

## FEBRUARY PREACHING PLAN

### Feb 4<sup>th</sup>

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Isaiah 40: 21 - 31
9.30 Denmark	J Wilson	Psalms 147: 1 – 11, 20c
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 9: 16 - 23
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 1: 29 - 39

### Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	2 Kings 2: 1 - 12
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 50: 1 - 6
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Mark 9: 2 - 9

### Feb 18<sup>th</sup>      Lent 1

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Genesis 9: 8 - 17
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 25: 1 - 10
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Peter 3: 18 - 22
11.00 Mt Barker	A Hortin	Matthew 17: 1 - 9

### Feb 25<sup>th</sup>      Lent 2

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Genesis 17: 1 - 7, 15 - 16
9.30 Denmark	E Burns	Psalms 22: 23 - 31
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Romans 4: 13 - 25
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 8: 31- 38 or Mark 9: 2 - 9



*THE ARC MONTHLY*

*ALBANY REGION  
CONGREGATIONS*

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



*FEBRUARY 2024*



*May the light of God  
surround you.*

*May the love of God  
enfold you.*

*May the power of God  
protect you*

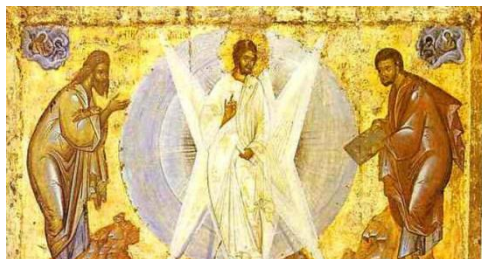
*May the presence of God  
watch over you.*



## **Message from the Manse: TRANS**

This year, Easter comes early, and Lent is not far off. Ash Wednesday is on 14<sup>th</sup> February, preceded by Transfiguration Sunday. I have been thinking about this prefix 'trans-'. Trans comes from the Latin, and has two main meanings: across and beyond. Some examples are: trans-action, where something moves (across) from one person to another; trans-continental, beyond one continent, across continents; to transfer, to move (across) from one place to another. The Hebrew Scriptures speak about a transcendent Creator God, who is beyond time and space, eternal, and present everywhere, as Karl Barth called God, 'the wholly Other'. In the Old Testament, God is also the one who walks in the Garden of Eden, and comes close, is immanent, present in the world. The transcendent God was made visible, became immanent in Jesus, whom we know as Immanuel (God with us, as was promised by the prophet Isaiah). Some people bring the wholly Other and the immanent God together, when they speak about the one divine presence in everything: pan en theism, pan is all, en is in, and theism comes from Theos, which means God. Panentheism: God is present in all. Put differently: we can find the divine in all of creation, in everything that exists, so God is no longer either transcendent or immanent, but both in One, all in all.

On Transfiguration Sunday we hear the narrative of three disciples who witness Jesus changing, he/his garments become as light, 'whiter than snow'. He appears to be beyond human, the divine light shines through the man Jesus. His body, his figure changes, and he speaks with Moses and Elijah, both long deceased, and yet present somehow – so, in a sense – trans-figured as well. The transfiguration is described as a one-off event, it didn't last long enough to make it worthwhile to put up tents, as Peter suggested...



## DIARY DATES

- THUR 1<sup>st</sup> FEB** } SCOTS CRAFT MARKET in Scots Hall, York St.  
**FRI 2<sup>nd</sup> FEB** } Open 9am - 3pm daily. Come along, support the stallholders and fundraisers, enjoy a delicious morning tea or a light lunch and browse through the selection of local crafts. Kitchen profits go to "Free The Bears" and Edith has a small stall of donated goods to raise funds for the Shoebox project.
- SUN 11<sup>th</sup> FEB** BARGAIN BONANZA, fundraiser stall for shoeboxes Please get items to Edith by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>. She will pick up if necessary, phone 9842 2729
- TUES 13<sup>th</sup> FEB** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon  
 AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome, Contact Joan Stewart 9844 8958 if attending.
- THUR 15<sup>th</sup> FEB** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café, ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947
- SAT 24<sup>th</sup> FEB** THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church Duke St, 2 – 3pm

## DIRECTORY

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**Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:**

