

## DECEMBER PREACHING PLAN

### Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent 1

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Isaiah 64: 1 - 9
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 80: 1 - 7, 17 - 19
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 13: 24 - 37

### Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Advent 2

8.30 Lockyer	A Hortin	Isaiah 40: 1 - 11
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 85: 1 - 2, 8 - 13
10.00 AUC	A Hortin	2 Peter 3: 8 - 15a
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Mark 1: 1 - 8

### Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Advent 3

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - 11
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalms 126 or Luke 1: 46b-55
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 24
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28

### Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Advent 4

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, 16
9.30 Denmark	D Laffin	Luke 1: 46b - 55 or
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Psalms 89: 1 - 4, 19 - 26
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Romans 16: 25 - 27 Luke 1: 26 - 38

### Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10
<b>9.30 AUC &amp; Lockyer</b>	Rev Corina	Psalms 98
<b>Combined at Wesley, Duke St</b>		Hebrews 1: 1 - 4, (5 - 12)
Mt Barker at either Anglican or Baptist Church		John 1: 1 - 14

### Dec 31<sup>st</sup>

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3
9.30 Denmark	M Cranny	Psalms 148
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	Galatians 4: 4 - 7
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 2: 22 - 40



## *THE ARC MONTHLY*

### *ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS*

*Lockyer, Albany Uniting Church,  
Mt Barker, Denmark*



*DECEMBER 2023*



## *ADVENT*

**God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.**

**God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.**

**God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.**

**God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives always  
and particularly this Advent season.**

John Birch

## **MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE: WHAT'S IN A TITLE?**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King". A special newborn child. A King. Not just any king is born on Christmas morning, not a king of this world, but the King of Kings, as the Scriptures tell us. King of God's Kingdom, the realm of the Holy Spirit. In the Letters to Timothy and the Book of Revelation Jesus is described as 'King of kings and Lord of lords'.

The Hebrew Scriptures use the title 'King of kings' for God (see Psalm 72). In the books of Samuel, Israel rejects God as their king. They demand that Samuel give them a human king, just like the neighbouring nations have. The people were set apart by covenant, to become a blessing for all nations, but they did not want to be all that different! In the following centuries Israel was given a line of human kings to rule over them, beginning with Saul, followed by David and Solomon and many other less known men (sic). Some of these kings served faithfully and were righteous, others were evil, selfish, and spiritually bankrupt. The people of Israel followed the example and lifestyle of their king faithfully. They rejected God, their heavenly king, by their behaviour.

Buddhism speaks of four heavenly kings, whose very long names I will spare you. Interestingly, they are pictured as kings in India and Southeast Asia but as warriors in Central and East Asia. These kings are "he who hears everything"; "he who causes the growth"; "he who upholds the realm" and "he who sees all".

There are many similarities between the great world religions, but only Christianity speaks about incarnation. The King of kings, God, is born a human being, either literally, or metaphorically. Whichever way you choose to look at the baby in the manger, Jesus followers believe that God's character is made visible in Jesus' life, ministry, teaching, death and resurrection.

As you all know, at the time of Jesus' birth the Jewish people had suffered centuries of enslavement and oppression, leading up to and including the Roman occupation. The result of this was that, just like

**DIARY DATES**

**SUN 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC** SINGALONG MESSIAH! Wesley Church, Duke St, 2pm

**THURS 7<sup>th</sup> DEC** } SCOTS MARKET Scots Hall York St, 9am – 3pm daily

**FRI 8<sup>th</sup> DEC** } Come along and solve some of your Christmas gift needs then support the kitchen fundraisers by enjoying a delicious morning tea or lunch.

All groups now in recess until February 2024

**SAT 30<sup>th</sup> DEC** THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, Duke St, 2 – 3pm

**2024**

**THURS 5<sup>th</sup> JAN** } SCOTS MARKET Scots Hall York St, 9am – 3pm daily

**FRI 6<sup>th</sup> JAN** }

**SAT 27<sup>th</sup> JAN** THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, Duke St, 2 – 3pm

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**Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:****AUC: RECORDING**

	<b><u>DOOR</u></b>	<b><u>READING</u></b>	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b>	<b><u>/MUSIC</u></b>
<b><u>Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></u></b>	C Ferry	W Dwyer	C Ferry	T Reed
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>/P Elms</i>
<b><u>Dec 10<sup>th</sup></u></b>	K Hough	C Ferry	A Tero	M Little
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	<i>/ S Harris</i>
<b><u>Dec 17<sup>th</sup></u></b>	D Hosking	E Burns	C Ferry	
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>/P Elms</i>
<b><u>Dec 24<sup>th</sup></u></b>	C Roberts	S Harris	B Reed	M Little
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>/P Elms</i>
<b><u>Dec 25<sup>th</sup></u></b>	B Bickford	E Verran	B Reed	T Reed
				<i>/P Elms</i>
<b><u>Dec 31<sup>st</sup></u></b>	D Coxall	M Little	A Tero	
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>/P Elms</i>

**MORNING TEA** *Lockyer only***Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** *J Ahern/J Dunbar*    **Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** *J Thompson***Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** *J Wright/J Bowman*    **Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** *A Webb*    **Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** *S Wood*

