



*We believe we are called by God to be an inclusive
Christian community, committed to justice,
learning, service and care.*



BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH

More than a Sunday Church...

Week of 1st December 2017 ~ Service on Sunday 3rd December 2017

10am – Rev Phil Hoffmann at Church of Christ

11am – Rev Dr Adrian Brown at BUC

Lectionary readings – 3rd December (First Sunday of Advent)

Is 64:1-9 • Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Cor 1:3-9 • Mk 13:24-37

Next week – 10th December – (Second Sunday of Advent)

Preacher 9:15am & 11am - Rev Dr Adrian Brown

Worship Leader 9:15am – David Agnew & 11am – Robert Corbett

Reflections on the Reading

Reading: : Isaiah 64: 1 - 9 [First Sunday of Advent – Happy New Year!]

During the Season of Advent and its time of preparation for the coming Christmas the Lectionary of readings invites the Church into a hearing of the words of the prophets, particularly this Year [‘Year B’ if you were wondering], the call of the prophet Isaiah. These are the cries of hope of the people in the midst of national calamity and challenge, very human in their longings and often desperate in their questions. The prophets ask “Where is God in this?”

Beginning today in Advent with the plea, “*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence*”. This is the cry of faith wanting God to make it plain, to be real in the lives of the people. But it is rarely so clear. Faith is mystery, requiring response. It is no simple thing.

In his book, “*Silent Hope: Living with the Mystery of God*”, the Canadian Catholic writer on spirituality John Kirvan says, “*Our search for God will never be conducted in a neat world. Life will never submit to our good intentions ... life will never cease to be a messy affair, and our spiritual journey will never be reduced to a tidying-up operation. God doesn’t wait to enter our life until we have put it all in order. Our journey ... is about finding God in the midst of the mess. The messiest place of all will be our own soul, our own life, which, despite our best efforts, will insist on remaining human. And it is into this mess, this confusion, that God and others will invite themselves*”.

Christmas is coming people!

Rev Phil Hoffmann

Christmas Service Times

17th Dec at 6pm – Carols night with Cantamus - at BUC

21st Dec at 7pm – Blue Christmas – at BUC

24th Dec at 10am – Combined Service

24th Dec at 7pm – Christmas Eve Family Service

25th Dec at 9am – Christmas Day Service



Christmas Gifts Stall

Looking for that special Christmas Gift?

There will be a gift stall during coffee time on Sunday 10th & 17th December to purchase gifts from Uniting World's Everything in

Common Gift Catalogue. This year there are Christmas Cards and gifts that give life, hope and freedom from poverty. Some of the gifts cards include chickens to provide income and nutrition for a family, basic school supplies for kids in Fiji, honey bees and piglets. Choose a gift that gives hope, life, peace and joy this Christmas.

Circle of Friends Donations

The Circle of Friends Blackwood would like to thank the BUC congregation for their donations of food and presents in the boxes located in the foyer. They now have a further request for hampers for another family in a terrible situation, grieving from the recent loss of a husband and father to eight children and huge financial worries.

Calling all Musicians

Singers & other musicians – we'd love you to help lead our Christmas Carols on Sunday 17th December. If you can help out please contact Ros Miller.

Christmas Gift Bags

As in previous years we are giving Christmas Gift Bags to our Messy Church, Sunday morning and Baptism families this December. We hope to include a Christmas decoration, a booklet with the Christmas story, balloons, a Christmas grace, and a message from the congregation. The bags usually cost between \$5 and \$10. We have around 30 families, and if we get enough money we try to give something small with a message from Blackwood UC to the Playgroup families as well. If you would like to make a contribution to this seasonal gift to the families in our extended 'family', please see Marnie Agnew, or put your contribution in an envelope marked Family Ministry Christmas Gift Bags and put it in the offering or leave it at the office. This is a significant way in which we can let our families know we care about them, and visit those with whom we have had minimal contact during the year.

Help needed for Messy Church this weekend: We have enough Christmas trees and lights, thank you, but we will need help putting the trees up on Saturday 2nd December, from 2pm. If you have an hour to spare and could help that afternoon, could you see Marnie Agnew ph 0408 474 699 email agnew05@bigpond.net.au

We also need an extra pair of hands after the 11 o'clock service on Sunday 3rd to help put up blackout screens on the windows in the chapel. That is the morning we will be joining with the Church of Christ people at the Church of Christ, and there will be a visiting choir at the 11am service at BUC, which makes finding a volunteer a little more complicated. If you can help please see Marnie Agnew or Russell Grear.

Morning tea on Christmas Eve

You are invited to a delicious Christmas fare morning tea on 24 December 2017 at Eden Hills Uniting Church.

Time: 11 am

Address: 16 Willora Road, Eden Hills

Contact: Liellie McLaughlin at 0437794410

A carol service will be starting at 9:30am. You are welcome to come early and sing some carols or just pop over for morning tea at 11 am.

Recent Additions to the Church Library

All 2016 issues of New Internationalist.



Roundabout
Messy Church
Blackwood Uniting Church

3 December 2017

Messy Christmas
4- 6pm

Craft Songs
Story Food Fun
Celebrate!

Unto us a child is born...

Cost: \$10 per family including a simple meal

An alternative family-orientated church

Blackwood Uniting Church

266 Main Rd Blackwood ph 8278 7699

www.blackwooduc.org.au

"Inviting people to embrace the possibility of God"

Looking ahead in 2017...

Sunday	3 rd Dec	4:00pm	Messy Church – Christmas
Sunday	17 th Dec	6:00pm	Christmas Carol night
Thursday	21 st Dec	7:00pm	Blue Christmas (at BUC)
Sunday	24 th Dec	10:00am	Combined Service
Sunday	24 th Dec	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
Monday	25 th Dec	9:00am	Christmas Day Service



Minister

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