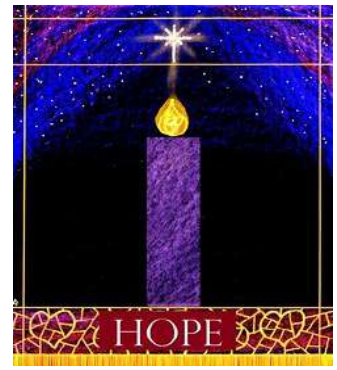


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

[https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?
pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSF
VRlI0Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSFVRlI0Zz09)

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

8am and 10am Holy Communion
Celebrant: Revd Dr Bili Malek
Preacher: Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

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

Coming soon:

Community lunch—Thursday 12
December
Parish Council Elections—15
December

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Luke 21:25-38

December 1 begins the new Christian Liturgical Year: Advent, which is celebrated in the four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of waiting and preparation for

1. The celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas
2. The Second Coming of our Lord, ie Christ's eschatology.

It is also a season to consider Christ's reception in our hearts. It is these things we celebrate as we light the Advent candle/s week by week. There are many traditions associated with Advent including erecting a Christmas tree, lighting a Christingle, daily devotion.

The gospel reading for today Luke 21: 25 – 36 is in stark contrast to how we in modern society perceive Christmas: a time of goodwill, celebration, present giving, family occasions. The passage begins with prophetic calamity, signs in the heavens, distress among nations, people fainting, fear and foreboding, with the powers of heaven shaken. The coming of Jesus transforms history: it is epoch making. It changes the world.

There is an emphasis in the text about seeing—seeing the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When this occurs we are invited by Jesus to stand up and raise our heads because our redemption is drawing near. This is the response asked for: stand up with confidence, assured of God's intervention. For us the day of the Lord need not be an occasion for dread, nor is it a day to be avoided. Rather it is the realisation of God's good news.

Jesus makes clear that it is not different events but the way we see which changes everything. Those outside the Kingdom do not see the signs, they cannot read what is happening. Jesus refers to the fig tree coming into leaf, a well known sign foretelling the coming of summer. But the signs of the Kingdom coming will not be appreciated by everyone. Those whose lives are shaped by Jesus' proclamation of God's reign grasp what time it is. We often see the same things as everyone else but, formed and informed by Jesus' message, we see with different eyes and understanding.

The import towards the end of Jesus' message is for us to be alert, to be righteous in our living, so that we are not caught out unexpectedly. Even if it appears things are falling apart, if it seems there is cosmic calamity, the message of Advent is that Jesus transforms the world and transforms our lives. So as Advent begins we can stand up in confidence, knowing and being assured of God's grace.

Clive Rodger

WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

Holy Covenant is a diverse community and inclusive church in the Anglican tradition. This means that we seek to help people become all they were created to be. When we can be our true selves, we are then able to help the world become a better place for everybody.

We believe in a restorative Gospel, where God has come to heal and renew all of creation. This means we strive to make the world better rather than simply waiting around for heaven to arrive.

Our vision is to be a place for everyone, where people get to become the person they were always meant to be.

We value what Jesus valued: inclusion, diversity, compassion, justice and freedom. This means we encourage participation by people regardless of their background, heritage, gender, age, disability or orientation.

Children at Holy Covenant are welcome to participate in Kids' Church and/or Youth Group, but are also welcome to stay with their caregivers.

Communion is open to everyone, regardless of your denominational background or baptismal status. We are all invited and welcome to engage with God in this way.

Please stay for morning tea after our service and maybe get to know some other members of the congregation. We'd love to see you back next week.

'Singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. It is to him and about him that we sing. Ephesians 5:19

Is there nothing so glorious, so beautiful, so lovely as the sound and sight of the magpies warbling in beautiful harmony together breaking the silence of the new day. What a blessing to behold. What joy that puts a smile on my face before I even reach the sacred space to take in the numerous blessings around me. I pause, I listen and I thank God for all his wonderful creation but especially the melodious sound of the magpies warbling at the break of day. J.E.Tada says: 'That joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Be my help, my strength and my song today.'

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



Anne, servant of the Lord.

Sing to the Lord.

I first met G a few months ago when she presented to the Centre with her 3 children. G is a single mother who has experienced long term financial discomfort as the sole provider for her family. Despite this, she has always managed to juggle her parental duties and casual employment and give her children a positive life.

Recently, G's youngest child was diagnosed with a debilitating illness which requires term care. G was no longer able to work and spent most of her time at home caring for her child. This loss of income provided a number of challenges for the young family.

G was unable to afford registration costs for the children, she fell behind on the quarterly bills, and the family's pharmacy bill skyrocketed. G explained that she had turned to cheaper options for meals, however she was concerned about the long-term implications that this would have on her children

G explored the option of applying to receive the carers payment however the payment is only available to those who are caring for someone for longer than 6 months, and she is therefore ineligible. With nowhere to turn and the growing feeling of dread hanging over her, G reached out for support for the first time in her life. G later described the anxiety and shame that she felt when initially reaching out for support.

'I never thought I would need to reach out for support. I remember walking up the driveway to St John's Care and contemplating turning around and leaving but I am so happy I didn't', she said.

Our staff and volunteers supported G with her pharmacy bills, and some healthier food options including fruit, vegetables and meat. After advocating on G's behalf, we have also arranged for some support caring for her child, allowing G to return to work and alleviating some of the financial stress she was facing.

Through the provision of support, advocacy, and referrals, SJC managed to walk with this family at a crucial time in their life and ensure that they did not fall into a cycle of disadvantage. G's child's health has improved, and we are excited to continue supporting her beyond her recovery. This is just one of the many client stories that would not be possible without the instrumental support we receive from those in our community – thank you.