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It is becoming increasingly difficult to fill the roster for Wesley, especially at this time of year when people are off visiting family or family are visiting here and everyone is a little uncertain as to whether they are available or not. The main concern is the recording of the service now that Mick Vertigan is unable to do that for some time. Please speak to Tom Reed if you can help.

the people demanded an earthly king during the time of Samuel, so too, they expected an earthly king to fulfill the promise of God. They would be given a king who would violently set them free. The Messiah would be a conquering king. The last thing the people expected, or accepted, was this king to be the humble son of a lowly carpenter from Nazareth. Yet, the Gospel of Matthew tells us that this Messiah was immediately perceived as a threat when the Magi from the east came to Jerusalem to honour Jesus. “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.” Jesus was recognised as a threat, even when still a vulnerable infant. King without armies. King armed with compassion, healing, and wisdom. King of kings. King of kings is not an uncommon title in the ancient world. Originally the title came from the middle Assyrian Empire. King Tukulti-Ninurta 1 reigned from 1233-1197 BC. After he was given the title King of kings, it was used in many different kingdoms and empires. There were Kings of kings in Iran, as well as in Armenia, Georgia, and Ethiopia. It was used by Persian kings like Darius the Great (pictured). Darius’ full title included Great King, King of Kings, King in Fārs, King of the Countries....With all these titles, he was still only a human king.

There was a Queen of queens once, as well. Cleopatra. She was no heavenly queen (marrying her brother and leading soldiers into battle) by any means, but a great worldly ruler without any doubt. The Biblical Queen of Sheba is sometimes referred to as the Queen of kings, not a heavenly



queen either, as according to legend she had hairy legs and the feet of a donkey.

Ah, legend. Such a powerful way to create identity for countries, a foundation, a past to be proud of, as a nation and as individuals. "We are not just anybody, we came and saw and conquered with Caesar, the Emperor of emperors leading the biggest army ever. Courageous and strong are we, who have the most sophisticated weapons: horses and chariots." Jesus followers were given a different foundation story. The story of a baby born in a stable, laid in a manger. A baby, a child of God, who grows into the man who shows us the Way, the Truth, and the Light. A way of peace and forgiveness and generosity. The one man, Jesus who is our King of kings, Immanuel, God with us. Christmas Blessings, Corina.

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**BITS FROM BARKER:** We will have our usual Sunday Service on 24<sup>th</sup> December but will attend either the Baptist or Anglican Church on Christmas Day, which is what we have done for a number of years. We would like to wish Corina and all the members of the Albany and Denmark congregations a happy, safe and holy Christmas.

Blessings, Sue Wilson

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**LOCKYER NEWS:** Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat but this month for me has been pretty hard going. I am slowly getting there and I think I may have had a bit of concussion but all good now For some good news, I have my driving license [party time ] and the Patchwork group which meets in our hall, have indicated they are willing to come on board with our Christmas Hamper.

While not well, I slept in the recliner chair for two weeks, but now back in bed. Spare a thought for those without a bed. Although I was comfortable and warm, others are not so fortunate. Jennifer is away for now so Amy and Imogen are filling in with our needs. Psalm 62: 1 *Truly my soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.*

Cheers, Joan

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:** Along with Lockyer news Joan told me of a trip daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Garry made, leading a dive tour with 10 divers in PNG. As part of the tour, they visited a school and Health campus in Tufi. The whole experience was an eye opener for the divers and Joan's family alike, realising how privileged we are, compared to others. A good example of the difference we can make with love and generosity this Christmas.



Soccer shirts and other gifts to the students of Tufi school in PNG



The classroom where the students do their school-work



**Many thanks to all who have helped with the magazine this year**

**Christmas Blessings**

**Clare Ferry**

May Christmas blessings fill your life  
and touch your world with joy.

May there be peace within your heart  
which nothing can destroy.

May there be comfort in your home  
and love be always near,  
and all the hope the season gives  
go with you through the year.

Anon



## Presbytery Report November 18<sup>th</sup> 2023

Presbytery convened in the joint Anglican/Uniting church of St Peter and Emmaus in Joondanna. This is one of the few such congregations in Australia. Presbytery commenced with an opening prayer by chairperson, Alison Xamon before 'welcome to country' by Revd Mitchell Garlett.

All the committees of Presbytery gave reports, most of which were fairly uneventful. However, the budget report in many ways echoed many congregations' situations- shortage of money and many calls on resources.

Thrive Mission is dividing into two distinct bodies- 1) Mission and 2) Property. I suggested that this might help expedite decision making in a more timely manner, something that has been lacking for a number of years. The chair of the new Mission (recycled) agreed it should! We wait and see.

Some committees held elections to appoint new members, and also, members to the Assembly meeting next year were appointed. Group discussions were held on Faith Communities and Discipleship, facilitated by Rev Rob Douglas. Basically, we simply told the small group what we do or what could be done better.

Act 2 was presented. I am still a bit vague exactly what this is but I think it is about more mission and being more active in the life of churches, invigorating congregations to grow, or recognising when it is time to close.

