



Burnside City
Uniting Church

This Sunday @ BCUC

1st December - Advent : Love

9:00am Contemporary, 10:30am Classic : Rev Dr Benji Callen

Jesus is Coming

Matthew 24:36-44; Romans 13:11-14

10:30am Café : Rev Rob Williams

Turn on the Lights

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

Upcoming Week @ BCUC

Monday 2nd December

10:00am mainly music

1:30pm Monday Day Fellowship

Tuesday 3rd December

9:30am Ladies Table Tennis

9:30am Playgroup

2:00pm BCUC Cares

Wednesday 4th December

7:45am Prayer Meeting

9:30am Prayer Meeting

12 noon "Unwrapping Joy"

Thursday 5th December

12noon Friendship Club

6:00pm Worship & Music Ministry

7:15pm Choir Practice

Saturday 7th December

7:00pm Sri Lankan Christian Fellowship

Sunday 8th December

12noon Prayer Meeting

12noon Seniors 2nd Sunday Lunch

Next Sunday @ BCUC

8th December - Advent : Joy

9:00am Children's Nativity Service

10:30am Lessons & Carols

10:30am Café : Colette Williams

The kingdom of heaven is near

Matthew 3:1-12

Prayer Requests: prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au

If you require more information please contact the church office or visit our website.

T: 8331 3914 E: admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au W: www.burnsidecityuc.org.au

384 Portrush Road, Tusmore 5065

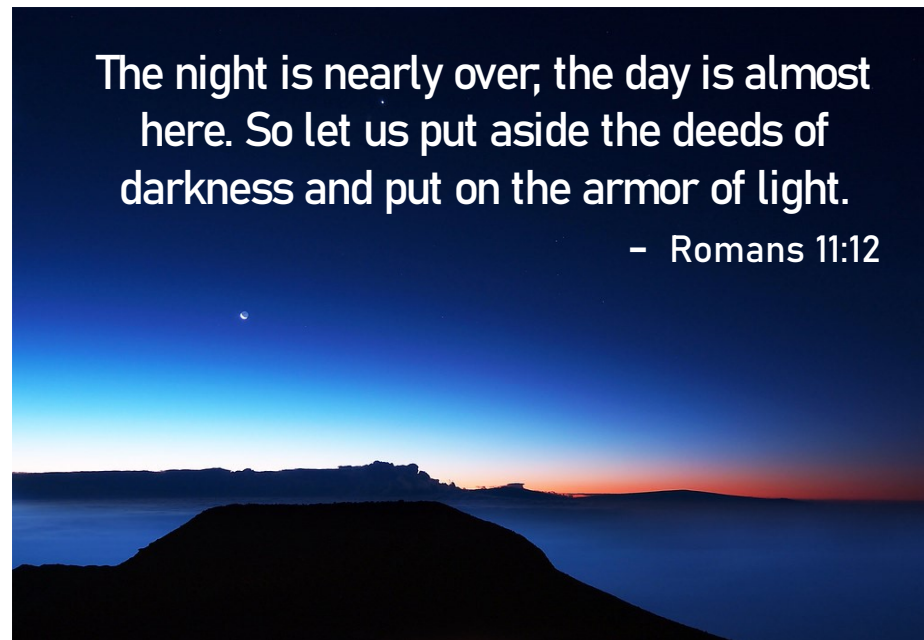
Sunday 1st December 2019

WELCOME

*Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service
so that we can get to know each other better.*

The night is nearly over, the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- Romans 11:12



Ministry Team Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Benji Callen 0427 792 869; benjic@burnsidecityuc.org.au

Day off : Monday

Minister in Assoc: Rev Rob Williams 0424 123 171; robw@burnsidecityuc.org.au

Administrator : Stuart MacAdam 8331 3914; admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au

Mon - Fri, 9am - 4:30pm

Ministers are available for Pastoral Care as required.



