

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

8am & 10am Holy Communion
Celebrant & Preacher :
Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Blue Christmas

Wednesday Midday service in
summer recess—resuming 7
February

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

8am & 10am Holy Communion
Celebrant & Preacher :
Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Coming soon:

24 December: 4pm Kids' Christmas
& 11pm Carols, Candles &
Communion

Christmas Day: 8am Classic
Christmas Service

10am Contemporary Celebration

Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth
Branch: Jamison Centre ACT
BSB 062 907
Account No: 802588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican
Church

Restoration? (Ps 126)

Our Psalm for this week talks about being restored by God: *“the Lord has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed”* (v.3). The people of God have been restored to Jerusalem, and they are full of hope for what is to come.

There's an important point for us to notice here. It's not that the people have restored themselves, it's God who has done the work of restoration. The people have been restored both physically (to Jerusalem) and spiritually. The change has been internal as well as external, and has created great joy: *“Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts”* (v.2).

We must make space for God's restoring work, not just in our minds but also in the reality of our lives. And that means changes to our systems and structures. God's restoration is the work of Advent, but like John the Baptist, we can announce God's coming and assist

in the work.

Restoration is hugely important for our world today. Whether we are thinking about the next steps after the Voice referendum, or after COP28, or even around the use of manufactured stone in our building industry, we cannot hope to find answers if we keep the same systems and structures and actions that have created our crises in the first place.

As we look with horror at the scenes in Palestine, Ukraine and the other conflict centres in the world, let's pray with the Psalmist that the Lord, will *“change (their) circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste! Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts”* (vs 4-5). This Advent, let's proclaim the coming of the Christ through our services and songs, and also through our acts of care, advocacy and service. Let's enable both people and the communities they live in to become more just and peaceful and compassionate.

Megan Arthur

Collaboration

Canberra City Lions Club recently donated tickets

to the World Festival of Magic Show for our clients. Of all the families we contacted there was one family that caught my attention. P is a single father with 3 children between the ages of 12 and 5. He told me that it was his eldest daughter's birthday soon and that he had been unable to afford a birthday present for her.

I asked P to come to SJC to have a chat, and he came the next morning. P and his wife split three years ago; since then he has played the role of father and mother to his children. He stated that it had been difficult but spoke about the satisfaction he got from having his children with him.

He also told me that he wanted to organise something for his daughter for her birthday. We offered P a happy birthday banner, balloons, sweets, jelly, popcorn, biscuits and some birthday decorations. We were also able to give him a gift voucher for Smiggle. P was very happy and told me that what we had given to him, along with the tickets to the magic show, would allow him to provide a spectacular birthday for his daughter.

Collaboration between organisations can provide important benefits to both organisations and their clients. Working with other organisations, either through informal networks or more formal partnerships, can provide a holistic approach to meeting client needs. It can bring better and more efficient access to the range of services required improved quality and consistency of service and greater responsiveness to needs.

I would like to thank the donors, supporters, volunteers who have contributed to SJC and who have played a part in supporting people like P.

Karen Medrano SJC Case Manager

Items Required: shampoo and conditioner, small packets of sultanas for lunches, shortbread biscuits, Christmas puddings, tinned spaghetti and baked beans

Tearfund Advent Prayer Calendar

It's never too late to start praying! <https://edm.tearfund.org.au/t/r-l-tijykkdy-otytkihuti-k/>

Bottlebrush

Let all together praise our God. TIS 297.

God is so 'there' in the sacred space which is surrounded by his creation and filled with the warmth of the rising summer sun. Around me I catch glimpses of the bottle brush bushes with green leaves and oh so brilliant red bottlebrush like flowers. Their colour and presence remind me of Christmas and what joy they bring among the other mixed colours of the garden. Have you seen them after the rain? As Christopher Monaghan says.' A bottle brush after heavy rain is beaded and jewelled with nature's own tinsel.' Take a moment to look at the bottle brush in all its glory of Christmas colours and next time it rains take a look at its 'tinsel'. You will be blessed.

May the God of life bless you and keep today and always

Anne, servant of the Lord.



Colours of Christmas

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

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council is the body that helps our church and its ministries to grow and develop. As there are fewer nominations than positions vacant, no election will be required. The Council for 2024 will be comprised as follows: Council members - 6 elected and 2 rector nominees (R)

- Anne McDowell
- Mark Cooper-Stanbury
- Tim Farrington
- Phil Trigge
- Peter Dent
- Tobias Nevile
- Anna Thorpe (R)
- one rector's nominee - vacant

Wardens - 2 elected and 1 rector nominee (R)

- Allison Cooper-Stanbury
- elected position—vacant
- rector's warden—vacant

Morning Tea message from Merri

Thank you to everyone who has helped provide morning tea or has been part of the roster this year. It is a great way to contribute to our community and also meet new people. If you would like to be part of the roster for next year please put your name on the sheet on the noticeboard before the end of January indicating which Sunday of the month you are able to do and which service. We need a couple more volunteers for next year for both services.

Also if you will be here over January and can help with morning tea following our 9am services, please put your name on the sheet now so that we know who will be able to help in January.

Thanks everyone and Merry Christmas

Kitchen Roster—Help Needed

There is a small band of folk who top up necessary items (tea, coffee, handwash, toilet rolls etc.) in our kitchen and bathroom, and also wash tea towels. It is not a hard job but a necessary one.

Recently the numbers of people on the roster have declined so we would appreciate some more helpers. Anyone who would like to help out in this way, please contact Helen Boulton on 0439 609 998 or hhboulton@gmail.com

End of year closures

As we move through December, many of the groups who use our facilities are wrapping up for 2023. If you are a group organiser, please make sure that you have let the office know about your final meeting date for the year, and when you plan to return in 2024.

