

honest advent



25 days of Advent
inspired by
Scott Erickson

December 2023
Newsletter

toowong
uniting
church



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 is not available on Tuesdays.

Clare Hankamer | Families Pastor

0432 861 841 | c_hankamer@hotmail.com

Jason Brown | Next Gen Pastor

0412 255 269 | jason@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

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: 9.00am - 3.00pm Tue, Wed and Thu

www.toowongunitingchurch.org

[f](#) [@](#) [v](#) @ToowongUnitingChurch

Hello Toowong UC,

I count it a blessing to have the opportunity to serve among you at Toowong UC until 7 January. I'm blessed to have come to know quite a few of you from past places and spaces in life and ministry. However, it's those I'm yet to meet I'm especially looking forward to getting to know. Please always feel free to get in touch with me about "whatever": dmacgreg2@gmail.com 0414392802

All of that said, my coming among you is infinitesimally insignificant (if that makes sense) alongside God's cosmos-changing incursion as it were; God's "coming among us" in human flesh - God's Son, Jesus, Lord, Saviour, Messiah, Emmanuel. In short, it's wonderful being among you as we move into the season of Advent and then Christmas. Emmanuel, God-with-us: Jesus; the reason for the season!

The impact of God's coming among us continues to be real for me at Christmas and beyond. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase The Message explains this so eloquently: The Word (Jesus) became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes ... (John 1:14a)

Songwriter that I am (and have long been) I found myself reflecting deeply on this last year. As I want to do with my spiritual journaling, I put my thoughts into song. I called it At The Turning Point of Time.

At the turning point of time
At the turning point of time

You came close, from heaven's home
You disturbed our wayward roam
at the turning point of time

In our hearts, you longed a home
We, your love, as child, your own
In this world you made your home
all our yearnings, sighs and groans
In our hearts, you longed a home

Christ, Emmanuel, draw near
Saving grace come close, be here
Spirit-presence, calm our fears
Be the hopes of all the years
Emmanuel, draw near

David & Dale MacGregor © 2022
Willow Publishing

And so we pray this coming Christmas, and tweaking the line of a famous Christmas carol, that "the hopes and fears of all the years, are met in you, Jesus, this night, this day, every waking hour".

Shalom,
David
Rev David MacGregor



David MacGregor Substitute Minister

David is stepping into TUC as a substitute minister for the next seven weeks, spanning December through the beginning of January 2024, while Matt is away on Long Service Leave. For more info about David, please visit the TUC website [/tucupdates.com](http://tucupdates.com).

For prayer and counselling, please contact David on 0414 392 802.

Please note that David is not available on Tuesdays.

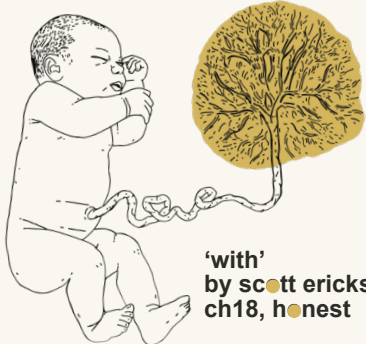
Bible Readings

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

- 3 Dec: Finding Emmanuel, the God-With-Us**
Isaiah 9: 2-7, John 1: 1-18
- 10 Dec: Annunciation Assumptions**
Luke 1: 26-55
- 17 Dec: Light** John 1: 1-18
- 24 Dec: Goop** Luke 2: 1-20
- 25 Dec: Vacancy?** Luke 2: 1-20
- 31 Dec: Peace** Matthew 2: 1-15

'honest advent' book by Scott Erickson

Taking inspiration from the book by artist-storyteller Scott Erickson, come along this Advent season as we explore a powerful truth: God showed Himself in the past, is present with us now, and continues to manifest in the toughest parts of our human experience.



'with' by scott erickson ch18, honest

All drawings are under the copyright of Scott Erickson. Scott has generously granted us permission to use his art at no cost for this month.

