



Gladstone Uniting Church

Interface

Advent 3

15 December 2024

Welcome

Hello and welcome all to worship this morning. We extend a special welcome to all visitors to our Church today.

May your time of worship be a blessed one.

If you are a visitor, or newcomer, to our Church, please contact us via email gladuca@bigpond.com if you have any queries or we can be of assistance.

LORD JESUS, you alone can satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. Through baptism, you have claimed us for yourself, but too often we live as if we belong only to ourselves. May this season of Advent remind us that you have blessed us, so that, in gratitude, we may live the gospel more faithfully. As we prepare to celebrate the miracle of your Incarnation, may we attend to the needs of our suffering brothers and sisters, the body of Christ in our midst. Amen.

For the most up-to-date information on our church please remember www.gladstoneuniting.org.au

Lectionary Bible Readings

This Week: Advent 3

Next Week: Advent 4

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Philippians 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 7-18



Micah 5: 2-5a

Luke 1: 46-55

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-45



Our Vision is for the Gladstone Region to be a community where everyone experiences the transforming love of Jesus.

The Garden of Joy

In the small, windswept town of Mirabrook, where everyone knew each other's business, an old, weathered church stood surrounded by an overgrown garden. Weeds tangled with roses, and vines crept over forgotten benches. Yet every spring, wildflowers bloomed defiantly in patches of sunlight, refusing to be choked out.



Among the congregation was Ellen, a quiet woman who always sat in the back pew. Her presence was a whisper, her words few. She had arrived in Mirabrook five years ago, carrying nothing but a suitcase and a vague smile. The town welcomed her with polite curiosity but didn't pry; everyone sensed she had secrets buried deeper than the church's old foundations.

One afternoon, after a community meeting, Ellen lingered by the door, staring out at the wild garden.

"Beautiful in its own way, isn't it?" said Grace, a fellow congregant, appearing beside her. Ellen's eyes remained on the garden. "It doesn't hide its past," she replied softly.

Grace raised an eyebrow. "Not many things do. But maybe that's part of the beauty." They stood in silence for a moment, then Grace added, "We're starting a community garden project. Want to help? It might need someone who understands its beauty." Ellen hesitated, then nodded. "I'd like that."

Over the weeks, Ellen and Grace worked side by side, their conversations growing deeper with the roots they planted. At first, they spoke of simple things—the best ways to prune roses, the stubbornness of weeds, the unpredictability of Mirabrook's weather. But gradually, the conversations shifted.

One morning, as they planted marigolds, Grace mentioned her own struggles. "I used to think gardens were about control," she said, wiping dirt from her hands. "That if I could just keep everything tidy, I'd feel... safe."

[Continue reading the full story here.](#)

χαρίς & εἰρήνη - Ἐὐφροσύνη καὶ Ἰσαηλωτοῦρητῆρῆν - Grace and Peace

Levon




Next Week's Gladstone Roster & Church Activities

<u>22 December 2024</u>	
Preaching	Levon Kardashian
Intro to Worship	Delwyn Bambrick
Notices & Prayers	Delwyn Bambrick
Vestry Elders	Ian M, Delwyn B
Bible Reader	Ros Bambrick
Song Selector	Ros Bambrick
Back Up Singer	Caitlin Price
Piano	Nicky Rippingale
Additional Music	
Data Projector	Nathan Rippingale
Sound System	
Church Steward/Valet	Ian Rippingale
Welcome Host	Kerry Price
Count Offering	Grant P, Helper Please
Morning Tea	Linda R, Helper Please

<u>Monday 16 December 2024</u>	
9-11am	Little Explorers—In Recess
9am-1pm	Bookshop Open
<u>Tuesday 17 December 2024</u>	
9am-1pm	Bookshop Open
10am	Eden Vale Service
<u>Wednesday 18 December 2024</u>	
9am-1pm	Bookshop Open
<u>Thursday 19 December 2024</u>	
9am-1pm	Bookshop Open
<u>Friday 20 December 2024</u>	
9am-1pm	Bookshop Open
<u>Saturday 21 December 2024</u>	
9am-1pm	Bookshop Open
<u>Sunday 22 December 2024</u>	
8am	Tannum Worship Service
9am	Gladstone Worship Service

The Church Christmas Tree

Our church Christmas tree is in place and will serve not only as a thing of beauty but it will also be a place to put gifts. Every family in the congregation is invited to share in the true meaning of Christmas by placing gifts of nonperishable (and non-expired) food and toys under our Church Christmas tree. Uniting Care will distribute these amongst those who are most in need in the Gladstone community. **Last day for drop off is Thursday 19 December.**




Dates to Note

Church Council Meeting 20 Jan 7.30pm
Eden Vale Service 17 December 10am
Blue Christmas 21 December 2.30pm
Christmas Day 7.30am Combined Service
29 December Combined Service

Hall Refurbishment Appeal

Donations are being sought for the planned Hall refurbishments. Refinishing the floors will be \$18000 and painting will be around \$5000. If you are able to contribute in any way, please put a separate envelope into the collection or a separate direct deposit into the account. Thank you.