The Church office will close between 22 December and 1 January.



James Kim (2 Jan 1946 - 10 Dec 2023)

James died peacefully in hospital on Sunday 10th as Brian sat with him. He rests with his Lord.

His funeral will be at St Philip's Anglican Church, cnr Macperson and Moorhouse Streets O'Connor, at 11am on Tuesday 19 December. The officiant will be the Revd Canon Professor Scott Cowdell. No flowers please. Refreshments afterwards in the courtyard. Brian will return to the St Philip's community for the foreseeable future.

Rainbow Centre update— 14 December

The Building Fund and interest-free loans continue to grow, reducing our borrowing and associated interest:



If you would like to contribute, grab a brochure from the back of the church, or talk with the Parish treasurer—Mark Cooper-Stanbury—on 0408 417 340 or email treasurer@holycovenant.org.au.

Christmas

Holy Covenant Anglican Church

17 December

A Blue Christmas, 5pm

Christmas Eve

Kids Christmas, 4pm

Carols, Candles & Communion, 11pm

Christmas Day

Classic Christmas Service, 8am
Contemporary Celebration, 10am

89 Dexter St, Cook

Blue Christmas

For those who haven't encountered a Blue Christmas service before, this is a quiet and reflective service for the bereaved, estranged or anyone just struggling to feel jolly this season.



Third Sunday of Advent



Finding Joy in resilience

Twelve long years have passed since Rima* and her family fled their beloved home in Syria as the devastating civil war unfolded. Forced to leave everything behind, they sought refuge in Jordan, carrying with them only the essentials. With your kind gift to the Christmas Bowl, you can support Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, continue to provide vital food packages, hygiene kits, and the long-term support that refugees need to rebuild their lives. **Please give today.**



*Name changed for safety reasons

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

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

summer schedule

MANY OF OUR REGULAR
PROGRAMS WILL HAVE A
BREAK OVER SUMMER

COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICES
FROM 31 DECEMBER - 9AM

MORNING TEAS,
WEDNESDAYS FROM
3 JANUARY FROM 10.30AM

8AM AND 10AM SERVICES
WITH KIDS CHURCH AND
YOUTH GROUP RESUME
4 FEBRUARY 2024

AGM & Annual Report

The Parish Annual General meeting is happening on 13 February 2024. That means that the Annual Report will be published for Sunday 5 February 2024.

Contributions for the Annual Report are most welcome from all groups and Ministries in the Parish. Please get your contribution to the office by 28 January 2024.

Covenant Care Update

It's almost the end of the Covenant Care year, and there's been a lot going on!

We have been without a Registered Nurse for some months. As a result the Day Hospice has been reinvented as a Day Respite. That program has run a five week trial, which will be reviewed over the summer break.

We held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening on 30 November. As well as a chance for the staff and volunteers to have a relaxing time in each others' company, we also took the opportunity to acknowledge Bob Arthur's outstanding service to Covenant Care. Revd Wayne provided a wonderful reflection on love and fear, based on a prayer from Michael Leunig. Bob was presented with a certificate of thanks and a letter from Archdeacon Anne.

Jennifer Berrie is retiring from her paid employment with Covenant Care next week. Jennifer has been a member of the Covenant Care team since 2018. Over that time, her work has improved the lives of many vulnerable people. Her administrative work in the Covenant Care office has also ensured that our files are up to date, procedures are appropriate, and risks are as well managed as possible. Thankfully, Jennifer is continuing to volunteer with us in 2024, supporting one of our oldest and frailest clients. Jennifer's unique skills set is impossible to replace with a single person, and as a result the Client Support program cannot continue to operate.

While Archdeacon Anne continues as the program Chaplain, she has stepped down from the Program Director role. Anne has held that position since the inception of the program, and we are deeply thankful for her service. We pray that God will bless Anne in her newly found free time, and that those blessings will be restful, rather than demanding.

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine & Palestine, and an end to occupation
- ⇒ Deeper commitments to phase out fossil fuels post COP28 to avoid climate catastrophe
- ⇒ Refugees and asylum seekers

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Recovery efforts after Tropical Cyclone Jasper
- ⇒ Housing and food security for all Australians
- ⇒ Safety for those travelling over the Christmas period
- ⇒ First responders, mental health support teams and domestic violence support services

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of North Queensland
- ⇒ Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church
- ⇒ Community of Celebration and Mary's Place
- ⇒ Anglicare Retail Outlets
- ⇒ Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre
- ⇒ The Anglican School Googong
- ⇒ Work amongst needy, unemployed and homeless people of all ages

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Sue Dunbar; Alan and Bea Duncan; Ray and Sue Edmondson; Wendy and Jono Elkhuzen; and Tim Annabel and Naomi Farrington
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Bob and Kath Arthur; Reg Holmes, Chris Olsson and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

23 Dec Robert Noel Cooper (d. 1996)

BIRTHDAYS

17 Dec Clare Lawlor
18 Dec Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies,
Phoebe Jackson
21 Dec Lachlan Robertson
23 Dec Ian Sykes

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
John 1:6-8, 19-28

COLLECT

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

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

Youth Coordinator

Tobias Neville
0468 969 372 youth@holycovenant.org.au

Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009 kennemorerosemary@gmail.com

Belonging and Caring

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

Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore
0411 338 361 holycovenantkids@gmail.com

Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur
0487 945 615 nurse@holycovenant.org.au

Covenant Care 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

The Revd Lynda McMinn
0403 769 991 ellemm99@gmail.com

Resources Team

0419 255 002