

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY

To join us on Zoom, please use the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplbD05YkFECN0N4MGRlSEVlRl10Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

8am Classic Christmas Service

10 am Contemporary Celebration

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Revd Connie Gerrity

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Revd Anne Dudzinski

SUNDAY 15 JANUARY

Celebrant: The Revd Connie Gerrity

Preacher: Tobias Nevile

In recess:

Wednesday midday communion services (resumes 1 February)

Sunday Twilight Conversations (resumes 29 January)

Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth

Branch: Jamison Centre ACT

BSB 062 907

Account No: 802588

Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

Social Justice Gospel Christmas?

Luke 2:8-20

Did you know that Luke is often referred to as the 'social justice gospel'?

"Luke gives special emphasis to issues of social justice—especially to the plight of the poor and other social outcasts—as well as to the proper use of wealth ...

Luke is viewed as an ally of those Christians committed to reforming society from the bottom up. These people are after more than a little charity here and there. They want to completely reformulate the social structures that keep people marginalized and oppressed. And Luke is definitely there to egg them on" (Shmoop Editorial Team, 2008).

How do we see Luke's heightened concern for the poor and underprivileged in today's reading?

Consider the shepherds. It's easy for 21st century Christians to romanticise the shepherds. (The Holy Covenant nativity display is an example.) First century shepherds were social outcasts. These men were poor, illiterate and considered dishonourable because they weren't at home at

night protecting their women. Shepherds rank with other despised occupations like sailors, butchers and camel drivers.

The news of Jesus' birth comes first to the lowly and outcast, not the powerful and elite. Here we see the Magnificat in action—the lowly are lifted up. Across the rest of Luke's gospel we see the powerful being brought down.

Like Caesar Augustus, every earthly ruler dies, but we still live in a world dominated by little caesars. The lowly still get trampled far too often, but the rule of the powerful (e.g. Musk, Trump, Putin, and Murdoch) will end. And before we get too pleased with ourselves, our own personal empires will also end. Everything we hold onto, our quest for power over others, all our planning and maneuvering, all is finite. We are not in charge, because the Messiah, the Lord has arrived among us.

Jesus' reign continues to break into our world wherever the lowly are lifted up. Let's remember that, as we celebrate his birth. Let's work towards the day where hope, peace, joy and love are accessible to all.

Megan Arthur

Christmas Joy

I met P in early December when he walked into St John's

Care and asked if he could get something to eat. I gave him a hot meal. He explained that he hadn't had a meal for two days, his electricity bill was due, and he had no means of paying it. The bill was close to \$1000.

P does not have any family or friends here in Canberra and he told me that his best friend was his dog Spotty. Spotty was also doing it tough. Often hungry, he'd sit next to P and lick his hands.

His eyes were filling with tears as he was telling me how he had to sit outside the supermarkets with a hat on the ground asking for money so that he could feed himself and his dog. This is not the life he wanted to live; however he did not have a resume, and was unable to find a job.

He told me that he lives in a tiny unit (Housing ACT tenant), and that his income only just covered his rent and bills.

When SJC helped P with his electricity bill, he burst into tears. The volunteers prepared a food pack containing fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, some frozen meals, and some dog food.

He also told me that his MyWay card had negative balance on it, so we topped it up and gave him some single use bus tickets too.

I was able to put P in touch with the Care Financial team and some other agencies to further support him. He was asking if there was anything he could do for SJC to repay this generous help.

He said, "I'll pray for all the donors who make this possible for people like me". When P left the Centre, he had a renewed look of hope on his face.

St John's Care has continued to provide him with ongoing support in the form of meals, fruit and vegetables as well as dog food, as well as a Christmas hamper and Christmas goodies.

He is extremely grateful to now to be in a position where he can feed his dog and slowly pay the rest of his bills from his Centrelink payments. This will allow P to have a memorable, happy Christmas.

During these hard and uncertain times, St John's Care continues to provide support and assistance to Canberra families who need it the most. We would like to sincerely thank our donors and supporters who have provided so much to our clients this year.

Kind regards, Robbie, Operations Manager

Items required: Muesli, Shampoo and Conditioner, Olive Oil, Cooking Oil, Shortbread Biscuits

Love is an action

'I am the voice of one calling out in the desert.'

