



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: MP 162, Deep in darkness vv1-4, TIS 302, TIS 290, TIS 161)

Sunday 9am: Family Service (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: TIS 245, Deep in darkness vv1-4, MP 479, TIS 302, MP 170)

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

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Matthew 1.23

Rev'd Timothy writes...

The fourth Sunday of Advent, and *finally* we have some angel messengers, and the narrative of the nativity begins. This Sunday we read from the gospel of Matthew, starting with verse 18 of the first chapter: "Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way..."

What is interesting is that the word in Greek that is translated as birth is *genesis*. So the gospel writer is painting a much bigger picture. In the Hebrew scriptures, as in our bibles, the first book is Genesis and tells of the God's

creative work. Hence here we are to see that Jesus brings about a New Creation. Thus the whole of the gospel is the writer telling this message.

In our Advent Study this year, we have been reflecting that the story of Jesus is much more than just his birth and the events of Good Friday/Easter Day. Often at Christmas we say we are celebrating his Incarnation, but again this really includes much more than just a birth. It is in the whole of Jesus' life that he brings about the new Creation; he is God incarnate.

One might wonder why we start reading this week at verse 18. If you take a look at verses 2-17 they are a long genealogical list of names, starting from Abraham and leading to Joseph. In verse 1, the gospel writer prefaces this with "an account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. But the Greek word, here translated as genealogy is *genesis*. The origin of Jesus and the New Creation, is bound in the long story of God and God's people.



Thank you to all those who contributed to our well attended Community Sausage Sizzle and Carol Service last Sunday

It truly was a joyous Christmas event.

A collection of \$600 was taken up to support 96five, the Christian radio station in their community outreach work.



Readings for 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10–16 Isaiah prophesies that God will give a sign to the House of David. This sign will be a virgin—young woman—giving birth to a son and naming him Immanuel.

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19 A psalm pleading for God's restoration and God's face to shine upon the people that they may be saved. The psalmist asks how long God's anger will smoulder.

Romans 1:1–7 The beginning of the letter to the Romans introduces Paul and his faith in Jesus Christ. The writer emphasises the importance of ministry among the Gentiles.

Matthew 1:18–25 An angel appears to Joseph, telling him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, even though she is pregnant. Joseph remains faithful to Mary and, after the birth of the child, names him Jesus.

First reading

A reading from the book of Isaiah

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying,

¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;

² Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:

stir up your power, and come to save us.

³ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

⁴ O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.

⁶ You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸ And so we shall not turn back from you:

give us life, and we will call upon your name.

¹⁹ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Romans

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:1-7

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Word of the Day

It is important to understand the context of the passage we read from Isaiah today. Being in the early part of Isaiah, this passage was written in a time of great turmoil in the Middle East (some things never change). The conflict referred to in Isaiah 7 is the Syro-Ephramite War of 734 BCE. Israel (or Ephraim) had united forces against Judah. King Ahaz of Judah was considering appealing to Assyria, the power force of the day, for help against Israel and Syria. In response, God assures that they will not

Gospel Reading

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

overcome Judah. And how will they know? In response God will give them a sign. A young woman will conceive and give birth to a son, whom she will call Immanuel.

Before we assume this refers to Jesus, we need to read ahead a little to Isaiah 8, where Isaiah and the prophetess conceive and bear a child. His name is not Immanuel, but Maher- Shalal-Hash-Baz. A few verses later, however, the land in which they live is named Immanuel. All this happens before the child can utter the words, 'This is my mother and this is my father.'

This is a story about how to deal with fear, distress and disappointment in life. Our natural instinct when faced with fear is to fight back. King Ahaz took it upon himself to join forces with Assyria and fight against their oppressors. At the time of Jesus' birth, things were not too different. Under Roman occupation, the people were living in fear and distress. What was the answer? To live as oppressed people or to fight back?

Matthew knew that his listeners would be familiar with the stories from the war days, and so he uses the same pattern to speak to them in the first century. Judah was living in a time of fear, and so are we. God told Judah to be patient and wait for a child to be born. Matthew tells his listeners to be patient and wait for the birth of a child. This child, Immanuel, whether born in 734BCE or 2000 years ago, is a sign of hope and peace.

We don't know much about what became of Isaiah's son, but we certainly know about Jesus. He lived and breathed love, peace, and compassion. How did he react in the face of fear? With love. How did he respond when he was threatened? With compassion. How did he reach out to those who were different to him? With peace.

