



# ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

## *“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”*



[roseville.unitingchurch.org.au](http://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au)



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

### CHRISTMAS, I WONDER

This year (indeed, every year), many of us come to Christmas in a way that doesn't seem to quite fit. Perhaps we arrive at the end of advent in a blur of activity, or perhaps we find ourselves overwhelmed by all the news of suffering and darkness in the world, or perhaps events in our lives make it difficult for us to celebrate the way we feel we ought.

So it's probably good to remember that the Christmas story itself doesn't really fit the "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" mould. Yes, the shepherds, glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen, but there is also a mother having to give birth far from home and family, a census imposed by a distant empire, the flight to Egypt to avoid the jealousy of a king.

Christmas doesn't demand celebration. There is much to celebrate in the arrival of Emmanuel, God with us, but that isn't the tone of the Christmas narratives.

Instead, Christmas invites wonder.

The shepherds were amazed and went to see, Mary pondered in her heart, the Magi sought answers in the skies and the cities. Christmas is a mystery which invites us to hear and rehear the story, and to wonder what it might mean.

So come, hear the story, once more.

#### ***Come, hear the story by Christine Jerrett***

God is telling a story in our lives.

It's quite a story-  
full of the promises God makes  
and our struggles to trust;  
full of mystery and angels  
with surprising news;  
full of hard endings  
and unexpected new beginnings.  
Come, hear the story

pay attention to the angels' message  
in your heart  
in this place and time.  
Then join all creation

in worshipping the God  
who tells it  
full of grace and truth;  
who comes in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
and makes our story holy.

Chris

### ***Sunday December 22nd***

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**  
**Organist: Sean Weatherley**  
*In person and online...*

5.30pm **Shared Meal**

### ***Tuesday December 24th***

9.00pm **Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion with Chris Goringe**  
*In person and online...*

### ***Wednesday December 25th***

9.30am **Christmas Day Worship Service with Chris Goringe**  
**Organist: Sean Weatherley**

### ***Sunday December 29th***

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**  
**Organist: Sean Weatherley**  
*In person and online...*

### ***Sunday January 5th***

9.30am **Worship Service with Gunther Rossmanith and Amanda Jones**  
*In person and online...*

### ***Sunday January 12th***

9.30am **Worship Service with Amanda Jones**  
*In person and online...*

### ***Sunday January 19th***

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Dan and Jan Reeve**  
*In person and online...*

### ***Sunday January 26th***

9.30am **Worship Service with Jan Reeve**  
*In person and online...*

#### ***Links***

[Service live \(or replay\) streaming](#)

[Zoom \(for meetings\)](#)

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)



Image:  
<https://kellylatimoreicons.com/en-au/blogs/news/christ-in-the-rubble>

## Join us in prayer....

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
 Prince of Peace

You are breaking and have broken in

Into our lives, into our world

Your light has entered into darkness, bringing hope  
 amidst despair, joy amidst grief

Your law is love and your gospel is peace

We change, and all things change, when you break in

Thank you that you are with us, now in the Advent  
 season, on Christmas Day, in the week following  
 Christmas when things often seem flat, and going with us  
 into the new year. When we celebrate, when we grieve,  
 you are with us, holding us, loving us.

Let our hope lead us deeper into our world, seeking to  
 reflect your love and shalom to those we meet.

You are to be found amongst the rubble and we offer up  
 wordless prayers for those living in areas of violence,  
 where your light is hard to find. Show us how to be your  
 hands and feet.

Thank you for your boundless love and grace  
 Amen

Amanda

# SUMMER AT SIX!

5 January at  
**The Gorings'**  
 2 Bancroft Avenue,  
 Roseville  
 ☎ 0402 012 418 (Chris)  
 ☎ 0414 555 349 (Sureka)

12 January at  
**Cath's**  
 22 Duntroon Avenue,  
 Roseville  
 ☎ 0490 467 114  
**Pizza oven**

19 January  
**TBC!**  
 Call Cath or Chris G to  
 volunteer your place

26 January at  
**Rob & Maz's**  
 58 Abingdon Road,  
 Roseville  
 ☎ 0411 026 466 (Rob)  
 ☎ 0432 115 744 (Maz)

It would be great if you could RSVP, but you can also just show up from 6pm.  
 BYO drinks & food to cook on the BBQ or in Cath's pizza oven. 5TW restarts February 2.

Chris will be on leave from  
 30 December to  
 28 January

The office will be closed  
 until 21st January



## Roseville Ministry Contacts

**Office Address**  
 7a Lord Street  
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**Church Office**  
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**Office Hours** Typically Tue, Wed and Fri

**Website** roseville.unitingchurch.org.au

**Minister**  
 Rev. Dr. Chris Goringe  
 0402 012 418

**Congregational Chairperson**  
 Sue Drury

**Direct Giving**  
 Carrick Martin  
 0418 978 480

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