



### Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 9 am: Holy Communion (also streamed via ZOOM\*)

*(Hymns: TIS 161, The candle of hope (vv1-4), MP 479, TIS 290, MP 503 )*

\* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).  
Contact the Parish Office for the password.

*For Christmas Services see the back page*

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*

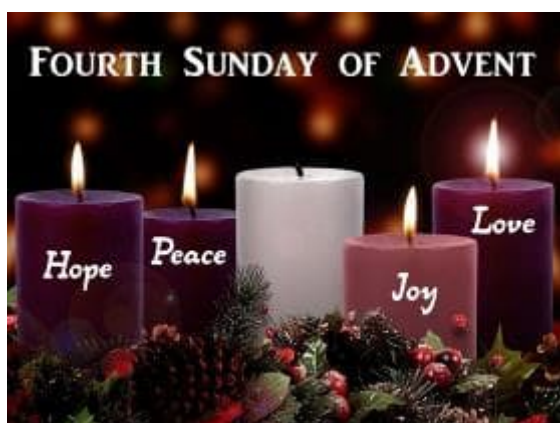
*Rev'd Timothy writes...*

Our readings so far in Advent have been focussing on prophecy; the promise of the coming Messiah. With this Sunday's readings it seems as if the Christmas story is upon us at last (just in time as this Sunday is also Christmas Eve!), with the Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary, and later, as Mary visits her cousin, her response in the words of the Magnificat. But here too there are words of prophecy, of Mary telling what the birth of her son would bring about. As Miriam, Hannah, Judith and Leah before her, Mary sings of the reversals that God's kingdom will bring in all dimensions of the world.



But here's a twist. The words on Mary's lips are in the past tense. Mary, before giving birth, speaks of her offspring's approaching mission as already accomplished. This is another example of God's time and human time being different. In Mary's words there are aspects of both anamnesis (recalling to memory) and prophecy (revelation of divine will). The first makes past history a present reality, so that we ourselves are experiencing it; the second pulls a future vision into the present. The resulting synergy reveals a vibrant now in which God's realm is complete and dwelling among us.

In the box alongside, I offer a version of the Magnificat in the form of an acrostic.



My soul magnifies the Lord,  
And my spirit rejoices in my saviour!  
Generations will call me blessed,  
Naming God as holy and mighty.  
In strength he has scattered the proud,  
Fed the hungry and left the rich empty.  
Israel will see his mercy again.  
Children of Israel, you know what he promised  
Abraham and his offspring for ever?  
This is happening now.

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## **Reminder of changed service times on 31st December.**

There will only be ONE service on Sunday 31st December. This will be held at 9am with zoom available, but will be the 7am service format. Please pass this on to others who may not be aware.

## Readings for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

### *First reading*

A reading from the 2nd book of Samuel

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' <sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup> Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord : Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

<sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' <sup>8</sup> Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from

the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

<sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

*2 Samuel 7:1-11,16*

### *Song of Mary*

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.

## Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Romans

<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

*Romans 16:25-27*

## Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Luke

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by

his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*Luke 1:26-38*

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## Reflect, Resist, Re-imagine

A child comes to us, "What can I do?" We say, "Use your imagination." Yet we often resist our instincts to re-imagine the church. We reflect and romanticize the "good old days" and choose to remain rather than re-imagine. How might we awaken our imaginations and live into God's love?

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 changes the theological understanding of the people of Israel from a God who is reactive to the ebbs and flows of the morality of the people to a God who is unconditionally present and participatory in the dynastic path of the people. The prophecy of Nathan creates a shift in the trajectory of a tribal people to

a nation state whose line of succession will be blessed forever. This theologically presents an enduring and unconditional love for the people of Israel, and it politically secures the Davidic succession.

Luke 1:46b–55 The song of Mary echoes the cries and songs of the Hebrew Scriptures; the foretelling of what is to come, of how God is at work in the world. The song is not in the future tense of what is to come but in past and present tenses, reflecting God’s activity in creation right now. This child that is to be born will manifest God’s will for the world that is fleshed out in Mary’s song.

