



“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus Christ”

In The Wilderness

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“In the wilderness” - a potentially overlooked setting for the prophetic tidings of our dear friend John the Baptist. We are usually eager to get to the words of a prophet and make sure to pay attention to what the prophet has to say. After all, a prophet is worth listening to, right? And John the Baptist is most clearly a prophet worth our time -- if you can channel Elijah, if you might actually be Elijah, you certainly have something going for you in the biblical prophet world.

John appears in the wilderness and cries out from the wilderness. Before we try to make sense of or interpret John’s prophecy, perhaps a point of preaching might be the place from which he prophesies. As much as we should focus on the identity and the foretelling of the prophet, we can’t overlook a prophet’s place. Why? Because a prophet’s place gives a prophet purpose. A prophet’s place locates the testimony to an explicit need. Prophecy means nothing if it does not touch the specificity of setting and site.

Perhaps not a very popular truth. We’d rather prophesy on behalf of an unvarying god - a god who mediates godly things by certain rules and regulations, expectations and expedencies. Believing in a god who might be swayed by location suggests chance, change, and adaption, all of which are rather challenging characteristics for a deity.

We tend to forget that the prophets in “Old Testament Times” were not doomsayers or predictors of the future. They were truth-tellers of the present. They were able to speak about what would be only insofar as the past and the present, God’s past and present, determined a certain trajectory.

Prophetic speaking is never an abstract activity. It is deeply contextual. Radically locational. Absolutely circumstantial. Otherwise, to speak prophetically is nothing other than offering morals or advice, lessons for living, things to do, how to be better, or ways to be an activist, yet without any perceived purpose. To speak prophetically will fall flat if we are not aware of our location - on all levels. “In the wilderness” reminds us that our speech is never, ever neutral, generic, standard, or status quo.

You are prophetic when you speak in and from and to the place people are.

Sunday December 8

9.30am **Worship Service: Prince of Peace**
with Chris Goringe

Organist: Min Jung Cha

Crèche: Stephanie Gourlay

5.30pm **Worship Service: Prince of Peace**
with Stuart Powell & Chris Goringe

Bible readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7,18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Coming up next week

Mon Prayer meeting 8.00pm

Tues Kids Play Time 10.00am

Church Council 7.30pm

Thurs Kids Play Time 10.00am

Different Christmas Service 6.00pm

Sun Service of Lessons and Carols 9.30am

Sunday December 15

9.30am **Service of Lessons and Carols**
with Chris Goringe

Organist: Robert Bevan with Matthew

Sproat (Organ Scholar)

Crèche: Helen Tweeddale

5.30pm **Worship Service: Prince of Peace**
with Michaela Antill-Cassie & Kristy Morgan

This will be our last 5:30 Worship of the year so please join us and if you can, stay afterwards for dinner.

Bible readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

If you missed Chris’ sermon at the **Interchurch Heraldng Advent Service**, it is available on our Church website.

Please return your **Stewardship Program forms** to help us manage our finances.



Prince of Peace

Different Christmas – a service for people facing sadness
6.00pm Thursday 12 Dec

Service of Lessons and Carols 9.30am Sunday 15 Dec

Messy Christmas – noisy, creative, meaningful
time together for children & adults 4.00pm Christmas Eve

Communion Service 9.00pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Family Service 9.30am Christmas Day

Summer holiday church services are each Sunday at 9.30am. Five Thirty Worship concludes 15 Dec and resumes 2 Feb.



Kids Hope Aus is Australia's largest early intervention, school-based mentoring program. It has been positively impacting the lives of children in Australia since 2004

by creating an affiliation between churches and local schools. Roseville Uniting Church will be participating in this program in 2020. For further information refer to their website or speak to Chris Goringe or Pauline Callan.

RESOURCE CENTER

This week at the Resource Centre

As you drop by at the Resource Centre this week, take a few moments to find something that is just right for you during this Advent season. Some suggestions for your times of quiet reflection....

Advent. A Journey through Luke. Tom Wright

The Making of the Messiah. Reflections and Studies of Advent. Bob Faser.

Where Love is, There God is Also. Leo Tolstoy

Margot Higgins and Patrick Morris

Messy Christmas

"It may have been a silent night when Jesus came to earth, or... it may have been a NOISY night to celebrate His birth."

Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with young and old. Be prepared for a noisy, joyful, messy time with activities, games, carols and a BBQ dinner.

4.00pm Christmas Eve 24 December in the church & hall

Prayer

- For the continuing bushfire crisis, and all those struggling with poor air quality.
- For our "Different Christmas" service on Thursday, that those for whom Christmas is a challenging time will find it helpful.
- For teachers and students coming towards the end of the school year.
- For all attending the UN Climate Change Conference, that genuine progress will be made.

Roseville Uniting Church Useful Gifts

Christmas gifts with a difference...Poverty-Fighting Gifts To Suit Any Budget!

Buy online from the RUC Useful Gift Shop and support TEAR Australia projects



<http://useful.gifts/aD1V6>



NEWPIN (CHILD RESTORATION)

Newpin (New Parent and Infant

Network), through Uniting, is about

bringing parents and their children back together, stronger than ever. It's our aim to provide opportunities for parents to therapeutically address their personal and family issues and help their children transition out of care and into a positive, parental environment.

Please supply (unwrapped) gifts for children up to 10 years old, for parents to give to their children.

Roseville Ministry Contacts

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