



*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 8th December 2017 ~ Service on Sunday 10th December 2017

9:15 & 11am – Rev Dr Adrian Brown

Worship Leaders: David Agnew / Robert Corbett

Lectionary readings – 10th December (Second Sunday of Advent)

Is 40:1-11 • Ps 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Pt 3:8-15a • Mk 1:1-8

Next week – 17th December – (Third Sunday of Advent)

Preacher 9:15am & 11am - Rev Phil Hoffmann

Worship Leader 9:15am – Mark Williams & 11am – Kay Cranwell-Mullin

Reflections on the Reading

Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Imagine the reporting and reaction if a scruffy, unkempt and oddly dressed man turned up at Parliament House in Canberra and said he had a message for the politicians. Imagine, also, how it might be reported in some parts of the media and what traffic would begin to be transmitted on social media.

Terrorist attempts to storm Parliament, Politicians reject call to change their ways, Plot to undermine the Government's legislative programme, Monarch's authority diminished.

If this had been John the Baptist who had turned up at Parliament House then all but the second headline would have been fake news. The point of this was later proven when King Herod had John's head on a plate to please his daughter and to be rid of a threat.

John was the vanguard, the forerunner of what was to come. He came out of the wilderness to utter a few home truths to the community, home truths which many could not accept and rather than listen they closed their ears and carried out their threats to be rid of both him and the one whom he foreshadowed.

Fake news is nothing new and it remains a tactic to avoid truth, to discredit unwelcome news or analysis, and to manipulate truth to suit the propagandists. John brought news that many did not want to hear but he was only wanting to recover the relationship with God that had been rejected in favour of personal theological comfort and practice.

John is a preparer of the light, one who paves the way for the inevitable impact of Christmas and its reminder of new beginnings and opportunities.

The Rev Dr Adrian Brown

This Week

Christmas Service Times

17th Dec at 6 for 6:30pm – 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.

Tony Katic

Long-time attendee and dear friend Tony Katic died peacefully Friday December 1st, aged 67. Tony has been a Minda resident since he was 12 years old. His funeral was held Thursday 7th at Port Adelaide and included affections for Tony as a 'charmer', remembering his hearty laugh, his sometimes stubbornness and his love for the Crows. Jane Bassham, Tony Miller and Rev Phil Hoffmann attended. It was unfortunate timing that Nancy and Peter Cranwell, who have been so kind and supportive of Tony are away and couldn't be there. As a community we are so pleased that Tony was able to join us for one last time at worship three weeks before his death (November 12th) with familiar handshakes and smiles. We remain grateful that Tony was ever one of us and added so much to our life together.

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.
- Musicians and singers for the Christmas Eve service. Please contact Ros.Miller@bigpond.com
- **Musicians and singers wanted:** Playgroup Christmas Break-up Monday 11th December: We would like to sing some simple Christmas carols at the Playgroup Christmas break-up next Monday 11th December. If you play an instrument or could help lead the singing, and could help out from 11am for 15-20 minutes next Monday, please contact Marnie Agnew agnew05@bigpond.net.au mob: 0408 474 699

Carols Night Sunday 17th December

Please meet in the foyer from 6:00pm for a light snack followed by a night of carol singing featuring Cantamus.

Christmas for Everyone! God is with us

Join us at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve for an interactive telling of the Nativity story – roles for everyone & lots of fun!

Playgroup: Help needed

The painting smocks and cushion covers are in dire need of a wash at the end of this term. If you could take a few please see Marnie Agnew or Jean Potter. You have till the end of January 2018 to get them done. We don't expect the smocks to come clean of all the paint, or to be ironed, they just need to be washed. If as you wash them you find there are any repairs to be done, please let Marnie or Jean know if you can't take care of them yourself so we can make sure they can be fixed. Many thanks. Marnie Agnew agnew05@bigpond.net.au mob: 0408 474 699.

Circle of Friends Donations

The Blackwood Circle of Friends would be warmly grateful for any assistance we can offer a Liberian family in a terrible situation. A mother of a girl 3, a boy 11, a boy 15, a boy 17 and a girl 19 who's husband/father has recently passed away. Food hampers or gifts for the children would very much be appreciated. Donation boxes are in the church foyer.

C3PO Women's Social Group Christmas lunch

Monday 18th December @ Belair Hotel, 12.30pm: All women in the congregation and BUC community are welcome to join us to celebrate the Christmas season over a convivial meal. If you would like to join us please let Marnie Agnew know by Wednesday 13th for booking purposes: agnew05@bigpond.net.au mob: 0408 474 699

Recent Additions to the Church Library

"The Lion photoguide to the bible"

"The island" by Victoria Hislop.

"The friendship" by Rob Noble.

Stillpoint Advent Reflections

This resource, suitable for individual or small group use was written for Stillpoint by Lynona Hawkins. It can be viewed on the Stillpoint website, www.stillpointsa.org.au For your copy, contact Stillpoint at stillpoint@internode.on.net or phone 8271 0329 (office hours 10am to 2pm, Tuesday to Friday) or download from website. Cost is \$15.00.

Pianist required

The Encounter Ensemble is looking for a new pianist. The choir practises on Tuesdays and performs around Adelaide. If you have the time & interest please contact Julie Cookes (secretary) on 0416 230 986 to discuss.

Looking ahead in 2017...

Sunday	17 th Dec	6:30pm	Christmas Carol night
Monday	18 th Dec	12:30pm	C3PO Women's Social Group Lunch
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

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Minister

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Community Program Coordinator
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BUC website
www.blackwooduc.org.au