Romans 16:25–27 expresses the power of God, who can strengthen through the words of Paul’s witness and testimony of Jesus the Christ. The writer wants us to ensure that everything that has been expressed so far in this letter reflects the very nature of God; one who is powerful, one who is open and accepting of those previously thought to be outsiders, one who projects wisdom and understanding.

The writer wants to project the power that God gives to those who have been eternally changed by God in Jesus the Christ, as is made evident in verse 25a. The transformative power of Christ is the focus of verse 25.

Luke 1:26–38 The church from early times has celebrated the births of John the baptizer and Jesus six months apart (June 24 and December 25). These dates are closely tied to the pagan celebrations of the summer and winter solstices.

However, the math doesn’t work, so let’s focus on purpose rather than precision. The nature or purpose of the message relayed by the angel is not changed. Gabriel appears to be the bringer of good tidings in the annunciations of these births. This gospel writer reinforces the Davidic dynasty by mentioning the lineage of Joseph and emphasizing a reign that will last forever. We are reminded of what is possible by the power of God and further persuaded by the news of Elizabeth. This text is the pinnacle of re-imagining: re-imagining who God will use; re-imagining how God will come into the world; re-imagining what it means to be a bearer of God.

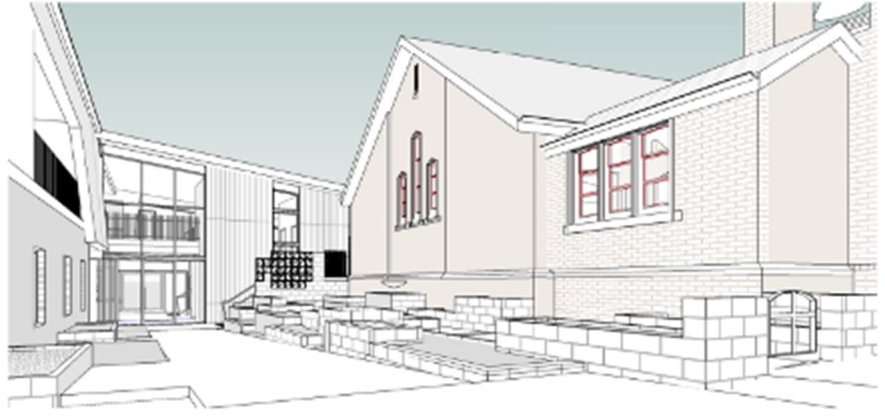
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This week’s scripture passages reflect God’s love for the world by highlighting the creative power of God. In 2 Samuel, the people theologically pivot from a God who shows conditional support to a God of unconditional love and abiding; re-imagining the dynamic between the people and God. In the gospel reading, we are challenged by the song of Mary – a song of God’s activity in the world, and a song of resistance. The letter to the Romans invites us to reflect on the transformative nature of the message of Christ which delves us into the re-imagining of who God is, of who God uses, and of who God calls us to be.

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## Redevelopment News

We were delighted, last weekend, to share the news that a tender has been received from a builder that falls within the budget approved by the diocesan authorities. With all the other



necessary approvals in place, this means that the diocese is moving forward with the contract and that we can expect the builders on site in February 2024.

The agreed scope of the project is as was outlined in my presentation on St Luke's Day this year.

Between now and then there are a number of things that we must do:

Memorial Garden:

A service of Evening Prayer to formally close the current garden will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm. After this (but before the builders come onto our site) all the ashes will be removed and stored securely under the church until they can be reinterred in the new Memorial Garden at the end of the project.

Halls and office clear out:

Working bees will be held on each Saturday in January to clear out the halls and parish centre. We will decide what is rubbish (and a skip will be ordered later in the month), what needs keeping, but accessible during the build (will be stored at the Rectory) and what needs storing until the conclusion of the build. All are welcome to come along and help whenever you are available. More details in the New Year.

