

Advent @ Collins St Baptist Church



Advent 1

Longing for Something New: The Plea of Isaiah

Sunday December 2, 10.30am

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Friends,

Today marks the beginning of Advent, a season of four Sundays that leads us to the great celebration of Christmas. Though it's not a familiar term among all Baptists, here at Collins Street Advent is an important part of our annual cycle of worship. Indeed, it marks the beginning of a new church year.

The word Advent literally means 'coming' or 'arrival'. The season includes a focus on two Advents, not just one — two moments of God's arrival in our lives. The First Advent is Jesus' birth, that great in-breaking of God into our world in the form a child. The Second Advent, the one still to come, is the ultimate return of Christ the King to renew the earth and bring ultimate peace to all creation.

What this means is that Advent is far more than just marking an event that happened 2,000 years ago. In Advent we look back with gratitude and we look forward with faith. In so doing we celebrate an eternal truth about God — a God who enters into our lives, our world, our pain and our longing with the grace of renewal. The God of Advent is a God with us — yesterday, today and in all the days to come.

Peace be with you,

Simon



PASTORS

Simon Carey Holt

Carolyn Francis & Sherry Maddock



WELCOME

VISITORS CARDS: If you are visiting with us today, we are glad to have you here. If you are comfortable doing so you can leave us a record of your visit by filling in the visitor's card included with your bulletin. Simply place it in the offering bag.

CAR PARKING: The Royal Lane car park offers discounted parking to people attending CSBC on Sunday mornings. Parking between 10am and 1pm is \$10. To take advantage of this offer, have your parking ticket stamped in the narthex before you leave. Stays longer than 3 hrs attract the maximum weekend rate of \$12.

CSBC ON FACEBOOK: The church has its own Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, just 'like' the page and you'll be kept up to date.

KIDS@ COLLINS: There is an organised program for children aged 5 and over during the service. After the passing of the peace the children are invited to come and sit in the front row. Following the community news they will move to level 4 of Central House just behind the sanctuary. Younger children should be accompanied by a parent.

THE JUNCTION: Every 1st Sunday of each month we host *The Junction*, a place of support and friendship for everyone regardless of gender, age or sexuality. Beginning with coffee @3pm on the Verandah followed by a service of worship @4pm. Everyone is welcome. See **Nigel Smith** for more information.

TODAY

10.30AM: This Sunday is the first Sunday in the season of **Advent**, which is the beginning of the new church year. **Carolyn** is preaching and **Simon** has returned from leave to lead us in communion. **Christopher Parsons** will be playing the organ.

12.15PM: PLANT CARE WORKSHOP You are invited to a free indoor Plant Care workshop in the **Green Room** level 1 Central House today, @12.15pm. Bring your own lunch and leave with a plant!

2.30PM: PEOPLE'S MESSIAH We will again be hosting the People's Messiah @2.30pm today. This is an opportunity for people to sing along with the much loved work by Handel, accompanied by an orchestra and choir, and with wonderful soloists.

3PM: Today @3pm **The Junction** will meet for coffee and conversation on Level 4. A worship service will follow at 4pm. All welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY

10.30AM: Next Sunday is the second Sunday in Advent and we continue our series "All Things New: Longing for God to Interrupt the Present". **Simon** will be preaching on the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah and **David Cundy** will be playing the organ and piano.

12.30PM: A choir practice will be held to prepare for the Carol Service on December 23. Music is available now so that singers can prepare.

NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in volunteering with our asylum seeker ministry with Bapcare, please come to an information session next Sunday, **December 9 @12.15pm** on level 4.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR: We are forming a choir to sing at our Service of Carols and Readings **on Sunday December 23**. Rehearsals will be held after church on **December 9 & 16** and prior to the service on **December 23**. Carolyn has music booklets for anyone who was unable to collect theirs last week.

TEAR's USEFUL GIFTS: There is an opportunity to purchase gifts from TEAR's **Useful Gifts Catalogue** in the narthex after the service.

From chickens and safe drinking water to goats and school supplies, these gifts provide a wonderful way to support the work of TEAR and to provide thoughtful presents for friends and family this Christmas. See **Theresa Cheok** for more information.

BIBLE READERS: If you would like to be a bible reader in our morning service, please see **Carolyn**.

Christmas Music through the Ages: The Victorian Chorale's festive concert will be held here on **Saturday December 8, @7.30pm**. Charpentier's joyous *Midnight Mass for Christmas*, music by Handel, & Bach. Tickets \$20-\$40.
www.trybooking.com/TUXP

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Our congratulation to **Nathaniel Holt** on the completion of his degree in digital media. Nathaniel will graduate in December. He values our prayers as he begins the search for work in his field of study.

Nigel Smith has headed off on a two-week cruise with friends. We pray for him as he travels and also as he discerns God's leading for the coming year.

Our prayers remain with **Monica Lusardo** as she recovers from surgery.

Remember our **deacons** in prayer as they prepare for their final meeting of the year on Tuesday Dec 11.

Welcome home to **Sean Winter** who has been travelling in the US and participating in the annual conference of the Society for Biblical Literature.

Don Holt has been in the Dandenong Hospital this past week to address some issues related to his lungs. He is home again now and values our prayers.

Our prayers are with **Jim and Jane Barr**, associate members of our church. Jim has just concluded a significant ministry of pastoral leadership with the Welsh Church of Melbourne. We pray for Jim and Jane as they discern God's calling for the years ahead.