

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



Jesus the Saviour is born!

NEWS JANUARY 3, 2021

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602 0449 504 228

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

Church 4805 1120

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SUNDAY JANUARY 3 9.30am

Praying Together Kyabram, Cooma

Readings Jer 31.7-14 Ps 147.12-20 Eph 1.3-14 John 1.10-18

Worship Rev Loni Vaitohi

READINGS FOR JANUARY

Jan 6 *Epiph* Is 60.1-6 Ps 72.1-7,10-14 Eph 3.1-12 Matt 2.1-12

Jan 10 *Baptism* Gen 1.1-5 Ps 29 Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1.4-11 [51

Jan 17 1 Sam 3.1-10 Ps139.1-6,13-18 1Cor 6.12-20 John 1.43-

Jan 24 John 3.1-5,10 Ps 62.5-12 1 Cor 7.29-31 Mark 1.14-20

Jan 31 Deut 18.15-20 Ps111 1Cor 8.1-13 Mark 1.21-28

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the region, the Peoples of the Yorta Yorta Nations, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP

Zoom, Live Streaming and recording

Due to technical issues Worship will not be video recorded or streamed live via zoom or Youtube.

You can join us in person at 134 Corio Stree, Shepparton or head to our website for other online alternatives.

SHEPPARTON RURAL CONGREGATIONS

Shepparton Congregation warmly welcomes members from the Rural Cluster to worship with them on January 3

PASTORAL PRAYERS

Your prayers are invited for all who are not well, and especially for those in hospital. We rejoice with those who have returned home, including Thelma and with all who have had good health reports.

The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle this week invites prayers for Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

In the Presbytery, this week we pray for Kyabram and Cooma.

The Uniting Church Assembly invites our prayers for the ever-growing number of sick and dying in the world COVID-19 pandemic, for all church members and leaders seeking to bear witness to the light of Christ in a darkened world, and for a world free from gender-based violence.

CHURCH ROSTERS 2021

As we return to face-to-face worship, rosters will be required for the various tasks to be done each Sunday.

Lorraine will compile rosters for **January only** and would be pleased to hear from anyone who is willing to be rostered for

Opening and closing the church

Welcome and signing in people on the tablet - two required

Readings

Counting the offering

Flowers

The AudioVisual team would welcome anyone who would like to join it and is happy to teach the skills required.

Lorraine would be very happy to hear from people interested in undertaking the most important task of preparing the rosters.

PRESENT FOR EVERY SEASON

Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

as one year ends and a new one begins,
we mark the turning of time and season with thanks and remembering

we give thanks for the lives born this year,
and pray for your presence with parents and carers of children

we remember the people who died this year,
and pray for your presence with the sick and dying

we give thanks for all kinds of seeds planted this year,
for your presence with those who plant and nurture, sow and reap

we remember all that came to an end this year,
in good time or too soon; and we pray for healing and peace

we give thanks for things built – homes, businesses, communities,
relationships,
and we pray for your presence with those who build

we remember the things that were dismantled this year,
and we pray for your presence with all who feel bereft

we give thanks for the good times this year,
and for those with whom we laughed, rejoiced, delighted

we remember the times we wept this year,
and those who comforted us, and let us comfort them

we give thanks for the songs, the dances, the poems, of this year,
and for the artists who enrich our community, showing us who we are

we remember the laments of this year,
and we pray for your presence with all who mourn

we give thanks for our bodies, with which we embrace life and each other,
and pray for wholeness and strength for each other and ourselves

we remember the times we've had to hold back this year,
and we pray with hope for our coming together again

we give thanks for curiosity and wonder, for all we've learned this year,
and pray for your presence with teachers in every guise

we remember the things we've had to let go this year,
and pray for courage to endure cocoons so as to grow new wings and fly

we give thanks for the menders, repairers, restorers,
and pray for your presence with wounds and stitches still healing

we remember the rips, tears, breaks of this year,
and we pray for forgiveness all round

we give thanks for silence that has helped us to hear,
we pray for no more of the silence that exacerbates injustice

we give thanks for the stories, wisdom, experience we hold,
and we pray for discernment in using our voice

we give thanks for love, to give and receive,
and we pray for friends for the lonely

we remember the times we've hated this year,
righteous rejection of injustice and unhelpful blaming and shaming

we give thanks for your peace that we do not
fully understand, so must keep learning by living it

we remember the battles we have fought this year,
and pray for your presence as we continue the struggles
of climate change, for Black Lives – which matter –
with responses to the Covid, and with recovery
from fire and flood, storms and drought

in every season, with every turning,
you are with us, you are listening;
Thank you for your presence
through this year that has ended,
thank you for your presence
into the year just beginning. Amen.

Rev Dr Sarah Agnew, Canberra Uniting Church December 25,
<http://praythestory.blogspot.com> Used with permission