	<b><u>DOOR</u></b>	<b><u>READING</u></b>	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b>	<b><u>RECORDING</u></b>
<b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Feb</u></b>	C Roberts	E Verran	B Reed	T Reed
<i>Lockyer</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	
<b><u>11<sup>th</sup> Feb</u></b>	K Hough	A Tero	C Ferry	W Dwyer
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	
<b><u>18<sup>th</sup> Feb</u></b>	D Hosking	W Dwyer	A Tero	M Vertigan
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	
<b><u>25<sup>th</sup> Feb</u></b>	D Coxall	M Little	B Reed	J Pell
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	

**Morning Tea, Lockyer only**

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb** J Wright/J Bowman      **11<sup>th</sup> Feb** J Thompson  
**18<sup>th</sup> Feb** S Wood      **25<sup>th</sup> Feb** J Dunbar

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take a turn, thanks to those willing to take part to help make services run smoothly.

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John and Elaine (nee Kerr) Archer leave Wesley Methodist Church on **1<sup>st</sup> February 1964** following their marriage by Revd. James Vaughn. Elaine's mother had also been married at this church, making it an extra special occasion.

John and Elaine are planning to celebrate their **Diamond Wedding** with the current members of Wesley at morning tea on **18<sup>th</sup> February** following the usual Sunday Service. They hope to share this special event in their lives with as many people as possible.



As we enter the church's season of Lent, we have heard again our call to become disciples, students and followers of Jesus. We now transition – we shift – from being mere followers to becoming companions of Jesus, as he sets out for Jerusalem. He is going to be betrayed, abandoned, falsely accused and cruelly executed. We are expected to travel with Jesus, to have compassion with our suffering servant Lord. We are also expected to reflect on the role we would play in this tragedy. Where do we take a stand for the oppressed, for the marginalised? How and when do we forgive the people who 'sin' against us? How do we stay grounded in our faith when we are confronted with difficulties, with opposition, with suffering? How like the disciples are we? How do we resemble the Roman soldiers or the crowd yelling 'crucify him'? These questions, seriously pondered, are questions that are part of the process known as 'trans-formation' being formed anew, being changed. Like the clay in the potter's hand, we need to allow God, through the Holy Spirit, to change us. Putting ourselves in the sandals, the mindset, the behaviour of the different actors in Good Friday's events is not an easy thing to do. It is a challenge to be that honest about who we are and what we're – what all human beings are – capable of. However, it is risky to deny we have a dark side, to ignore or suppress what Jung called our 'shadow'. If we don't recognise that we can be angry or jealous or power hungry for example, if we are unaware of these flaws, any of these tendencies can emerge suddenly, even take over. (Think Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.) Transformation is a lifelong process. We don't become Godly, Christ-like, overnight, if ever. We *can* live in hope for change for the better, allowing the Holy Spirit to do its work in us. We can open ourselves to the rest and peace, the new life we have been promised in and through Jesus. After all, we are told we are made in the image and likeness of God. Jesus clearly was – and it showed not only on the mountaintop when he was transfigured, but in his life and ministry. Transformation is a slow process, and we cannot make it happen,

but we can cooperate with the Potter rather than resist. We can begin with making a conscious effort to mean it, when we pray 'Your will be done'. We can turn this Lenten Season into a period of reflection on our own nature, human nature, in the hope to also catch a glimpse of the divine nature within us. The Christ child in us wants to grow and shine its light all around. Faith, hope, and love are alive and can thrive within us all and between us all – by grace alone.

Blessings, Corina

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**BITS FROM BARKER:** Not having had to provide Barker Bits since the last week in November 2023, I'm left wondering what to include for February 2024. Christmas is a fading memory but I travelled to Perth just prior to that, to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party of a friend who had been my next-door neighbour in Morley for many years. I then brought Rachel and Jonathan back home for a week, enjoying their company. Anne and Tom Mackie travelled to Moora for a family Christmas, and others who have been away are Carolyn and Doug, who visited Carolyn's mother in Queensland recently. After getting back to WA Carolyn was asked to return when her mother's health deteriorated, requiring hospitalisation and eventual placement in an Aged Care facility. Carolyn is currently helping to prepare her mother's home for sale.

