



Advent 3

LONGING FOR A NEW WORLD:
The Song of Mary

Collins St Baptist Church
Sunday December 16, 2018

Address: 174 Collins Street, Melbourne Phone: 03 9650 1180
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In the darkest hour

a poem for Advent

Madeleine L'Engle

It was a time like this,
War & tumult of war,
a horror in the air.
Hungry yawned the abyss-
and yet there came the star
and the child most wonderfully there.
It was time like this
of fear & lust for power,
license & greed and blight-
and yet the Prince of bliss
came into the darkest hour
in quiet & silent light.
And in a time like this
how celebrate his birth
when all things fall apart?
Ah! Wonderful it is
with no room on the earth
the stable is our heart.



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: On this third Sunday in Advent, we continue our series *All Things New: Longing for a New Word. The Song of Mary.* **Carolyn** will be preaching on the story of Mary and David Cundy will be playing the organ.

12.30PM: A choir practice will be held today to prepare for the **Service of Carols and Readings** next Sunday December 23.

NEXT SUNDAY

10.30AM: Next Sunday the fourth Sunday in Advent will be our Service of Carols and Readings. **David Cundy** and the CSBC Christmas choir will be leading our music.

NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: A service of celebration will be held here at Collins Street on **Christmas Day**, Tuesday Dec 25, at the special time of **9.30am**. Everyone is welcome.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The MCCIA brochure listing the Christmas services of all the city churches has been printed and is ready for distribution to tourist offices and hotels around the CBD, Southbank and Docklands. Volunteers are needed to help deliver the brochures over this next week. See **Stefanie Pearce** if you can help.

VERANDAH CAFÉ: Well nearly the end of the year and The Verandah Cafe is still in 'business'.. The continued and valued support of church volunteers and baristas has been pivotal to the successful operating of the cafe. **THANK YOU.** If you have some spare time in January and would like to assist at the cafe don't be shy contact **Lesley Iles** (mobile 040 222 8910). **Friday 21st Dec** will be our last day for 2018 and then we re-open **Tues 15th, Wed 16th, Thurs 17th Jan 10.00am - 2.00pm**, with full **Monday to Friday** trading commencing **Mon 21st Jan** . In preparation for January opening a working bee at the Verandah Cafe will be held on **Sat 12th Jan**, commencing at **10.00am**.

ART WORKS: **John Puli** will have some of his drawings for sale on **Sunday Dec 23**. No set prices, you can give a donation. All proceeds will go to support ARTS ACCESS Victoria. www.artsaccess.com.au

Congratulations to **Stefanie Peace**, awarded this year's top academic prize at Whitley College for excellence in theological studies. We look forward to hearing more about Stefanie's work and research in 2019.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Following the relapse of **Ros's Wright's** lymphoma, she recently spent some days in Peter Mac. On the advice of her treating specialist, she has begun a short course of chemo, in the hope that another suitable clinical trial may become available in due course. **Ros** is home from hospital now and managing treatment fairly well. She appreciates the church community's love and prayers.

We have been holding **Frank Rees** in our prayers this week as he has been at the Vatican engaging in ecumenical dialogue with Catholic leaders, including Pope Frances. We pray for the ongoing **Baptist-Catholic dialogue** as well as all those involved in ecumenical and interfaith efforts toward learning and understanding.

We pray for **Melissa Rule**, the BUV's Head of Communications, following the sudden death of her husband Tony. We hold Melissa and her 3 children in our prayers at this deeply sad time.