



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 6th December 2020

Volume 26 Issue 45

Dear Friends, Since 1984 Christmas has been a complex celebration for me. My eldest son, Dale, was born on the 30th December 1984. The following years I tried to make sure his birthday didn't get lost in all the festivities of Christmas. The Christmas tree had to be down on the 29th. Sadly, in 1999 Dale was killed in a tragic car accident. Since then, Christmas, previously so closely associated with Dale's birth, has also become associated with his death.



This year I'd like to share with a Blue Christmas. It's a service of meditation and contemplation for those of us, who for any reason, are challenged by the celebration we wish we could share, with those we are separated from. It's not only associated with grief, it's for everyone who struggles with the festivities. So, this year, invite a friend, come sit in the comfort of Christ and let His love embrace you.

In Christ, Kerry minister.tuca@gmail.com 0483 803 922

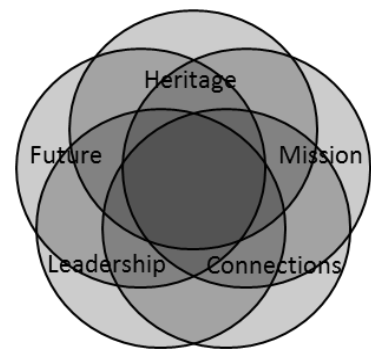
**WORSHIP INSIDE TRARALGON UNITING CHURCH SUNDAY @ 9:30 AM
FROM THIS SUNDAY ONWARDS (COVID REGULATIONS STILL CONTINUE)**

Transition Team Update

If we draw the five focus points for transition as interlocking circles (or a Venn diagram for those who remember their mathematics lessons), we see that all are important, and that the more we take them all into account, the more solid our core, our identity, becomes. This core is shaped by our experiences of faith and a desire to keep on sharing our knowing of Jesus Christ with others.

Previously, we touched on the Heritage and Mission focus points. "Connections" helps us in "discovering all the relationships and networks a faith community builds beyond itself." As we all know, our connections, our networks, are important for our individual, family and corporate lives, supporting us and informing us as we support and inform others.

The Transition Team met with the Rosedale members on Tuesday to start the transition process with them. We all enjoyed listening to the sharing of stories and ideas and have begun to build a good understanding of the life of this congregation. The team has a bit of homework to do to summarise what we have learnt together so far about both the process and the Rosedale congregation. We will meet with the Rosedale again to continue working through the focus points. Please continue to pray for the work of the Transition Team and the congregations. *Simon Trebilcock, on behalf of the Transition Team, 25 November 2020*



Traralgon District Uniting Church
Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



**Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 6th December 2020**

Songs: [Prepare ye the way of the Lord](#) (Mindthegap films)

[Be still Be still my Soul](#) (Daughter of the King)

Call to worship:

Be Still.

Prepare yourself today with a faith
which moves us towards the presence of God without fear.

For Christ will come in love,

Will come with grace upon grace.

Turn around and find the surprising presence of kindness,

Inviting truth without judgement,

Vulnerable as a child and strong as all goodness.

For Christ will come in peace.

Will come with grace upon grace

(D.M-M Liturgies for High Days p28)

Song: TIS 286 [Light One Candle](#) (Dr. Homer A. Ferguson 111)

Prayers:

In peace we acknowledge the First Peoples of this land and waters, the GunaiKurnai; Elders, past, present and emerging. As we celebrate in story and song, we watch, wait, and hope for peace among all peoples that all may know the coming of Christ in justice, peace and love.

Draw near us, O God, in the power of your Spirit.

Be revealed in all your holiness this day,

Sacred, yet safe for us to approach in faith.

Rise within our gathering

And show us who we are in gentleness.

We pray in your name, O Christ. Amen.

Hymn: TiS 264 [Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding](#) (First Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska)

Non availability sheet

The Non availability sheet for January and February 2021 is on the Welcome table. Please indicate clearly when you won't be available for duties.

Thank you, Bruce Boucher

JUST ACT Newsletter

Copies of the Just Act newsletter for October, are available for any interested member to take. There is a feedback questionnaire included in the loose sheets, asking for your opinion on which issues you would like the Justice and International Mission Cluster workers in the Synod office to assist with. Your participation in the survey, will help to work out the priorities for the Cluster. In turn, we will receive resources, to help us add our action to the listed issues needing support. If you have any questions about this, please talk to Greg Samson, Margaret Stephens or Ian Leversha.

Prayers of confession:

Today we remember that we are called to confess who we are
And to repent as we prepare to receive the coming Christ.
We place this bowl of tears on the communion table
As a sign of our grieving as we make our confession.

