

THIS WEEK @ ST PHILIP'S

Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Song of Mary; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

Roster: Preaching & Presiding: Rector **8am:** Sidesperson: ?; Liturgical Assistant: Elizabeth Allinson; Reader: David French **10am:** Welcomer: Volunteer; Sidespeople: Peter Andersson & Grace Barnes; Liturgical Assistant: Brian McKinlay; Music: Colin Forbes; Readers: Ann Munro (OT), Jarrah Palethorpe (NT); Communion Servers: Hardy Palethorpe & Volunteer; Morning Tea: Jan Gulliver & Ethel McInnes

Today 21st	8am	Eucharist
	10am	Eucharist
	1pm	Dinka Service
Wednesday 24th	5pm	Children's Christmas Service
	11pm	Carol Singing
	11:30pm	Sung Eucharist (Midnight Mass)
Thursday 25th	9am	Christmas Eucharist
Next Sunday 28th	8am	Eucharist
	10am	Eucharist
	1pm	Dinka Service

NEXT SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS 1

Readings: Numbers 6: 22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21

Roster: Preaching & Presiding: Rector **8am:** Sidesperson: Tim Woodburn; Liturgical Assistant: TBA; Reader: Shane Woodburn **10am:** Welcomer: Helen Palethorpe; Sidespeople: Louise and Matthew McKay; Liturgical Assistant: Robin Shannon; Music: Colin Forbes; Readers: Ashton Robinson (OT), Volunteer (NT); Communion Servers: Hardy Palethorpe & Revd Linda Anchell; Morning Tea: Self Serve in Lamerton Centre

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Wed 24 Dec	5pm	Children's Christmas Service
	11pm	Carol Singing;
	11.30pm	Sung Eucharist
Thu 25 Dec	9am	Eucharist



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 21 December 2014 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10am Music:

During Communion (From Handel's "Messiah")
Sung by Katie Cole, accompanied by Colin Forbes:
"Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion"

Hymns: 265, 287, 172, 283



Sentence of the Day

"This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end". Luke 1.32-33

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

We will be having one pew sheet from Sunday 28 December - Sunday 18 January. Christmas Services will have a separate pew sheet

For the Psalm: The Song of Mary (APBA pg. 31)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;

The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

I found the following in a book given to me for my birthday.

One night bandits came to the hermitage of an old monastic and said: "We have come to take everything in your cell." And the monastic said, "Take whatever you see, my sons." The bandits gathered up everything they found and went away. But they left behind a little bag with silver candlesticks. When the monastic saw it, he picked it up and ran after them, shouting. "Take these, take these. You forgot them and they are the most beautiful of all".

As Christmas approaches (only 4 sleeps!) it strikes me that this little story can teach us so much about possessions, giving and the quality of beauty. Perhaps I am turning into a middle aged grump but I do not see many signs of beauty or indeed outrageous generosity as exemplified by this old monastic. In our shops it is all cheap tinsel and more consumer goods sold to a population that already has too much. But at the heart of Christmas is the outrageously generous gift of God of God's very self in Christ our Lord. It is a gift given to a world that shows little sign of deserving such a gift. It is a gift that is beautiful since it opens for us the way of peace and reconciliation, salvation and wholeness. As Isaiah writes (52.7) and Paul cites in Romans (10.15) 'how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news'. As you ponder what you will give and receive this season I encourage you to think about what is beautiful that you can share and give away. Is it the precious beauty and gift of your time? Is it the compassion and patience you can offer to those around you? Is it a gift of money that can support the mission and values of a worthwhile charity? Something beautiful is not necessarily a material object. Something beautiful is what brings love and hope. If it is freely and unconditionally given it shines. Advent Blessings, Rebecca

Notices

Following the 10am service this morning, there will be a short memorial service for Joyce Webster where her remaining ashes will be placed in the memorial garden. All Welcome.

Youth Group is finished for the year. It will resume on **7 February**.

Please note there will be NO Thursday 10am Service on 1st January.

Prayer Points for this week

For those in Need: Our Injured and Unwell Clergy (Rebecca, Robin and Andrea); Revd Anne Ranse; Meg Colwell; Margaret Wicks; Margaret & Claude Woodbridge; Betty Heaton

In Remembrance/Commemorations: Thomas, Apostle and Martyr

For the Church: we pray for the Church in Lokoja Nigeria; British Columbia and the Yukon Canada; IN the Australian Church for the Bishops, clergy and people of the Riverina, Rockhampton and Sydney; We pray for the work of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia

The World: We pray for the families of the children massacred in Pakistan by Taliban terrorists; We pray for creative responses to terrorism and threat rather than meeting violence with violence. Pray for triumph of hope and love.

Australia: For the victims of the Sydney Siege in Martin Place this week; for The family of the 8 children who were massacred in Cairns on Friday. Be a light in the darkness Lord.

*Prayers as we light the Advent candles Advent 4 — The Virgin Mary
The priest prays:*

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son.

Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy.

Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

The fourth (purple) candle is lit. We pray together:

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother.**

**Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.**