The best item on the agenda was the Ministry Milestones celebration when minister's Ordination was celebrated. A couple were ordained for sixty years- a great feat of stamina and dedication! The ministers and their partners stayed for lunch with us, and it was great to catch up with some whom I had not seen for years.

Elizabeth Burns

**WESLEY MUSIC NEWS:** In addition to music at services with our usual musicians, plus double reed ensemble The Baroquers, we enjoy lots of beautiful music at Wesley. Add to this About FACE youth choir's Christmas event, the Albany Choral Society, and Singalong Messiah, with some musicians coming especially from Denmark and Perth, it's good to see vibrancy and activity. We welcomed Peter Webb's first public appearance trying out guitar in a service, Jim Lie's opportunity to play Mozart on horn, Yvette joining us for chamber music and pianist Jake Mullan learning to play an organ. Jake now comes regularly to practice and aims to one day, fill in at St John's who are short on organists - extending our reach into the wider community. The Quiet Space has started as a monthly event, 2 –3pm on the last Saturday of every month. Musicians coming up are Adam Cook, Dave Rastrick and Julie Parish besides Patrick and myself and we enjoy it because of the creative freedom. We'd like to share this with more people, though it's not about numbers, so if you can help spread the word, we'd appreciate it – posters and flyers are available in the AUC vestry, share our Facebook events online or contact us. I'd like to reflect on the year's achievements: A brainstorming and planning meeting early in the year; completing our Mission Plan including clear direction and guidance through our Community Engagement Plan; establishing a simple Facebook page (please engage with it if you can); and submitted a Community Development Grant application to the City of Albany for a full program of events (educational and performance) in 2024 – fingers crossed. We may be a small group, struggling with property and financial issues and only modest means, but I believe in the power of faith to continue, regardless of those worldly constraints. Dedicated and patient volunteers support us, from Church Council members to musicians and congregation members to people from the wider community – friends, parents, radio announcers and businesses. Whatever the future may hold, we thank everyone for their support and hope for stability, connections and more ways to serve the community. Seb

**PRAYER PROMPTS:** Continue to keep Allan and Judy in your prayers, as well as Mick Vertigan, who is improving and making good progress, Elaine Archer who is also doing well and all those known to us who now reside in nursing homes. Please continue to pray also for those parts of the world who are in turmoil – particularly Ukraine and Palestine and the rest of the middle east. We wish all of you peace and happiness this Christmas.

**SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:** Thanks to all those who supplied goods or helped on our fund-raising stall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Bargain Bonanza. We raised \$304 which wasn't too bad. Our next Bargain Bonanza stall will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February which makes a welcome break though there will be a December stall at Scots Market as usual, where we will sell Christmas ornaments and other items perhaps suited to be used as gifts. As we are aiming at only 150 boxes next year we won't need as much freight money. The 250 boxes this year cost \$3,100 for freight, whereas 150 boxes will only cost \$1,875. The Scots Market stalls bring in about \$100 each time which helps a lot. Thanks to those who have already given us items for the boxes and donations of money. You are a great bunch of people and you give us the energy to keep going for a little while yet! Mainstreet Shoes and Bags are also a great help to us. They ring me when they have a quantity of empty boxes around the size we need. Remember boxes have to fit under a piece of A4 paper placed on the lid!

For this issue I am including an article on the "Wheelchairs for Kids" organisation, as several of you make metre square blankets that go with each chair. Last year 586 blankets were sent from Albany. I send any medium soft toys I get and to be honest, the toy in the picture looks like one of them. I put ribbon bows on them and this one has a familiar blue ribbon.

In conclusion I wish to record my thanks to Clare for the great amount of work she puts in to the magazine and to wish her and all of you the very best and peaceful Christmas!                      God bless, Edith

## **Dreams can come true:**

This is a story of a little girl who dreamt of seeing the sun and going to school.

Umulkhayr Ahmed Abdillahi is a 4 year old girl living in Masallaha area, near the airport in Hargeisa, Somaliland. She is the elder of two girls. Her mother is a house-wife and her father works in a garage in Hargeisa. Umulkhayr was diagnosed with cerebral palsy having been born through a complicated labour and with oxygen shortage at birth.

She was assessed at Hargeisa Rehab Centre run by Diversity Action Network – a local non-governmental organisation, supported by Australian Doctors for Africa, and prescribed with physiotherapy treatment and a corner seat to help her gain a sitting position.

When next she was brought to the rehab services a reassessment recommended a wheelchair. Wheelchairs for children are often unavailable in Somaliland, but fortunately, the Australia based “Wheelchairs for Kids” donated wheelchairs to Somaliland through

Australian Doctors for Africa and one of these wheelchairs was able to be fitted to meet Umulkhayr’s needs. The family has been trained in how to maintain and make the best use of the wheelchair.

Before the wheelchair, Umulkhayr remained lying in her room without movement and unable even to go out to enjoy the sun. The family has expressed their gratitude, her mother saying that she will take her to the local school in the future.



*Provided by Diversity Action Network Somaliland, September 2022.  
Wheelchairs were donated by Wheelchairs for kids and delivered to Somaliland by Australian Doctors for Africa, August 2022.*