(The bowl is placed)

O God, we never come into your presence
without being more starkly aware of who we are.
And yet we come in confidence and in honesty, knowing that, if we will do that,
We may claim the place which you offer to us every day,
The one close to your love for us.

(silent reflection)

We are sorry for the times when we do not trust your love,
When we are harder on ourselves than you would ever be,
Paralysing our lives with unforgiving failures,
Anxious about our questions and complexities
Or simply unable to face who we are at that moment.

(silent reflection)

Forgive us, loving Lord.

Gather us into your grace again, we pray.

We know that there are times when we judge others,
Using your good name to punish people, offering them less grace than you give to us.

Forgive us, loving Lord.

Gather us into your grace again, we pray.

Grant to us the faith we need in bringing you our truth every day. Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

Come to Christ in openness.

Do not be afraid, because we are not condemned.

Receive the forgiveness of God. Rise up and live in freedom!

We are forgiven and free. Thanks be to God

Song: TiS 720 [Halle, Halle](#)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8;

[Sermon](#)

A COUPLE OF BIG THANK YOUS

During the time we could not meet for worship, quite a lot has happened. You have no doubt been impressed at the transformation of our gardens, which has involved a lot of work by several of our members. There have been building maintenance works, and the provision of sanitiser stations in the Church.

So, we need to thank Simon Trebilcock, Alan Scarlett, Geoff Aitken and several other willing helpers for the great work that has been done in the garden. We will see the fruits of this planning and labour for years to come.

Also, a grateful "thank you" to Alan Scarlett for constructing the sanitiser stations.

Church Service on Sunday 17th January

On this day we will hold our Worship Service outside.

This is due to the Church hosting a youth Kapow! gathering on the Saturday, which will be an all-day event. There won't be time to completely clean the Church buildings in readiness for Worship on the next day.

So, bring your chair and an umbrella – for sun or rain, plus a hat.

Prayer of intercession: Sue Scarlett

Dear Lord, As you gather your people together in Fellowship back into the Church, we take this time to pray and thank you for our many blessings.

We thank you for our health, that we have health professionals who continue to work tirelessly to tend to our health needs

We give thanks to the teachers who have provided an education to our children, in varied formats throughout the year.

We take this time to thank all the carers who have spent the past months, caring for loved ones. Selflessly, they have comforted, cared for needs and provided a constant source of love for those who no longer can be independent.

We give thanks that we live in Australia and the leaders of our country for their guidance to lead us out of COVID restrictions

We remember fondly our friends and, our family members who have passed away, leaving a spare chair at the table or in Worship service. May their memory sustain us and our faith uphold us, as we grieve for their passing.

We give thanks to everyone in our Congregation, who has maintained prayer for others, contacting friends to check on their health and delivering the Talking point weekly with a chat over the fence. May the God of Hope, Peace Joy and Love be with you in this Advent season and always. Amen

Offering & Prayer:

Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, and our hearts, that your covenant of love may be written on our lives and we may be a peaceful, blessed, and transformed people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lords Prayer (Steve Bell)

Blessing and Dismissal:

Go as those who are not afraid to be the humble people of God,
Inviting in your own confessing life, the faith of others in the love of God.

And may the whole earth be restored to hope,
The heavens sing aloud with the promise of peace to come
And God in three persons, Blessed Trinity, Be with us in each moment and
Bless us through these Advent Days. Amen.

Song: TIS 647 [Comfort, Comfort all my people](#) (Mountview Uniting Church)

Copyright: *Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729.*

CHRISTMAS BOWL FOR 2020

Many of us like to give each year to the Christmas Bowl which is an appeal held by the National Council of Churches in Australia. Each year envelopes are sent to our Church in which to send our donations. But not this year.

There are two ways you can give this year:

You can send a cheque to Christmas Bowl, Act for Peace, Locked Bag, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230, or

You can place your donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Christmas Bowl" and these can be sent on as a single payment at the end of the year.

UNITINGWORLD'S GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Each year UnitingWorld seeks gifts and donations for overseas projects. Many of us like to give our support.

Copies of forms with a list of gifts you can select from, and how to pay for your gift will be placed on a table in the foyer to be picked up.

Uniting Church in Australia - Traralgon District

19-29 Park Lane (PO Box 1136) TRARALGON 3844 ph: 5176 1029

Administrative Assistant: Theresa Steyn **Office Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday 9am-1pm

Email Address: mail@traralgon.unitingchurch.org.au **Web Address:** <http://traralgonuc.blogspot.com/>