THE OFFERINGS: NOVEMBER 2023

PROJECTED BUDGET
\$18,500

GENERAL OFFERINGS
\$20,579.00

PLANT
\$1,080

Christmas at too wong uniting church

Solar Buddy **2** Sat
9.30am - 1.30pm
Give a needy child a "solar study light" this Christmas

A Children's Nativity **3** Sun
9.30am
Celebrate the joy of Christmas through our children leading the service.

Christmas Eve Evening Service **24** Sun
5pm
Sausage Sizzle followed by 6pm Christmas service.

Christmas Morning Service **25** Mon
8.30am
Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH

Spread the Joy with your voice

JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Contact Jason for more information

Love in Action

Preparing and Nurturing the Garden of the Soul

In addition to our **'honest advent'** theme for this Christmas, you can also join this family -friendly Advent called Love in Action curated by the Synod to prepare and nurture the Garden of your Soul.

“Using the metaphor of growing a garden to prepare our hearts, souls, and minds for the birth of Jesus, over five weeks, we will use the lectionary readings to delve into God’s story of love and faithfulness. We will explore how God had been planning and preparing His people for the gift of Jesus, and how Jesus makes a difference in our lives today and into the future. Weekly readings and themes are listed below.”

Scan the QR code to access the Advent resources.

Bible Reflections - for general church members or families

Community Reflections - for playgroup families



What is so special about the LOVEToowong Fund?

In keeping with our core values, the TUC congregation has shown their love and care for others in practical ways and this has enabled God’s love to be seen and felt in our community.

In April 2020, Toowong Uniting commenced receiving funds for the LoveToowong Fund. This fund was established so that TUC could provide financial support to people who had lost their employment due to COVID.

During that time, we supported many people with substantial donations for items such as food, transport, and utilities costs. Even though the whole congregation does not see the joy and thanks on people’s faces, without exception, they are so profoundly grateful.

We ceased asking you for donations at the end of 2022. In 2023, we have continued to support people with the remaining funds. Most people were and still are, within our local community.

You would not be surprised that recently, with the rises in cost of living, we have had more call on these funds,

with the result that we have only a very limited amount remaining in the LOVEToowong Fund.

While there will be many calls for your financial support from various organisations during this Christmas season, the Probity team which manages the Fund, is appealing to your generosity in providing more donations to the Fund to enable us to continue to support those in need around us.

If you are able to donate, please deposit into the National Australia Bank NAB, Uniting Church Toowong General Parish Fund.

BSB: **084 424**
 Account: **508563314**
 Description: **LOVETOOWONG**

Through your generosity we look forward to being able to continue to assist people in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Probity team below, if you would like more details or have questions about this Fund.

Dianne Hubbard, 0410 680 023
 on behalf of the Probity Team

Ben Hankamer, Bev Homel, Susan O’Brien, Matt Smith



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
c_hankamer@hotmail.com

What happens at Children's Ministry?

- Children are encouraged to get to know God and to talk to Him
- Children grow in confidence to read and learn about God's word for themselves
- To help them do this, high-quality, approved, curriculum-based material has been chosen
- Teachers are passionate about sharing God's love with young people in a caring and supportive environment
- Children learn in a creative, thoughtful and play-based session

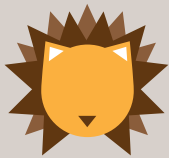
How can you as a parent or carer, help your child enjoy this time?

- **Come as often as you can** so that your child has continuity, knows what to expect and most important of all can make great friends!
- **Ask them about** what they learn and what they have experienced
- **Lean on God to help you:**
 - **Talk to God together** - A suggestion would be to pray with your child at bedtime after their bedtime story.
 - **Celebrate** - Enjoy time together and thank God for it.
 - **Read the Bible together** - read a Children's Bible story each night as part of the night time routine or together as a family.
 - **Grow with your children** - all these things are easier when your child is small but I urge you to continue these things throughout their lives; see them as not just a child's routine but as **your** routine. Your children will learn from you, as they mature into teenage and then adulthood, that friendship with God is a lifelong adventure.