John 1:23

Can we learn and begin something new this Christmas and carry it into the New Year?

When God sent Jesus down to live among us that first Christmas, he sent him to bring the light of love - a four letter word packed with so much potential. The potential for wars to cease, for the homeless to be housed, the refugee to be embraced and welcomed, for the hungry to be fed, for the poor to have plenty, the unwelcomed welcomed. That is love, true love not just love as an intention but love as action and a determination in the name of Jesus to bring change about. When you think of this four-letter word packed with potential, what comes into your mind?

Jehovah - shalom. The Lord is peace.

Anne, Servant of the Lord

<https://comewalkwithme-reflections.blogspot.com>



Light and love came down

Update from Libby Warren

Libby is settling in well in her third week in Melbourne. She has been to a craft group, exercise classes, film nights, and various Christmas functions including an inspiring carols evening organised by the Salvation Army. Libby's mobile number is still in the Parish Roll, so if you are in Melbourne you can give her a call.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY IN 2023

The massive Sequoia trees of California might grow large but they grow slowly. Similarly, our spiritual lives emerge through many small steps over a long time. It too requires care and attention.

Being With is a 10-week series that helps us pay attention to how God is present within our lives through our everyday experiences. We'd love you to join us.

To run the group, we need a few folks who can learn the ropes as host and storytellers who offer hospitality and manage group life.

The course will help us to see Jesus not as someone who does things FOR us but as God who travels WITH us through all of life's challenges. It'll be an opportunity to discuss things like presence, the person of Jesus, the church, God's mission in the world, the cross and resurrection.

Starting Wednesday 15 February 2023, 7.30pm – 9pm

A COURSE EXPLORING
CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE

Being With

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Being
With

Christmas Day

THE CHRISTMAS BOWL
SINCE
1949

Merry Christmas!

Mugisha*, along with her sister and two young children are just some of the millions of families living as refugees around the world. Mugisha fled to Kenya after conflict broke out in her home country of Congo. Since arriving, she has faced many challenges to meet the basic needs for her family. Through the Christmas Bowl, our local partners around the world can continue to share God's love with refugees like Mugisha by providing food, care and lifesaving support. **Please give today.**

*Mugisha's name has been changed for safety reasons.



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

A message from Pam

We received a card from Pam Lane. You can find the hard copy on the noticeboard at the back of the church

Dear Holy Covenant friends,

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts and prayers for me and my family as we mourn the loss of Roy. We will miss him, but we are relieved that he is no longer in pain.



Competition closes 26
January

Design competition!

Feeling bored in the summer
holidays?

Instead of netflix, create a
design for the community hub.
The winning design (s) will be
painted onto the hub and for
all the community to admire.

All colourful, creative, eye-
catching designs welcomed.



Congratulations to the Covenant Care Volunteers!

Archdeacon Anne and Anne McDowell represented the Covenant Care volunteers at the ACT Volunteering 2022 Volunteer Awards. While the team didn't win an award this year, we are still incredibly proud of them, and hugely thankful for their dedication to Covenant Care Day Hospice.

Covenant Care is finished for 2022. Holistic Care Nursing Ministries' (HCNM) office is closed until 9 January 2023. The Household Support program resumes later in January, and Covenant Care returns on 6 February 2023. We hope that the Outings program will return later in February 2023, and wish Graham Bonnett all the best as he moves on from co-ordinating this program.

HCNM staff and clients thank everyone at Holy Covenant for your prayers and other support during

2022, and hope that you will continue that support in 2023. Anyone who is interested in volunteering with us is encouraged to contact nurse@holycovenant.org.au.



Missional Spirituality

The parishes of Holy Cross Hackett, Bodalla-Narooma, St. Philip's O'Connor and Holy Covenant Jamison have received a grant from the Diocese's Pelican Foundation for a missional spirituality program in 2023. The grant is for \$15,000.

Missional spirituality is about how we can embody and communicate the good news of God in our neighbourhood and networks in appropriate ways. It will:

- explore daily spiritual practices designed to help us to have better spiritual conversations with friends and neighbours
- enrich our theological understanding of God's work in the world and
- encourage us to deepen and expand our community engagement initiatives.

The Revd Tracey Matthews who attends our

10am service will be the project's facilitator.

