals** must ensure all attendees check-in and, if it is a service for the full vaccinated, that all attendees aged over 16 have proof that they are fully vaccinated or medically exempt (see below)

WORSHIP SERVICES

Religious gatherings and ceremonies

- **if all attendees are fully vaccinated**, the number of people who may attend is based on a density quotient of one person per 4 sqm indoors. Up to 500 people may attend outdoors with a density quotient of one person per 2 sqm
- **If the vaccination status of all attendees is not known**, up to 30 people may attend, with a density quotient of one person per 4sqm.
- **COVID check-in marshals** must ensure all attendees check-in and, if it is a service for the fully vaccinated, that all attendees over 16 have proof they are fully vaccinated or medically exempt. (see p4)

As of 28/10/2021

Do face masks have to be worn at all times during worship?

Yes. Masks are currently mandatory in all settings, apart from at home, unless an individual has a valid reason for not wearing one. Ministers or other faith leaders may remove their masks whilst leading worship, as teaching/broadcasting/public speaking are valid exceptions.

Can we gather for morning tea afterwards?

Yes, providing all attendees are fully vaccinated and density quotients are observed. All food and drink should be served, rather than available buffet style.

As of 28/10/2021

Can we sing?

Singing is permitted, but facemasks must be worn at all times.

As of 09/08/2021

Weddings

- **if all attendees are fully vaccinated**, the number of people who may attend an indoor wedding is determined by the density quotient of one person per 4sqm. Up to 500 people may attend an outdoor wedding subject to 1 person per 2sqm density.
- **If the vaccination status of all attendees is not known**, a cap of 30 people per wedding plus the marrying couple and those necessary to conduct the wedding. Children aged under 12 months are not included in the cap. A density quotient of one person per 4sqm applies.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA