



Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

<https://oatley.uca.org.au/>

Mission Statement: Loving, Caring, Transforming
our community through Jesus Christ.

1 December and 8 December, 2024

Advent 1 and Advent 2

A season of preparation, beginning the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ, past, present and future.

ADVENT and CANDLES

This morning, 1st December, we begin the season of Advent. Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of Jesus into our lives. We also prepare for Jesus' Birthday.

There is an Advent wreath which is a circle of candles that we light every Sunday in Advent to remind us about Jesus and His love for us at this time of year. The wreath is made of evergreen. Evergreen leaves never fall off at wintertime. Evergreen reminds us of the faith and hope we have in God through his Son Jesus.

The evergreen is arranged in a circle. A circle has no beginning or end. God's love has no beginning or end either. The circle is a reminder to us of God's love. There's a candle here for each Sunday in Advent, and one for Christmas day, the one in the middle. It's big and white. We call it the Christ candle.

Each candle represents a theme for each week of Advent — **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.**

- The First Candle, called the **Prophecy Candle** represents hope and the anticipation of Christ's coming, recalling the prophecies about the Messiah and the hope He brings to the world.
- The Second Candle, called the **Bethlehem Candle** symbolizes peace and preparation, reflecting Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the peace that Christ's birth brings.
- The Third Candle is called the **Shepherd's Candle**, and represents the joy felt at the birth of our Lord, as well as the joy we have in anticipation of His return;
- The Fourth Candle, called the **Angel's Candle** symbolizes love and the message of God's love that the angels announced at Christ's birth.

All the candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Rev Alex Thomas

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 1 December

Advent 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16 : Psalm 25:1-10

1Thessalonians 3:9-13 : Luke 21:25-36

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 8 December

Advent 2

Malachi 3:1-4 : Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11 : Luke 3:1-6



AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—The following were elected to Church Council. Welcome Robert Alderdice to Church Council.

Ian Watts—1 year
 Helen Phillips—1 Year
 Pip Watts—1 Year
 Robert Alderdice—2 years
 Ross Cooper—1 year
 David Holden—1 year



The following positions are held by members of the Congregation.

Congregational Chairperson—Ian Watts
 Congregational Secretary—Margaret Alderdice
 Presbytery Representative—Vacant
 Combined Rosters AM convenor— Ross Cooper
 Morning Communion – Julie Mactier
 Evening Communion – Margaret Staas
 Morning Tea convenors – Margaret Lacey, Marlene Woodham, Julie Mactier
 Hall Hire—Rosemary Cooper
 Newsletter— Pip Watts

Thank you everyone for your commitment to the life of our Church. A thank you to Margaret Alderdice who agreed to be Congregational Secretary after the meeting closed. Let's work together in the love of Jesus Christ.

OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET DAY—CHURCH CAFÉ

A huge thank you again to the wonderful people who contributed to the Café. We made \$1,088—but the day is really about serving and being a part of the Community. For those who made scones, donated jam, cream and milk and gave of their time in the kitchen—this was greatly appreciated!! The Lions Club of Oatley also had a successful day.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—will meet on 5 December and 19 December from 7.30—9.30pm at the Church. For further information see David Holden.

THANK YOU—To everyone in the congregation. I thank you for all your prayers and concern following my recent stay in hospital and recovery. I am now home and receiving loving care. Margaret Gregory

ADVENT BIBLE READING CHALLENGE—24 DAYS OF LUKE'S GOSPEL


Starting today, make time to read a chapter of Luke's Gospel each day leading up to Christmas Day. You will have read not only the entire book of Luke but also the life of Jesus.

SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICES

9.30AM


AND

6.00PM

 **The Kogarah Storehouse** operates out of Kogarah Uniting Church. They provide food hampers and fresh vegetables each week to people struggling to put food on the table. Please continue to give things that are necessary pantry items—long-life milk and non-perishable food items i.e. canned items, rice, pasta, tea, coffee, cereals, biscuits and even personal items—soap, toothpaste, shampoo.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- **LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2024** is 15 December to resume 26 January 2025
- **EVENING SERVICE 'CAROLS IN THE CARPARK':** 22 December @ 6pm for 6.30pm start. This is our outdoor service hoping that the community see and hear and come to join in.
- **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**—25 December @ 8.30am

 **KNIT2GETHER** in November A very busy morning for our last knitting morning for the year followed by a very enjoyable lunch together. We had a very successful day with our stall at the Oatley Lions Christmas Market Day where we raised \$755.00. We have \$1600 in total in our funds and we donated \$800 to Mortdale Public School and will donate a further \$800 to a school in Riverwood to assist disadvantaged students with school uniform, excursions etc. We have all enjoyed a wonderful year of friendship, assisting our local and wider community in many ways, having fun and we look forward to doing this all again next year when we next meet on Saturday 22 February. A BIG thank you to everyone for your support. Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210



..*And forgive us our debts,
As we have also forgiven our debtors" Matthew 6:12

This is the boldest petition. If you don't forgive, you don't receive forgiveness. The Christian lives through forgiveness. Our prayers are to be intentional, from the heart....but without forgiving others for something done to us or that we have done to others these prayers are blocked. Centre your heart when you pray.

'Debt' is a word that refers to something owed; something is due; something is an obligation to pay. To 'forgive' is to cancel; to wipe the slate clean.

In any act of forgiveness there is JUSTICE, MERCY and GRACE.

For all pastoral matters contact Rev Alex Thomas
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Hall Bookings: Please contact Rosemary Cooper
– on 0402 428 560 – for all Hall Bookings.
Please also let her know if you would like to borrow any equipment.
Your prompt return of any borrowed items is appreciated.



P—pause : R—rejoice : A—ask : Y—yield

Centre a time to pray and rejoice ...

- ◆ ... Your God is faithful and holy and loves you with all his power and might. Rejoice in his Son, God's expression of love .
 - ◆ ...and give praise for your salvation and the relationship you now have with God as part of His kingdom. Thank him for his Word. Rejoice in the things God has given you. Forgive others for the wrong they have caused you and seek forgiveness for the things you have done wrong.
- ... **Ask**
- ◆ ... for God's intervention in countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars. For the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies.
 - ◆ ... for a ceasefire in the Middle East. Change the hearts of our Arab and Jewish brothers to the Gospel.
 - ◆ ... that our Minister Alex and his wife Elizabeth continue to faithfully lead and support our church at Oatley.
 - ◆ ... that Linda and Geoff bring blessings in their Pastoral Care work.
 - ◆ ... that all our friends and loved ones in Nursing Homes—Grace & Ian McKay, Noelene Baker, Judy Walsh, Rhonda wife of Vic Stewart, Jean Watts and Norma Manwaring know God's peace, love and protection. We thank you that you are also caring for Rex and Coral Roberts .
 - ◆ ... that you give wisdom to the Church Council.
 - ◆ ... that we love and serve each other as a community in Christ and seek the will of God and grow in ministry in this place.
- ... **and continue to ask for**
- ◆our farming communities. Help them to remain resilient. Encourage the young to continue on the land.
 - ◆ ... those doing it tough because they have no home, no regular meals, no job.
 - ◆ ... aid agencies who support people in distress like The Wayside Chapel, The Bill Crews Foundation, the Kogarah Storehouse, Mission Australia....
 - ◆ ... our Government—for good leadership, wisdom, discernment, co-operation and collaboration. To stand for the truth and care for the disadvantaged.
 - ◆ ... Governments across our world.
 - ◆ ... the Uniting Church in Australia—that God's word is not compromised.

Let us allow the Holy Spirit to show each of us how best to pray—and to pray for all these things In the mighty name of Jesus—**Amen**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

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OR Email: pippa0183@gmail.com
Email heading subject: **NEWSLETTER**