When we hear of people in need and reach out in compassion, Immanuel is born into the world. When we feel threatened by people who are different and open our arms wide in welcome, Immanuel is born into the world. When we learn to live with what we need and share our excess with those in need, Immanuel is born into the world. When anger burns within us and we choose to react with peace, Immanuel is born into the world.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where will Immanuel appear in the lives of the 21st century? In us?
- Is it so difficult to conceive that we might be Immanuel in this community and in this world? This is precisely what the incarnation is about, us being Christ's body, the hands and feet of God.
- If it is difficult to fathom, let us remember what the word Immanuel means. With us is God. We do not share this love, joy and peace out of our own strength; it is God with us that gives us the words and the actions. It is God who acts within us.
- How does this change being Immanuel in the world?

CHRISTMAS AT ST LUKE'S EKIBIN

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

5pm Family service with nativity story
and communion

11pm Holy Communion by candlelight

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

9am Family Service with communion
also streamed on Zoom,
contact the office for details

193 Ekibin Road East, Tarragindi

3848 2123

www.stlukesekibin.org.au

Inala Careforce

Thank you to all who contributed to our recent collection for Inala Careforce. A car-load of goods, including toys and non-perishable food, has been taken to Inala, together with \$1,120 in cash. You can still donate via the collection plate or online (mark your donation 'Inala').



For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The World

Pray for those who have lost their lives at Bondi Beach last Sunday and those who are grieving for them this Christmas.

The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Burundi

The Diocese of Rockhampton: †Peter Grice; Clergy and People

The Parish of Coolum: Karen Allen, Richard Gowty, Jocelyn Pitt, Jim McPherson, Richard Bowie

The Park – Centre for Mental Health, Wacol

All Saints Anglican School, Merrimac: Headmaster – Matthew Corbett; Chaplain – Ann McGuinness; Chair of School Council – John Fradgley; members of School Council; staff & students

Our missionary partners

The work of CMS workers sent by the Queensland and Northern New South Wales branch.

Local Schools and colleges

Yeronga High, Mansfield High, Holland Park High, Mt Gravatt High, Brisbane State High

Our parish

Pray for those who will come to our services over Christmas, that they will hear a message of hope.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

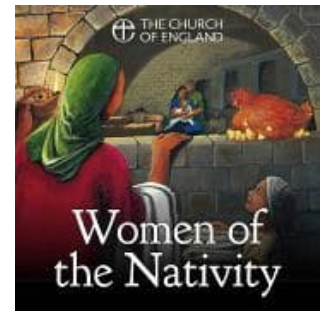
Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn and Maxine McElnea, Rita Johnson, Sharon L., Margaret Sheehan, Don & Deb Rennie, Georgina Crawford, Glenda, Sue, Liz and Angie Lockhorst, Rev'd Shane Hubner, Natalie McHue, Lynette Coop, Sue, Rose, Al, Nancy Capern, Jennifer D, Sandy Tonello. Mary Bickerdike, Lee.

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

21 December: Norman Donald McLean, Patricia Beames; 22 December: John Edward Erickson, Geoffrey George Crittall; 23 December: Kathleen Joan Williams; 24 December: Herbert Thomas Rowe; 25 December: Jemima Alice Lampe; December 26: Jean Elizabeth Stone.

Women of the Nativity

These stories by Paula Gooder continue during the 11pm service in church on Christmas Eve and at Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6pm on Saturday 27th December, Thursday 1st January and Tuesday 6th January.



Containers for Change

Donate your '10c refund' bottles and cans to St Luke's. Either by bring them to church or take them direct to TOMRA (9/655 Toohey Road, Salisbury) and use the parish code: C10686424

Also part of St Luke's:

**Little Angels
Tarragindi**

Anglican Childcare
opening early 2026:

littleangels.qld.edu.au



St Luke's Theatre Society:
stlukestheatre.asn.au

Keep in touch:

 priest@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Rector, Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson)


 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

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Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)

Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

Services This Week:

Tuesday 23rd December

6pm: Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Wednesday 24th December

5pm: Family service with
communion (St Luke's)

11pm: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

Thursday 25th December

9am: Family Communion
(St Luke's / Zoom)

Saturday 27th December

6pm: Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Sunday 28th December

(Sunday after Christmas)

9am: Holy Communion
(St Luke's/Zoom)

*Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148,
Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23*

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