Thanks to Nita we still have music to accompany our singing for our Sunday services. At least having music keeps our singing on track to a certain extent! I hate to speculate on the way we would sound without the music so a big thank you to Nita who also takes Milly for a drive each week, which gets Milly 'out and about' for a while. Milly is keeping well and still attends to the section of garden outside her room at Overton.

Despite having a small congregation, our services continue to be regularly attended. We appreciate having visiting preachers leading our services and welcome people who visit on occasion.

Many blessings, Sue Wilson

**AUC MUSIC NEWS:**

We had a wonderful Christmas event to round off the year, raising the roof with joyous song from Handel's Messiah as a sing-along on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Thanks to everyone who made it a happy occasion and shared hospitality with us afterwards. It was fantastic to have so many donate their time and talents to fill our Duke St home with laughter and a happy Christmas atmosphere. Special thanks to the church volunteers making everything run smoothly.

We've also had the quiet space with Adam James Cook and Dave Rastrick, both sublime. David's was a bit different with gentle electronic effects. Our apologies to those who couldn't hear it very well, it's a lesson learnt for us to check the volume settings more carefully for amplified instruments. Also, we know that taking this kind of peaceful quiet time is unusual in this day and age. If you find yourself feeling restless, it's ok to leave early, come late or just stay a few minutes. The musicians know and won't be offended!

Regulars Julie Parish and Patrick Elms will present the next one on 24<sup>th</sup> February, which we know will be a treat.

Finally, we were not successful for the City of Albany Community Development Funding Grant we applied for, to deliver music projects in 2024. Our job now is to develop our ideas on which way we want Wesley Music to go, and how to get there. Thanks to those who have already shared their opinions or volunteered to help –we welcome any feedback and would love to hear your ideas. Better yet, if you want to realise them, we'll do what we can to support you! Contact us at [wesleyalbany@protonmail.com](mailto:wesleyalbany@protonmail.com)

Have a great February and you'll hear from us after the Leap Day

Seb

**Events to watch out for :**     25<sup>th</sup> February at Scots Church York St,  
**WHEN BIRDS TAKE FLIGHT** a musical story/song cycle honouring the  
perilous journey of migratory birds     1<sup>st</sup> March at WesleyChurch  
**ORGAN & PANFLUTE CONCERT** a wide variety of religious and  
classical music with organ solos and duets for your enjoyment.



**Rochester, Victoria, Service Project 2023:** One year following the worst flood on record in October 2022, the small town of Rochester was still reeling to recover. As the disaster faded from the spotlight, hundreds of families were still unable to return to their homes as they waited on insurance payouts to rebuild or repair the flood damage. The mental and emotional strain left many with little hope as they faced a second Christmas still living in a caravan.

Samaritan's purse returned to Rochester in November to help rebuild the community, working through partnerships with the council and local churches. They provided teams of tradies and other volunteers to help lend a hand once again, this time with the objective of getting people back into their homes. Some home owners were in need of more clean-up and green waste removal, others were ready to have flat-pack kitchens and cabinetry installed and painting done. One resident, Catriona, was very grateful for all the assistance she received, delighted with the end result and was excitedly looking forward to having friends to stay, come Christmas.



### **Gold Coast Summer Storms, Queensland, 2024:**

On Christmas day, a 4-kilometre-wide tornado devastated Queensland's Gold Coast. It is estimated nearly 1,000 homes and businesses were impacted across the Gold Coast, Logan and Scenic Rim, with more than 500 homes sustaining moderate to severe damage. Samaritan's Purse Australian Disaster Relief staff and volunteers have been working in this region since 18<sup>th</sup> January, specifically helping the heavily impacted communities in the Gold Coast. Our team has partnered with Crosslife Church as our base of operations in Upper Coomera, to host volunteers, as well as store and maintain recovery equipment and vehicles. The major scope of work for our disaster relief teams is expected to be green waste removal, including assisting with fallen trees and garden and home clean-ups.

**LOCKYER NEWS:**

No, I have not found anyone to take on this task but if someone is breaking their neck to do it, give me a call, meanwhile it is back to the workhouse.

The Young House Christmas boxes were very successful with the Patchwork group coming to the party with the contents.