Leopards

Preschool- Grade2



Lions

Grade3- Grade5

Youth Group

Junior Youth

Grades 6 - 8

Senior Youth

Grades 9 - 12



JUNIOR & SENIOR YOUTH

FINISHED FOR 2023,
SEE YOU IN 2024



WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETING

**OUR TUESDAY ONLINE ZOOM PRAYER MEETING IS
MOVED TO WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 8:30.**

Call to pray for our church and our community.
Please let us know how we can pray for you.
It's our privilege to pray for each other and as a church,
we go to prayer as a matter of first resort.

Please contact Matt for prayer support.



Can we pray with you?

Prayer Ministry After the Service

Please come forward at the end of the service on Sundays to receive prayer for particular needs or issues.



Fellowship Dinner

Come meet Christian leaders from Fiji, Vanuatu, PNG and Solomon Islands discussing South Pacific ministry and the environment.

6:30PM WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER

Toowong Uniting Church
82 Sherwood Road
Toowong

‘Father’
by scott erickson
ch16, honest advent

Sunday Roster: December 2023

	3 Dec	10 Dec	17 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec	31 Dec
	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	6 pm	8.30 am	9.30 am
Speaker	David	David	David	David	David	David
Comm		Will S Kate G				
Reader	Eve N	Georgina W	Luke T	-	Bev H	Rob H
Pastoral Prayer	Ross H	Laurel A	Rob H	-	Ross H	Laurel A
Prayer Ministry	Will S	Barbara F	Laurel A	n/a	n/a	-
Elder	Will S	-	Will S	Di H	Bev H	Bev H
Door	Gary O Sue O	Luke T Carly K	Nadia A Will S	Carly K -	Di H -	Jane T Clare H
M'Tea	Kelvin W Asher W	David D -	Jane T Eve N	n/a	n/a	Di H Sarah S
Coffee Machine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offering Counters	Rob L Jane T	Georgina W Rob J	Nadia A -	Kelvin W Rob L	Rob J -	Rob L -
Trestles & Chairs	Geoff R -	Owen K Gavan C	Rob H Gary O	-	n/a	Rob H Will S
Tech Team	d: Sam s: - c: Luke	d: - s: Jack c: -	d: - s: - c: -	d: Kahlia s: Eli c: Luke	d: - s: - c: -	d: - s: - c: -
Music Team	Renata, Boram	Eli, Adrian	Richard	Jason, Josh, Adrian, Boram	-	-

HOPE UNVEILED
SUMMER SCHOOL 2024

Register Now

cms.org.au/qnsw/summerschool

Toowong's Got Talent

Express in your way

Submit your creative reflections to madeline@toowongunitingchurch.org.au
photo/video/poem/painting/etc all welcome

December 2023

- 2 Sat** Solar Buddy
- 3 Sun** KATS Nativity & Break-up Party
- 6 Wed** Fellowship Dinner
- 8 Fri** Last Day of Term 4
- 10 Sun** Communion Sunday
- 13 Wed** Church Council
- 24 Sun** Christmas Eve evening service
Sausage Sizzle at 5pm followed
by the Eve service at 6pm
- 25 Mon** Christmas morning service at
8.30am

Weekly Events

Prayer Meeting

8.30 - 9.30 am Wednesdays on Zoom
contact Matt:
matt@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

English Conversation

9.45 - 11.45 am Mondays
during the school term, in the hall
contact Maria:
info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Bible Study - Women's Group

7 - 8.30 pm Tuesdays
During the school term
At Kate's house
contact Boram:
info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au

Playgroup

9.30 - 11.00 am Thursdays & Fridays
during the school term, in the hall
contact:
Thu - Clare: c_hankamer@hotmail.com
Fri - Pam: p_bennett@live.com.au



'visible'
by scott ericks
ch12, honest advent



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