Our parish team will meet monthly on a Thursday night from February – September 2023. Leaders from the four parishes will meet quarterly to share insights and wisdom.

If you lead a ministry team or have an interest in helping out or starting something new, be sure to talk to Wayne and don't let this opportunity to grow pass you by.

You can read more about other grant recipients in the [December 2022 edition of Anglicans News](https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-December-2022.pdf)—<https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-December-2022.pdf>



Big Garden Morning January 21 - 9am to 12 noon

We are making fantastic progress weeding the south-west corner of the block. There is hardly a weed in site. The next stage is to install our notice-board and book/seed/stick library.

This involves:

- digging 4 holes for the legs
- pouring quick setting cement to set the legs – waiting an hour or so
- lifting the library onto the legs – this will require at least 3 reasonably strong people to assist
- Fitting the roof structure—this will require at least 2 people comfortable on a small ladder

In addition to this, we want to continue our weeding and tidying efforts in that corner.

If you can assist, please bring your hat, sunscreen, gardening gloves and gardening tools. The following will be particularly helpful:

- whipper snipper
- spades, forks
- pruners/loppers
- wheelbarrows
- trailer

If you can't help with gardening we would love to provide the troops a delicious morning tea. As Napoleon said 'an army marches on its stomach'.



Big Garden Morning

JANUARY 21

9AM - MIDDAY

Taking A Break



The office will be closed
23 December 2022

Reopening
10 January 2023

Urgent enquiries:

23-31 Dec: Revd Wayne ph 0407 408 333

1-15 Jan: Archdeacon Anne ph 0406 379 599

Next edition of the Weekly Bulletin

No Weekly Bulletin will be produced for Sundays 1 & 8 January 2023. Normal production resumes on Sunday 15 January.

New Edition of Anglican News

The December edition of Anglican News is available on the Diocesan website: <https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-December-2022.pdf>

Staff absences

A number of team members will be on leave across late December and early January.

Revd Wayne: will be uncontactable for most of January. He will return to work in the week commencing 23 January.

Revd Wendy: will be out of Canberra from late December—xxxxx

Megan: will be on leave from 23 December—8 January. (She will be keeping an eye on the email and the phone across this period.)

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace, love, joy and hope to spread across the world
- ⇒ Russian withdrawal from Ukraine

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Safety on our roads and waterways, and in our homes
- ⇒ Those for whom Christmas is more struggle than joy
- ⇒ First responders, health workers and everyone working across the Christmas/New Year period

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of The Northern Territory
- ⇒ Cooma, Snowy Mountains, The Village Church & Southern Monaro Parishes
- ⇒ Governments and the Opposition parties

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Sujatha George; George and Connie Gerrity; Elaine and John Gifford; Quenton Grafton and Carol-Ann Kubanek.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Colin & Marilyn Tolano; Glenys Wimmer; Anne & Peter Bazeos; Maggie Watts; Alice Farrington, and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- 27 Dec: Revd Ruth Dudley (Mills) (d. 2017)
6 Jan: Ronald Earle Grant (d. 2011)
7 Jan: Pierre Willem Elkhuisen (d. 2007);
Dorothy Joan Williams (d. 2019)

COLLECT for Christmas Day

Ever loving God,
who gave your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary:
grant that we being born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,
ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
0407 408 333, rector@holycovenant.org.au

Children's Worker

The Revd Wendy Robertson
0481 458 037 hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com

Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile youth@holycovenant.org.au

Wardens

Joh Sheehan (Council Chair) 6251 7151
Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009 rkmore@grapevine.com.au

Belonging and Caring

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

Curate and Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson
0481 458 037 hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Manager

Megan Arthur
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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
0406 379 599 anne.ranse@gmail.com

Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski
0413 994 739 annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

The Revd Connie Gerrity

0429 423 725 connie@gerrity.id.au

Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS UNTIL 14 JANUARY

- 25 December: JESUS
29 Dec: Chris Lee
30 Dec: Megan Mackay, David Barrott
31 Dec: Wendy Robertson
7 Jan: Jodie Petrov
8 Dec: Hilary Harris
11 Jan: Alan Duncan, Penny Lilley, Pam Steele
14 Jan: Tobias Feitz

CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 62: 6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-8a
Luke 2:8-20

EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12