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Suggested gifts for the present room: gift cards, Lego, Sports equipment, dolls/cars/figurines, board games, books, arts and crafts.



SURVIVING VIOLENCE

16 DAYS FOR AWARENESS AND ACTION ABOUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence occurs when one person uses their power in a family or a relationship to control the lives of loved ones through physical, social, psychological, emotional, financial or spiritual means because of their gender or sexual identity.

1 in 5 Australians experience gender-based violence in their lifetimes.

Women and girls.

Trans and non-binary people.

Boys and men.

It affects children, siblings and the elderly.

This problem is often hidden because of the shame and silence that envelopes it.

It goes unseen because many people don't know who to believe or what to do when it happens.

The truth is we can find better ways to address gender-based violence together.

The silence can be broken.

Healthy and vibrant relationships can grow.

Respect, equality and responsibility can flourish.

Join other Anglicans to find out more
www.tencommitments.org.au

WANNA HELP IN '25?

FAITH

HATE

FEAR

HOPE

LOVE

SHAME

When hate, fear and shame are everywhere, Holy Covenant encourages love, hope and faith. Why not learn how share this different path?

WHY NOT JOIN OUR:

worship team - a doorway to learn how to pray, read Scripture, or lead worship

music band - a chance to practice that instrument, sing in public, share songs

parish council - a place that explores ways to grow and develop ministry

DE-STRESS
hospitality crew - a gang that organises events and serve snacks

welcoming - meeting guests and visitors with a smile and coffee

kids and youth - helping padawans learn the art of faith, hope and love

AV mob - creatives that prepare slides, videos and run the camera systems

playgroup - meeting families in our neighbourhood

Covenant Care - helping carers by looking after loved ones on Mondays or outings

why not talk to a staff member today?

Changes to Safe Ministry Requirements—Anne McDowell (SMC)

Volunteers are the life blood of the Church; without you we couldn't function in the way we do or maintain our buildings and grounds. Your contribution is appreciated; you are all truly valued.

We have been advised by the Dioceses that all Category 4 Volunteers are now required to complete the Safe Ministries Essentials raining (Module 1) on-line.

If you're on the roster to read, lead intercessions, to be Minister of the Word or sides person, a part of the music ministry, operate the sound desk, help with morning tea, do admin tasks, counting, take part in the busy bees, or do any activities that contribute to the running of the church, this applies to you.

Over the next few weeks we will be sending an email to all those people who need to complete the training. This email will explain how to go about paying for (which will be covered by the Parish) and accessing the on-line training platform.

We ask that, if at all possible, you could complete the training by the end of January.

Thank you again for everything you do, for your work in these important areas of ministry and for your cooperation in ensuring Holy Covenant is a place of inclusion, diversity, compassion justice, peace and a safe, loving and caring community.



3 December
**International Day of
People with Disability**

The theme for IDPwD 2024 is *Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future.*

For events happening in Canberra, visit https://www.idpwd.com.au/events/calendar/?event_type=&filter=Filter&ppp=20&state=act

**CHRISTMAS
COMMUNITY
LUNCH**

**Thursday, 12 December 2024
12-2pm
\$5pp**

**Holy Covenant Anglican Church
89 Dexter Street, Cook**

Needing a (temporary) home for Hana

Our family are relocating to Japan for 10 months in 2025.

We are hoping to find a caring, temporary home for our dog Hana. She is a very well-trained seven year old cross-bred American Staffordshire Terrier, fully vaccinated and de-sexed.

Hana would be a wonderful companion for an individual or household that likes to walk each morning. If you're considering a dog as a pet, this could be a good chance to try before you buy!

We will cover the costs associated with keeping Hana, including food and any vet bills that arise.

If you are able to help, please contact Cleo on 0414 664 348 or at emailcleo@gmail.com



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ For people in Gaza, Lebanon and Israel, wanting peace as the ceasefire is breached.
- ⇒ For emergency workers in Ukraine.
- ⇒ For aid workers and people experiencing famine in Ukraine.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ For young people who may feel anxious and isolated as a result of the social media ban.
- ⇒ For respect and freedom for those experiencing gender-based violence.
- ⇒ For truth-telling and treaty initiatives in SA, WA and QLD in uncertain times.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ The Anglican Church of Australia
- ⇒ The Primate
- ⇒ The General Synod, Standing Committee, Boards, Committees and Commissions
- ⇒ The Bishops' Office
- ⇒ Anglican Diocesan Services
- ⇒ Anglican Investment Development Fund
- ⇒ Pray for: People affected by cost-of-living pressures; COVID-19; the strengthening of relationships between the twenty-three Dioceses of the Australian Anglican Church, the development of our life and witness as a National Church, and for our ecumenical relationships.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Stephanie, Nick and Zachariah Kizimchuk; Pam Lane; Anne and Martin Lange; Jenny Lange; Clare Lawlor; Chris Lee; Penny Lilley; and Lorna Loadman.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers, Bruce Barnes, Megan McKay, Bob & Hilary Harris, Joshua Salske, Ian Matters, James Collier and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dec** **Connie Gerrity**
- 4 Dec** **Sandra Button**

BIBLE READINGS

- Jeremiah 33: 14-16
- Psalms 25: 1-10
- 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
- Luke 21: 25-38

COLLECT

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert,
watching for your kingdom,
and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,
we may go out joyfully to greet him;
and, with all your saints,
may worship you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Assistant Minister

The Reverend Dr Bili Malek
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Youth Coordinator

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Wardens

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Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
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Covenant Care Program Manager

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Covenant Care Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Resources Team

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