



*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 7th December ~ Service on Sunday 9th December 2018

9:15am & 11am – Craig Mitchell

Worship Leaders: Heather Lee / Jan Wiseman

Lectionary readings – 9th December (Second Sunday of Advent)

Mal 3:1-4 • Lk 1:68-79 • Phil 1:3-11 • Lk 3:1-6

Next week 16th December – (Advent 3)

Preacher 9:15am & 11am – Rev Judi Hartwig

Worship Leader 9:15am – Ian & Carys Penny 11am – Jan Wiseman

Reflections on the Reading

I have a minister friend who is a university academic. He says that often when people find out that he is a minister, they will say something like “I’m not religious, but...” and then describe some kind of numinous or mystical experience. Of course, spiritual experiences are by no means confined to people of Christian faith. The Spirit blows where she will.

During Advent we are hearing stories involving angels. I can’t say that I’ve ever seen or heard God speaking that vividly. However there have been plenty of times when I feel some kind of prompt or nudge that turns out to have been worth following. And other times when there was an almost out-of-body God-moment that took me by surprise. Sometimes I was genuinely hoping for guidance, other times I was simply overwhelmed by a sense of God’s grace or goodness.

I doubt that such experiences can or should be sought. Yet I think that becoming more open to the Spirit’s presence and prompting is part of our faith journey. It has sometimes puzzled me that some people of a more ‘conservative’ faith have a stronger expectation of the Spirit working than those who are more ‘liberal’, despite the latter being more open to the possibility that God is not confined by a particular religious tradition. The story of young Mary reminds us that God speaks to those who might least expect it.

I wonder what the Spirit might be blowing our way this Advent?

Craig Mitchell

Christmas Carols - Sunday 16 December

6pm Drinks and Nibbles. 7pm Carols Service. Join us for an informal time of singing Carols in the church. Led by local and guest musicians.

Christmas Eve - "Outback Christmas"

Monday evening 24th 6-7pm. On Christmas Eve we will celebrate an Australian-themed time of song and story with the music by Leigh Newton and band. Join us for an-all-age interactive event followed by a sausage sizzle with OH&S approved onion serving. Leigh Newton will also be sharing songs with us in worship at 9.15 am on Sunday 9th December.

Daily Advent Reflections - "Mary's Song"

To help guide us through the season of Advent towards Christmas, we are providing a set of daily Bible reading and prayer reflections commencing on 2 December. These have been prepared and shared by Gungahlin Uniting church in the ACT. You can pick up a copy of the booklet after worship or from the church office for a cost of \$1 to cover photocopying.

Christmas Postcards & Calendars

Our Christmas Postcards have arrived with our Christmas service times on them. Please take a handful and give to friends, family or foe! Also, please feel free to take a 2019 Calendar.

Looking for that special Christmas Gift?



Make a difference with your Christmas gift giving. Each gift represents a life-changing project that is helping lift people out of poverty. Your gift will help provide clean water, education and income opportunities for families to live with dignity. Choose a gift card, dedicate it to a loved one, change lives. Every gift you buy helps take us closer to the kind of world we all hope for!

Gift stall will be held during coffee time on Sunday 9th & 16th December.

Women's C3PO Christmas lunch: The C3PO Women's Social group will be celebrating the end of the year with lunch at the Belair Hotel on Monday 17th December, meeting at 12.00 noon. All women welcome. If you would like to join us please let Marnie Agnew know by Friday 14th December to confirm numbers. Mob: 0408 474 699 or email: agnew05@bigpond.net.au

Property Working Bee: The Property Committee will be holding a working bee on Monday 7th January commencing at 9:00 am. In a true spirit of inclusiveness, members of the congregations are invited to join us for the day. No matter what your area of expertise – painting walls, cleaning chairs, removing cobwebs from a 6 metre ceiling, etc – you will be able to demonstrate your talents to an appreciative audience.

Lost Reading Glasses

If anyone comes across a pair of purple metal rim reading glasses, can you please return them to Carys Penny. Many thanks.

Christmas Nativities Display

On Sunday evening 16 December at the Carols evening we will be having a display of Nativities. If you have a Nativity set that you would be willing to lend us for that evening we would be most appreciative. Please leave it at the office by Friday 14th and you can collect it at the end of the Carols evening or at the office from Monday 17th. We will take great care of them and ensure that onlookers don't touch them.

Sunday 16 December

6.00 pm Drinks & Nibbles

7.00 pm Christmas Carols



Christmas Carols @ Blackwood UC

An Australian version of the Nativity Story



Christmas in the Shed

24 December 6-7pm Blackwood Uniting Church

All-age, interactive event with music by Leigh Newton

Followed by sausage sizzle

Blue Christmas

*Sometimes it isn't the right
time of year to celebrate*

A service of lament, remembrance and hope, especially for those who find that the 'joy' of Christmas is not a reality for them this year. If you have lost someone in the last year or are engaged with grief, come and share your sorrow and hope with others and find the real light of Christmas in a very different way.



Friday 21 December at 7.30 pm

Holy Innocents Anglican Church - 29 Sheoak Rd, Belair

Looking ahead in 2018 ...

Friday	7 th Dec	1:00pm	First Friday Friends Christmas Lunch
Friday	7 th Dec	6:30pm	Blackwood Christmas Parade
Sunday	16 th Dec	6:00pm	Christmas Carols
Monday	17 th Dec	12:00noon	Women's C3PO Lunch
Friday	21 st Dec	7:30pm	Blue Christmas at Holy Innocents
Monday	24 th Dec	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday	25 th Dec	9:00am	Christmas Day Service
Monday	7 th Jan	9:00am	Working Bee

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Ministers

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