Prayer:

Please join with me in giving thanks to God that our redevelopment project is now going ahead, and pray for all that needs to be done in both the preparation for the build, and to keep our ministries going during the build.

*Father, we thank you that your love for us never ends and your mercy never ceases. You call us to share this good news with our neighbours. We thank you for the vision to develop our site at St Luke's to provide a welcoming place for young families through a Christian Early Learning Centre, and for other opportunities to grow an intergenerational worshipping community. We give thanks for the wisdom of all those involved in the design and planning of the facilities, which has brought us to this stage. Give us all the assurance that it is through you, the God of heaven, that our endeavours will be successful. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ who taught us that we ought to build on the firm foundation that is faith in you. Amen*

# For our Prayers

## *Prayer for 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

## *The World*

Pray for all those working for peace in both Israel-Gaza and Ukraine.

## *Anglican Communion*

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

The Diocese of Tasmania: †Richard Condie; Assistant Bishop – †Chris Jones; Clergy and People

The Parish of St John's Cathedral: Peter Catt, Julia Van Den Bos, Ann Solari, Gemma Dashwood, Jamee-lee Callard, John Morgan, Bruce Henzell, Bruce Maughan, Mary Roberts, Mary Florence, Alwyn Hayes, Alan Sandaver, Terry Booth, Libbie Crossman, Linda McWilliam, Bruce Boase, Cheryl Selvage, Graham Dorman, Nicole Colledge, Ann McGuinness, Paul Mitchell, Stewart Perry, Sarah Plowman, George Markotsis, †Bill Ray, †Doug Stevens, Eleanor Mancini, Ros Clifton, Marian Free, Ron Bundy, Ross Burnett, Greg Jenks, Gary Harch, Richard Tutin, Daniel Hobbs, Brian Hughes

Abri Residential Aged Care – Gold Coast

Anglican Schools Australia Management Committee and Member Schools: President Peter Laurence

## *Our missionary partners*

Luke and Julia Collings and family, concluding their time serving with Bush Church Aid in Moranbah

## *Our parish*

Give thanks for the successful result of the tender process for our redevelopment.

## *Local Schools & Colleges*

Marshall Road Primary, Salisbury Primary, Yeronga Primary

## ***Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed***

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn McElnea, June McNicol, Ash and Joh, Cathy, Janette Hagerty, Rita Johnson, Sharon L.

## *From the Parish Book of Remembrance*

24 December: Herbert Thomas Rowe; 25 December: Jemima Alice Lampe;

26 December: Jean Elizabeth Stone; 29 December: Ivo Geoffrey Karl Wacker;

30 December: Beryl Mary Ricketts.

# CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY AT ST LUKE'S

*Come let us adore Him*

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

9am Holy Communion for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (also streamed on Zoom)

5pm Family service with nativity story and communion

11pm Holy Communion by candlelight (join us to sing carols from 10.30pm)

Christmas Day, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9am Family Service with communion (also streamed on Zoom)

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

9am Holy Communion for Epiphany (also streamed on Zoom)

Note: No 7am Service on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December

## Christmas Cake raffle

This raised \$210. Thanks to Maxine for the beautiful cake.

The winner was E48 (Alison L.)  
Second prize (chocolates) was E28 (Rose W.)

## Keep in touch:

- ✉ priest@stlukesekibin.org.au  
(Rector, Rev'd Timothy)
- ✉ admin@stlukesekibin.org.au (Office)
- ✉ families@stlukesekibin.org.au  
(Children's church)
- ☎ 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)
- ✉ P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121
- 🌐 www.stlukesekibin.org.au
- 📘 @stlukesekibin

Parish Wardens:

- Brian Wood (0466 656 149)
- Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)
- Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

## Services This Week:

**No evening prayer this week**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

*(Epiphany of our Lord)*

9am: Service of Holy Communion -  
7am style (St Lukes's / Zoom)

*No Children's Church*

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

## Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):

Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820

BSB 704 901

Or scan the QR  
code to give  
online:



[https://www.bpoint.com.au/  
pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1709377](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1709377)