Daily Lectionary Readings

Monday Dec 16 Isaiah 11:1-9 Numbers 16:1-19 Hebrews 13:7-17	Tuesday Dec 17 Isaiah 11:1-9 Numbers 16:20-35 Acts 28:23-31
Wednesday Dec 18 Isaiah 11:1-9 Micah 4:8-13 Luke 7:31-35	Thursday Dec 19 Psalm 80:1-7 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 10:10-18
Friday Dec 20 Psalm 80:1-7 Isaiah 42:10-18 Hebrews 10:32-39	Saturday Dec 21 Psalm 80:1-7 Isaiah 66:7-11 Luke 13:31-35



\$10



\$15



\$25



\$75

\$90



\$50



Order online at www.everythingincommon.com.au



Your impact: Providing safety in exile for Syrian and Palestinian refugees living in Jordan

Rima*, a mother of six, has been living in Jordan for 20 years after fleeing Gaza in 2004. Three of her children are disabled, and Rima struggled with isolation and the burden of raising her family. But everything changed when she joined the Forsa project.



Rima has been living in Jerash Refugee Camp in Jordan for 20 years, where she is raising six children and supporting her extended family.

Act for Peace's local partner in Jordan, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), runs the Forsa project – a two-year initiative that works with members of the Syrian and Palestinian refugee community, to assist them in reaching a point of self-reliance.

It is a transformational program that not only helps refugees to meet their basic needs, like food and healthcare, but focuses on long-term solutions through relevant training, and then eventually onto employment or small enterprises. This helps families just like Rima's to have a reliable and long-term source of income and hope for the future.

Rima has now started her own sewing business from home, which enables her to earn a stable source of income, while still being able to care for her children.

She is also more confident thanks to the support she has received and feels a greater sense of community and belonging for her family.

Lord you wait for us
to come and see you.
You wait to shine light
where there is darkness,
To show love
where there is hate,
To share peace
where there is conflict.
Lord you wait for us
to come and see you.
You wait for us
to remember
what has been fulfilled,
to prepare
for what must still be done.
You wait in hope and expectation,
Longing for us
To shine your light,
To show your love,
To share your peace.

*If we keep Christ in our
heart.
Christmas has no end.*



Gladstone Uniting Church
BOOKSHOP
Corner Dixon Drive & Uniting Place
TELINA

Open 9am to 1pm
from Monday 2 December
to Saturday 21 December.

*Lots of lovely gift ideas
and inspirations.*

Closed on Sundays

Christmas Joy

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." Luke 3:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 3:7-11



V H Z L G N E R T T R E E W X
K Y P D M M R Y H R L B E W T
Q A N S H L K I H U S L B K O
I I W T N P M X B A C N W B Y
M C M O S D E F C R O W D U M
R V M N L H E G Y U G V F J G
O S O E S G S F I W V O O J Z
O H D S B R T S D X D I O M S
T A A O E J T P Z E Z H D M V
I R P P E R L F Z Q Z O B T O
C E I N I C I I E Y O O I D E
R V O H W B T R B R K U T O I
W N S Q S P I X B Z R A W K K
W L D P A F N Y M F C T K D O
I S R B C H I L D R E N B R M

FIRE

CROWD

TREE

FOOD

CHILDREN

ROOT

SHARE

STONES

SHIRTS

BAPTIZED

VIPERS

NONE

TWO

FRUIT

BROOD

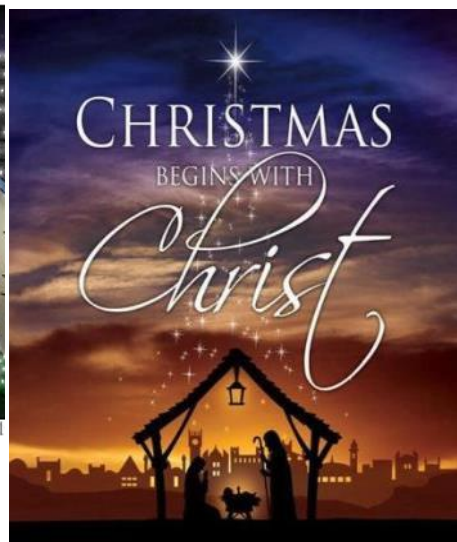
Colouring Page





12-14-201

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR



Gladstone Worship Centre

Cnr Uniting Place & Dixon Dr

Tannum Worship Centre

12 Silverton Dr

Gladstone Office Details:

Open Tues & Thurs

9.00am—12.00pm

(times subject to change in school holidays)

Email: gladuca@bigpond.com

(07) 4979 3323

Minister:

Rev Levon Kardashian

13 Waratah Street

GLADSTONE QLD 4680

Mobile: 0410 404 542

Email: TBA



Direct EFT Giving

This is an option for those who like the convenience of setting up a Direct Transfer from your own bank account to the church each week/month for your offering. Please use 'Tithing' as the reference for regular offerings and 'Spec Offering' for a once off.



BSB: 014010 A/C: 192134483

Account Name: UCA Gladstone

Congregation

Interface

Back copies of the weekly Interface are available on request. Remember also that these can also be downloaded from the Gladstone UC website at:

www.gladstoneuniting.org.au and are published on our Facebook page.

ALLERGY ALERT

Please be aware when preparing any food for Morning Tea, or possibly bringing snacks for yourself or your children, that the Gladstone Uniting Church is a **Nut & Egg Free Church.**

Please note that Egg as an ingredient in cakes or biscuits is fine. Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated.

