

# Be Surprised

December 2022



## Worship Information

### 9.30 am Sunday Morning

Please join us afterwards for **morning tea** & a chat downstairs in the hall.

You are also welcome to receive **prayer ministry** following worship at the front of the church.

## Online Giving

We are thankful that people at TUC are generous givers in more ways than one: giving their time, sharing their gifts and donating financially.

We take up an offering during each worship service on Sundays. These funds are used for the continuation of ministries at TUC.

These days, many of us don't carry cash, so you may like to set up an ongoing, direct-transfer offering through your bank using these details:

National Australia Bank  
(NAB)

Uniting Church Toowong  
General Parish Fund

BSB: 084424

A/c No: 508563314

## Get in Touch

### **Matt Smith | Lead Minister**

0409 917 729 matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au  
Please note Matt's day off is Wednesday

### **Clare Hankamer | Families Pastor**

0432 861 841 c\_hankamer@hotmail.com

### **Boram Lee | Office Manager**

3870 9684 info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

### **Madeline Kim | Ministries & Communications Coordinator**

madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

### **Dianne Hubbard | Care & Connect - Pastoral Care**

dianne.j.hubbard@gmail.com

### **Will Stewart | Church Council Chair**

walswdes@gmail.com

### **Kate Green | Congregational Chair**

kategreenqld@gmail.com

### **Sue O'Brien | Congregational Secretary**

sobrien868@gmail.com

## Toowong Uniting Church

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Office: 11 Grove Street, Toowong, QLD, 4066

**Phone:** 3870 9684

**Email:** info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

**Hours:** 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Tue, Wed and Thu

[www.toowongunitingchurch.org](http://www.toowongunitingchurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/toowonguniting](https://www.facebook.com/toowonguniting)

[www.youtube.com/c/ToowongUnitingChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/ToowongUnitingChurch)

# Minister's Letter: December 2022

## Christmas – Be Surprised!

As we prepare our selves for celebrating Christmas, we've already been surprised by the weather. If you chose Brisbane as the coldest mainland capital city on December 1<sup>st</sup>, (a high of 19 c) you get the prize.

Then again, who expected Australia's Socceroos to defeat Denmark at the World Cup? I was certainly surprised! Life certainly offers many unexpected turns, some of which are pleasant - a surprise promotion, or you reconnect with an old friend, you get an unexpected upgrade on a booking.

As we know, some surprises in life are in clearly the unwelcome category. We face loss, disappointment and grief and never saw it coming until it arrives on our doorstep. Understandably, we ask God "did you have anything to do with this?" Yet even these can gift us with needed change and personal growth.

As we return to the timeless nativity scene, it becomes obvious that much of the story upends people's lives, they have little warning of what's about to unfold, angels and visitors arrive unannounced, and the joyful news of the Saviour's arrival brings with it the need to adjust quickly to changing circumstances. Finding a place for this God-in-a-baby reflects well the sudden tempo of many of our lives. God's doing something right now, and it feels like we could have used a little more warning, if you don't mind! Yet if we read the prophets, we can see that God had this birth planned out for at least 700 years.

This Christmas, we are asking to receive a gift of being surprised again by the magnitude of His gift to us, and the astonishing ways we are invited to follow in the life of Jesus. As the proverbs goes - 'the sure sign of the hand of God in your life is finding yourself in places you least expected to go.'

Thank you to all the TUC community for being fellow pilgrims on the road of life during 2022. It's my joy to travel with you, together following the Saviour.

*Peace, joy, faith & love.*

Matt



### **Matt Smith** Lead Minister

Matt and Narelle joined TUC Community 5 years ago. Matt works alongside a dedicated team of staff and volunteers to create and grow a community whose centre is Christ.

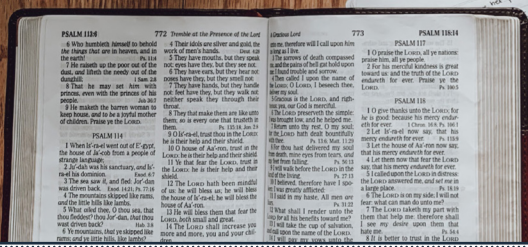
For prayer and counselling, please contact Matt on 0409 917 729.

Please note that Matt is not available on Wednesdays.

# Bible Readings

Here are our Bible readings for the next few weeks. You might like to read along at home!

