



*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 14th December ~ Service on Sunday 16th December 2018

9:15am & 11am – Rev Judi Hartwig

Worship Leaders: Ian & Carys Penny / Jan Wiseman

6pm – Christmas Carols

Lectionary readings – 16th December (Third Sunday of Advent)

Zep 3:14-20 • Is 12:2-6 • Phil 4:4-7 • Lk 3:7-18

Next week 23rd December – (Advent 4)

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

Worship Leader 9:15am – Ken Bardsley 11am – Jan Wiseman

Reflections on the Reading

Both the Isaiah reading and the reading from Matthew's Gospel speak about a child called Immanuel, which means God with us which, if we really think about it can be a difficult concept to accept.

Think about it this way – if you were God, how would you communicate with human beings without overpowering them and violating the principle of human freedom? God's plan was to live among us and be revealed to a small group of common people who would tell others what God had done in their lives. Then they would tell others what they had experienced, and as the story of God's coming is told over and over again humanity would realise the depth of God's love. God didn't persuade humanity with dramatic signs that would leave people unable to resist, but with gentle love - in the person of Jesus. God revealed Godself – incarnate in human flesh.

The following story from an unknown source helps us get our heads around this.

'One Christmas Eve, a man was invited by his wife and child to go to the Christmas Eve service at their church. He refused to go saying, "I don't understand how a God who is supposed to be loving and kind can let humanity suffer so much. Why would He decide to become a man and be born as a baby in a manger, no less? (cont.)

There is no logic in such an idea and I just can't accept it." So, his wife and child went to church without him.

While they were gone, a storm blew in. So, the man put some more wood in the fireplace, pulled up his favourite chair, grabbed his newspaper, and sat down to enjoy a nice quiet evening alone. Suddenly, he heard a thumping noise and rose to investigate.

As he looked out his living room window into what was now a fierce blizzard, he saw a flock of birds flying into his window again and again, trying to get into the light and warmth of his house.

Even though the man did not believe in God, he was a good and compassionate man and felt sorry for the birds. "What can I do to help them," he thought. "I know! I'll open the barn doors. Then, when they see the open barn, they'll fly right in"

So, he pulled on his coat and boots and trudged out to the barn to open the doors. When he opened the doors and turned on the light, he turned to watch the birds fly into his barn. But the birds just kept flying against his window trying to get in.

"How can I get them to come in?" he asked himself. "How can I get their attention and get them to fly in here. I know! I'll put out bird food all the way from the house to the barn, then they'll follow the trail right into the barn." So that's what he did. But still the birds just flew against the window trying to get into the warmth.

By now the man was becoming very anxious for the safety of the birds. "I have to help them - but how? They haven't noticed anything I've done so far. What can I do that will get their attention?

I have it! This time I'll get in front of them and wave my arms and yell and chase them into the barn!" So that's what the man did. He went up to the window where they were and started to yell and wave his arms to drive them into the barn. But instead of driving them into the barn, he succeeded in driving them out into the storm because they were afraid of him.

The man was distraught. He knew he had tried everything he could to get the birds into his barn and safety, but nothing had worked. "If only I could become a bird like they are. Then I could communicate so they would understand me and follow me into the barn and be safe."

Suddenly, he realised. That's exactly what Jesus did for us! He came as a baby and grew up into a man, so He could show us how to find safety in His 'barn'.'

Blessings
Judi

Christmas Carols – This 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.

Thank you

Thank you, my loving friends, at BUC for your care and support through a difficult year. The card last Sunday gave a special touch of warmth as I go into hospital for, which I hope to be, my last round of surgery. With my love, Rod Pike.

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.

Christmas Day – “Angels announcing the gift of Christmas”

Tuesday morning 25th at 9am will be a family friendly worship with “Angels announcing the gift of Christmas”. Please come along and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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.

Wrap With Love

The number of completed and dispatched wraps for 2018 is Seventy One, which is a grand effort. 13 Wraps were sent to the Wrap with Love depot in Sydney for distribution. 55 wraps were given to A.J. Jefferis for her work with "Our Street Family Matters" supporting the homeless in Adelaide. 3 were given to St Vincent de Paul.

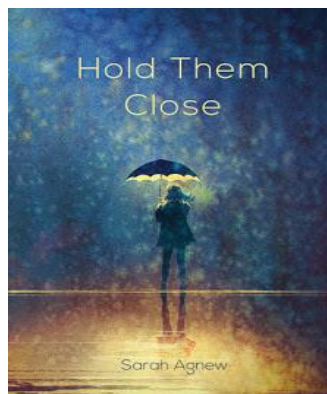
Thank you to everyone involved for knitting squares, stitching and crocheting the wraps and donating wool.

Regards

Sue Jackson

Billet hosts needed for National Young Adults Leaders Conference

From 17-20 January the Uniting Church's National Young Adults Leaders Conference will be held at Nunyara. This is a fantastic event that runs every couple of years for 18 to 30 years old's and is being hosted by SA. The national Assembly is seeking local billets as Nunyara is nearly booked up. The accommodation is needed for the event organisers and Assembly staff – bed and breakfast. If you might be willing to offer a bed to a young adult from interstate, please contact Craig Mitchell craigmitchell01@gmail.com or 0417323088 or via the Church Office.



Hold Them Close – the new poetry book by Sarah Agnew: 5 copies of Sarah's new poetry book are now available and more are coming at Christmas. If you are interested in purchasing a copy (\$15) please see Marnie Agnew agnew05@bigpond.net.au mob 0408 474 699

Sunday 16 December

6.00 pm Drinks & Nibbles

7.00 pm Christmas Carols



Christmas Carols @ Blackwood UC

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

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



Christmas Day Service 9am

Family friendly worship

*Angels announcing the
gift of Christmas*



THANK YOU



Blackwood Uniting Church

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the very generous assistance you have given to Beacon Emergency Relief throughout 2018. We are very grateful for your efforts and thoughtfulness in helping people in our community.

As you know Beacon Emergency Relief Service is dedicated to assisting some of the most vulnerable people in our area; those who are finding it extremely difficult to manage on a very limited income. All those with whom we work do very much appreciate the help we are able to give

This year Beacon has had an increasing number of people coming to us for assistance and as Christmas is fast approaching the support we receive is very much appreciated because at this time we aim to give our clients a little extra 'cheer'.

Best wishes to you all,

Jenny

Jenny Horne
Coordinator
Beacon Emergency Relief
PO Box 789
Blackwood
SA 5051

Looking ahead in 2018 ...

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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