

# SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

## SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



### **NEWS DECEMBER 24, 25, 26, 2021**

*'For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us.'* Is 9.6

*'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'* Lk2

#### **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**

Website [sheppartonuc.org.au](http://sheppartonuc.org.au)

Email [sheppartonuca@inet.net.au](mailto:sheppartonuca@inet.net.au)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 24** Christmas Eve Family Worship  
Rev Joan Fisher; Joan McRae 7.00pm

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 25** Christmas Day Rev Loni  
Vaitohi 9.30am

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 26** Christmas 1 Rev Glenys Gill  
Readings 1 Sam 2.18-20, 26 Ps 148 Col 3.12-17 Lk 2.41-52  
Praying Together Corryong, Walwa Alpine Reg Resource Ministry

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

## SHEPPARTON WORSHIP DECEMBER 24, 25 and 26

There are two options for worship Christmas Eve, and Sunday December 26: *Worship in the church* at the given time or *Worship online*, using Youtube.

Go to [www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting](http://www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting)

When the appropriate service link comes with the video link: click the link and you will be taken to the service. This may take a short while.

**Worship Christmas Day:** Worship will be in person only, there will be no Youtube Worship.

**SUNDAY MORNING CONVERSATION AFTER WORSHIP**  
has been discontinued.

## CHANGES FOR WORSHIP, ALL SERVICES

**COVID Marshalls** will ensure that you are correctly checked in – QR code

**Proof of double vaccination is no longer required for worship as of Thursday December 16. Masks are now mandatory for worship in Victoria**, and anywhere indoors, except houses, from midnight, December 23. Christmas services have been noted as times of high risk for COVID infections.

**RURAL CONGREGATIONS FRIDAY DECEMBER 24, DOOKIE**  
**Christmas Service** Rev Loni Vaitohi 9.00PM

**Christmas Day** 



**Merry Christmas!**

Thousands of refugees are arriving in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, after fleeing conflict in their home countries. Our local partner provides care for women and girls who have survived gender-based violence and those who need specialised medical care. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping support people to overcome the challenges and trauma they've faced, and live life in safety and dignity. **Please give today.**

  
**Christmas Bowl**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SHEPPARTON

Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity story. Adults can join in, too,

**First Sunday after Christmas**



**Thank you!**

In a world that often feels divided, you've come together with churches across Australia to stand alongside those uprooted by conflict and disaster. Thank you for standing with Act for Peace's local partners to bring practical care – as well as hope, peace, joy, love and light – to people in urgent need around the world.

By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

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**CHRISTMAS BOWL ENVELOPES are available on the narthex table; online gifts are also most welcome.**

### PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Bron, Lea, Lisa and her family, Emma Fethney, the family of Martha Smith (died December 18) and Jan Le Quesne, whose brother died in Jersey, December 19.

*The Presbytery prays* for Corryong, Walwa and the Alpine Regional Resource Ministry.

*The WCC invites prayers* for the lands and peoples of the nations of Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan.

*The Assembly prays for*

\*The Devonport community. We pray for the families and friends of the children who died, their classmates, emergency workers who responded and all those providing care for the community. The President, Rev Sharon Hollis, and the Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch, offered prayers for the families and friends of those who died and their classmates. Alison Overeem, Leprena UAICC Tasmania Manager offered a reflection expressing the love, care and compassion of all in Lutrawita (Tasmania).

\*The people of the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Rai which killed more than 300 people. We pray for those mourning lives lost and families who have been displaced or left without food and water.

\*Uniting Church communities of faith and all Christians who will celebrate

the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We pray we will be united in and transformed by God's hope, peace, joy and love.

### **CHRISTMAS CHEER**

Val and Trevor Gibbs report that, with generous support from members of the congregation and others, 35 families received hampers of food, necessities and gifts and toys for children. The families ranged from one to eleven people. Your generosity has helped share Christmas Cheer with those in need.



### **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

WCC Acting General Secretary, Rev Prof Dr Ioan Sauca, has shared a Christmas message reflecting on the intrigue and challenge of the Christmas story and urging us to find new ways of living that express our care for future generations.



Gracious and loving God,  
cut through the tinsel  
and glitter of Christmas  
to remind us of this -  
The most precious gift  
that we can be given  
will never be wrapped  
in anything more lavish  
than swaddling bands.

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