- 4 Dec: Who He Came For** Judges 6: 1 - 16
- 11 Dec: TBA**
- 18 Dec: What He Came to Do** Isaiah 9: 1 - 7
- 24 Dec: Surprised by Joy** Luke 1: 26 - 56
- 25 Dec: Surprised party** Luke 2: 8 - 20



# The gift that keeps on giving

**Our lives are a gift** from our Creator, given to us without cost. As Richard Rohr writes: "We are moons, not suns in our ability to pass on the light" and it follows that as we have been loved, so we continue to express our thanks by giving loving service to others. Accordingly, the whole framework of Care & Connect is based on John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

This year, as we endeavoured to honour our fourth value, "**community**", we have created a strong, overflowing place from which to reach others. My prayer is that as we continue to care for, and connect with each other, we will draw others to the warmth of our 'campfire' sharing the gospel with those outside of our immediate circle.

Dianne Hubbard  
Care & Connect Co-ordinator

Throughout this year, you, our congregation, have **given back God's love** to others in so many ways. You have made and delivered meals, invited people to your homes, and prayed intentionally and regularly for others. You have made phone calls, sent texts and emails to support those who have needed a kind word. You have helped welcome new people and visitors who have worshipped with us with a friendly word or an invite to morning tea or lunch. Thank you. Every single moment of these actions is a loving service to others which enriches and nurtures our community.



**Hebrews 13:16:**  
". . . do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

# TUC Activities

As we finish 2022, our activities will take a break during the holidays. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped for these activities in 2022! Wishing you a happy holidays and See you next year!

- English Conversation:** Every Monday 10 am.
- Tuesday Bible Study:** Every Tuesday 7 pm at Kate's place.
- Thursday Bible Study:** Every Tuesday 7 pm, in Church House.
- Playgroups:** Every Thu & Fri 9.30 am
- Youth Group:** Fortnightly Friday 7 pm
- SafeSpace - Young Adults:** Fortnightly Saturday 5.30 pm



# CHRISTMAS

at TOOWONG UNITING CHURCH

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

**SUN 4 DEC | 9.30AM**

KATS Children's Nativity

**THU 22 DEC | 9.30AM**

Christmas Movie for Young Children

**SAT 24 DEC | 5PM**

Sausage Sizzle followed by  
Christmas Eve service at 6PM

**SUN 25 DEC | 8.30AM**

Christmas service

# "THE CHRISTMAS INN" DINNER CONCERT



LOOKING FOR A WELCOME  
AT THE CHRISTMAS INN?

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS DINNER AT TUC  
WITH A CLASSICAL PIANO CONCERT  
AFTER, FEATURING DAVE KABAKOFF.

**TOOWONG UNITING CHURCH  
TUESDAY 20TH DEC  
6 PM**

THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU!  
RSVP BY 18TH DEC  
0409 917 729

# Children's & Youth Ministry

## For Parents

You are amazing! I hope you know that Our Father God is with you; loving you and guiding you at this important time of life.

Please know that the whole Church family are supporting you in prayer.

As a parent, I go back to this verse in Isaiah again and again for encouragement:

He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:11)

## KATS (Toddlers - Grade 5)

KATS stands for Kids at Toowong on Sunday and is our Sunday morning children's program run during the school term. The children leave after the children's talk to gather in their **Leopard and Lion age groups**. An enthusiastic group of volunteers lead these groups, teaching the children about God in a fun and friendly environment. The Scripture Union Light curriculum is used for KATS.

**KATS will meet every Sunday in 2022.**

## Youth (Grades 6 - 12)

This year we are launching a new look youth group which will combine Junior and Senior Youth Groups and will meet every second Friday night in the Hall. We pray that it will be a great evening to hang out with friends and to spend some time asking the big questions of life and to pray and worship together.

We really love seeing our young people take part in worship on Sundays. We seek to support and encourage them to discover their leadership gifts and to be looking at ways to serve God in the Church and Community.

## Children's & Youth Events

A number of events are run during the year, such as the Youth camp, the Moonwalk and the Light Party. Keep checking the newsletter and weekly enews for updates about these events.

## Safe Ministry with Children

TUC has adopted the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod's Safe Ministry with Children policy and believes that every person is precious to God and in following Jesus' example, we are committed to providing a safe church for all, particularly those who are vulnerable.

All volunteers working with children at TUC have up-to-date Blue Cards and have completed the Safe Ministry with Children training.



