



Services – Sunday 20 December, 2020

Advent 4

9.30am Five Dock – Rev Don Everhart

Reading: Luke 1: 26-45

Theme: "Mary"

We give thanks to God that today we are able to again gather together in worship.

“This is the day which the Lord has made – we will rejoice and be glad in it.”



Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. Scripture tells us “There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God’s love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God’s love is there. We light this candle in Love.

On this day, we remember God is Love.

God, we have learned to love from being loved by you. And so today, let us enact that love. Let us live that love. We know that what the world need now is more love. We need to remember how much you love each one of us and we must share that love with others. Amen

DIARY DATES



25 Dec **Christmas** Luke 2:1-20 (9am)

27 Dec **Christmas 1** Matthew 2:1-15 – Wise Men

Church Roster

Thank you to the ones who indicated last week, their willingness to take part in the church roster. The roster will be printed this week, so there is still time to let Marie know if you wish your name to be included for Pastoral Prayer, Scripture reading or Page 3 item.

The roster covers the period 3 January, 2021 to 27 June 2021. Please see Marie or phone the church office 9713 6818 if you expect to be unavailable in that period.

The Office will be closed from 24 December and will reopen on Tuesday 5 January 2021.

The first Notice Sheet will be on 24 January 2021.

Minutes of a special meeting of the **Worship Committee** held on Sunday 13 December are on the Notice Board for your perusal.

Within the present world wide crisis God’s love is needed more than ever. Our gifts to the National Council of Churches’ Christmas Bowl will support vulnerable communities threatened by conflict and disaster all around the world. ACT for Peace works with local organisations helping them plan and prepare for disasters, provide essential health care, protect human rights in marginalised communities and give care for refugees.

Last year the Australian churches’ giving helped fund 39 programmes in 16 countries. This generosity brought increased safety, justice and dignity to the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Projects such as –

- Shelter, medical care, water for Rohingya families
- Inclusion of people living with disability in Tonga
- Disaster risk reduction strategies in Indonesia
- Healthcare for critically ill refugees in Ethiopia
- Urgently needed support for Syrian refugees

Challenges we currently face in Australia cannot compare with our neighbours, who have so little and face an uncertain future. The Christmas Bowl gives us an opportunity to continue to shine the light of hope to our neighbours near and far.

Prayer:

God of Love, in a world often bereft of hope we turn to you. Remind us that hope can be found in the most surprising of places.

Renew our hope in a better future where all children can have opportunities to learn and grow,
the hungry will have sufficient food,
the thirsty will be refreshed,
the stranger and the lonely will be welcomed,
the naked will be clothed,
the ill and wounded will become whole.

We pray this, knowing all are precious in your sight. Amen

Giving at Christmas

Appeal envelopes for the Christmas Bowl, Wesley Mission and Exodus Foundation are available today. These are the three appeals our congregation supports with additional giving at Christmas time. Gifts may be returned on Christmas Day or any Sunday through the offering.



**A Happy, Holy
and Safe Christmas
to all.**