Jan has had a well-earned break in Perth with her daughter. We have had quite a busy time with family visiting, also Gordon’s niece and nephew passed away, one in Albany the other in Metro. On a lighter note, we had Arthur’s 7<sup>th</sup> birthday afternoon tea in a small park behind Little Grove Primary School where it was nice and peaceful. Imogen made him a smash cake which required Pa making a hammer!!! All great fun. Simon has been here from Canada, it has been twelve months since he was last here, everyone leaves tomorrow.

Activities begin in February not that we have many of those. In closing I would like to thank everyone for the jobs they do. You are all valued and we wouldn’t function as well as we do, if you didn’t do the jobs as well as you do.

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* (Romans 12:18) A Healthy New Year to everyone,

cheers, Joan

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT:** With the relocation of the AUC/ARC office now complete, the printer is back in action and there is plenty of reading material this week. As Christians we are called to more serious thinking about Easter than buns and chocolate eggs and Corina has provided us with much to contemplate on as we journey through the weeks ahead. We all have to face difficulties but by sharing our faith, hope and love with one another and the broader community we can do our bit to make life better. It has been a joy to share the news of John and Elaine Archer (P9) and look forward to celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with them on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**PRAYER PROMPTS:** Again, please pray for all those suffering from the trauma of war in their homeland, especially the children. Pray for the release of all hostages everywhere – those held by Hamas and those taken in Africa – children, mainly taken to be used as child soldiers. Pray also for those affected by the new round of Covid, and those affected by road accidents, drownings, floods and bushfires.

**SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:** As mentioned at the end of last year, we are only going to do 150 boxes this year, which will make it easier to collect items and pack the boxes. We have enough stationery already, including a generous donation of about \$60 worth from Office Works. We still need soap, toothbrushes, small toys such as skipping ropes, dinky type cars, yo-yos, tiny dolls etc. We also need tennis balls and small knitted balls, marbles, undies and small clothing items such as white T shirts, beanies and very small thong sandals. As you know, Australian boxes go to Asia and we have been told that school uniforms are generally white shirts and blue shorts or skirts. We are hoping to put 2 or 3 toothbrushes in each box as we have been told the family will share them. Please don't give us socks as they mostly don't have shoes and the general climate is very hot. We still put a beanie in each box as the children love them and I guess it possibly gets cold at night. We aim to put in at least 2 pairs of undies in each box and the best shop to buy them is still Kmart in the children's section on the ends of the rows. I think they are now \$5.50 for 7. If you are lucky, and yellow sale tickets are on some, get those! Remember our sizes are: 2 – 4, 5 – 9, 10 – 14 boys and girls. We have quite a few of girl 5 – 9 and boy 2 – 4 but the other sizes are pretty low at present and we really would like to put more than 2 in each box.

As usual, I would like to thank those who have already given me donations, we are well under way for this year already. I want to especially thank Margaret, a friend and neighbour of Maxine and Arthur Gunther, who knits us so many beautiful teddies, we are able

to put at least one per box. If anyone can make small toys of any kind, from wood or wool, we'd love to have some. We greatly appreciate the ones made for us by Keith Noakes who also deserves special thanks. We hope he can make some more for us this year, they are beautifully made! I want also to thank Lyn Catchpole who makes great (and popular) lamingtons for each stall.

As soon as I have information concerning last year's boxes, I'll pass it on, meanwhile, considering the havoc caused by storms, cyclones, floods, and fires recently in Australia, I thought you might be interested in the work Samaritan's Purse does in this country to help the recovery of those affected.

God bless, Edith

### **SAMARITAN'S PURSE, Australian Disaster Relief:**

When floods, fires, cyclones and other disasters strike across Australia, Samaritan's Purse responds immediately, providing critical relief to hard-hit communities. After emergency services and first responders have engaged, outside help is often crucially needed as communities struggle to recover and rebuild. To relieve this, Samaritan's Purse deploys volunteer teams, and partners with local churches to care for the physical needs of disaster survivors, thus resourcing a long-term recovery. Our teams help with critical tasks such as salvaging personal belongings, mud-outs (after flooding), ash sifting (after fires), debris removal, tree clean-up, property clearing, and more. Samaritan's Purse deploys a number of vehicles, tools, and resources directly to the disaster site. Our Disaster Relief Unit



semi-trailer serves as a mobile command centre from which we can effectively coordinate a deployment within a disaster-affected community.