**Thank you to all of KATS & Playgroup teachers and volunteers who have cared for kids all year.**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and see you next year!**

We are hiring..

## NEXT GEN PASTOR to join Toowong Uniting Church

who can provide leadership and build connections with TUC senior youth and young adult ministry.

Please read more at [seek.com](http://seek.com) or [christianjobs.com.au](http://christianjobs.com.au)



## Clare Hankamer Families Pastor

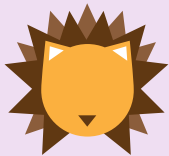
Clare oversees KATS and Youth and runs the Thursday Playgroup. Clare has a PhD in Horticulture with significant experience in both church and community youth work in the UK and Australia.

Contact Clare for details  
0432 861 841



### Leopards

Preschool - Grade 2



### Lions

Grade 3 - Grade 5



### Youth Group

Grades 6 - Grade 12

THIS CHRISTMAS,  
CHOOSE GIFTS THAT  
**FIGHT  
POVERTY AND  
BUILD HOPE**

SEND LOVE TO FRIENDS, FAMILY AND THE WHOLE WORLD  
BY GIVING GIFTS THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH GREATER DIGNITY AND HOPE.

[WWW.EVERYTHINGINCOMMON.COM.AU](http://WWW.EVERYTHINGINCOMMON.COM.AU)



## Sunday Roster: December 2022

	4 Dec	11 Dec	18 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec
	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	6pm	8.30 am
<b>Speaker</b>	Matt	Kelvin W	Matt	Matt	Matt
<b>Kids' Talk</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Reader</b>	Emilia B	Kabir S	Nadia A	-	Ross H
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>	Wendy B	Di H	Sarah S	-	Will S
<b>Prayer Ministry</b>	Rob H	Laurel A	Rob H	-	-
<b>Elder</b>	Di H	-	Wendy B	-	Ben R
<b>Door</b>	Warwick B Karen N	Gary O Di H	Nikki B Jane T	-	Will S Grace T
<b>M'Tea</b>	Jane D David D	Jane T Brendan T	Wendy B Warwick B	-	Narelle W -
<b>Coffee Machine</b>	Hanum L Amelia B	-	-	-	-
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Nadia A -	Rob L Rob J	Emilia B Jane T	-	Rob J Grace T
<b>Tech Team</b>	data: Issy sound: Eli camera: Jack	data: Madeline sound: Kelvin camera: Sam	data: Sam sound: Asher camera: Luke	data: Issy sound: Mitch camera: -	data: Kahlia sound: Adrian camera: Eli
<b>Music Team</b>	James, Grace	Amelia, Sue, Boram, Karen	Yohannes, Thadeus	James, Eli, Grace, Boram	Renata, Geoff, Asher, Luke, Boram, Stephanie

We are seeking volunteers for December.  
If you are able to help on Sundays (short term are also welcome),  
please contact Madeline.

# The GOOD

2022 ADVENT SERIES  
FROM A DIVERSE GROUP OF CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDING

Uncle Ray Minniecon, Dr Louise Gosbell, Aunty Dr Anne Pattel-Gray, Dr Mike Frost, Bek Stanton,  
Will Small, Dr Byron Smith, Safina Stewart, Stevie Wills, Luke Vassella, Kate Leaney, Bob and  
Evelyn McDonald, Tri Nguyen, Deb Mosterat, Gershon Nimbalker and more.

COMMON GRACE

## December 2022

- 2 Fri** Youth Group Party
- 4 Sun** Advent II  
KATS Nativity & Christmas Party
- 11, 18 Sun** Advent III and IV
- 14 Wed** Church Council
- 20 Tue** 'The Christmas Inn' Dinner Concert
- 23 Fri** Office closes
- 24 Sat** Christmas Eve
- 25 Sun** Christmas Day

## Weekly Events

### Prayer Meeting

8.30 - 9.30 am Tuesdays on Zoom  
contact Matt:

[matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au)

### English Conversation

10 - 11.30 am Mondays  
during the school term, in the hall  
contact Boram:

[info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au)

### Bible Study

7 - 8.30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays  
during the school term, in the church house  
contact Ross: [ross.homel@icloud.com](mailto:ross.homel@icloud.com)

### Playgroup

9.30 - 11.00 am Thursdays

9.30 - 11.00 am Fridays  
during the school term, in the hall  
contact Clare: [c\\_hankamer@hotmail.com](mailto:c_hankamer@hotmail.com)