BCUC : Raising Children of God

A MESSAGE FROM BENJI

It's the first Sunday of Advent! Maybe you have kids like mine who woke up this morning and opened their cardboard windows to find a Christmas themed sliver of cheap European chocolate to eat. A sure sign that Christmas is coming, Jesus is near, the countdown begins. However, the church season of advent has not been just about counting down to Christmas Day. The lectionary readings are often focussed on the theme of Jesus is coming... again. Scholars like to call it the apocalyptic texts. Things such as:

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Today's reading says: *Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24:42-44*

This line of Christian thought has historically attracted the attention of the religious fringe. With all sorts of speculation about exactly how and when the second coming, the great tribulation, the rapture or the apocalypse will occur. For example recent history tells of a group of people who sold everything they owned and built a makeshift grandstand to watch Jesus come walking in through the heads of Sydney Harbour, which must have been rather embarrassing for them when he didn't show up.

You may be like me and have observed this kind of behaviour and talk then wanted to distance yourself from it. Our loss is that we ignore and even dismiss a vital understanding of the Christian faith. Over the next few weeks we will address this gap. Keep in mind the condensed understanding of the second coming of Jesus that Dean Brooks recently explained to me.

1. Jesus promised he will return. Human history is linear. There is an alpha and omega, a beginning and an end with Jesus in control of both.
2. We don't know when it will happen. Even Jesus on earth didn't know. There will be signs like windows in an advent calendar, but we don't know how many windows there are. Just trust and wait.
3. Live your life now as if it is imminent. As the bumper sticker says: "Look busy, Jesus is coming". Be reconciled to the people around you, sort it out, get a clean slate now with God and with others, don't wait, just be ready and follow the Scout Motto "Be Prepared".

(In keeping with this theme the Christmas decorations this advent will be minimal compared to those you find in shopping malls. We will emphasise the coming of Christ like the darkness of the earth giving birth to a new day. Look out for decorations highlighting the trumpet call of God.)

THIS WEEK'S NEWS & NOTICES

Playgroup Farm Barn @ BCUC

December 10 from 9:30am. All children ages 0 to 5 are invited to this special Playgroup year end event. Come and see/hold a variety of baby farm animals. Cost \$4.

Children's Nativity Service

The younger members of our Church, their family and friends are again excited to bring you the story of the Nativity. Sunday 8 November 2019 at 9.00am Please stay afterwards and share morning tea with us.

Youth Bowling Night

December 6. Meet at 7:00pm at BCUC.

Dr Jon's Pantry

New season's tomato relish is now available in the pantry! Come and browse and maybe find a small Christmas gift.

BCUC Cares - Christmas Hamper

Uniting Communities at Clayton Wesley Church appreciates all hamper items donated for families in need. Hamper donations may be placed in the usual marked boxes in the church foyer. Suggested Christmas Hamper items include:

- Christmas Cake/Pudding
- Coffee, Tea, Milo, Soft Drinks
- Longlife Custard
- Biscuits/Cracker, Chips/Lollies
- Canned Fruit/Vegetables
- Canned Tuna, Ham or Turkey
- Spreads, Soup, Cereal
- Other non-perishable foods
- Toys

New Church Councillors

Congratulations to those elected to the church council at last Sunday's AGM. The new and re-elected councillors are Thomas Pruszinski, Valerie Aloa, Nirmal Robinson, Tim Piper, Annette LeMay, and Christine You.

Presbytery Decision

At last Sunday's AGM. the members of the congregation voted and chose that BCUC would join the Generate Presbytery.

Monday Day Fellowship

2nd December, 1:30pm featuring the Adelaide Youth Orchestra String Quartet.

Christmas Psalm Booklet

Submit your psalm to bcucchats@burnsidecityuc.org.au by 10 December.

Seniors Second Sunday Lunch

December 8 at noon. Come and join us for friendship, fun and food. Chicken & Salad plus a fruit platter.

Netball Christmas Celebration

TODAY, 6pm @ BCUC

Dinner, drinks, and ice cream. Activities, carols, and a Christmas message. Free! Congregation invited.

Summer Events for Children / Youth

CE Camp (ages 14 - 20)

Dec 29 - Jan 2
visit ce.asn.au

Jnr CE Camp (ages 9 - 13)

January 5 - 9
visit ce.asn.au/junior-camp

Big Week Out (high school aged)

January 13-17
visit bigweekout.org.au

Please e-mail articles for the BCUC weekly news to Stuart MacAdam at admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au no later than 10am on Wednesday