

21 DECEMBER 2014 - TODAY'S SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.30AM— SUNG EUCHARIST

9.00AM—FAMILY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN  
THE BAPTIST

EST. 1888

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Incorporating ministries with Eastern  
Hills Parish

**Welcome!** We are glad you are with us! Before the service, speak to the Lord in prayer. During the service, let the Lord speak to you. After the service, speak to one another.

**Please take this pew sheet and the notice sheet home with you for your prayers in the week.**

### *Quiet Before the Service*

**Please be sensitive to the fact that when you are sitting in the pews prior to the service and whilst other people are receiving communion, those around you may well wish for quietness. Thank you.**

#### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	24	6.00pm	Christingle Service
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		11.30pm	Eucharist
<b>THURSDAY</b>	25	7.30am	Sung Eucharist
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		9.00am	Family Eucharist
<b>SUNDAY</b>	28	8.30am	Eucharist

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## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. *Luke 1.32-33*

**HYMNS:** TIS: 269, 161, 275, 272

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath -- the candles of **HOPE, PEACE** and **JOY**.

Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of **LOVE**.

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we find these words:

*"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

-- [Deuteronomy 10:17-19a](#)

From the Gospel of John we hear:

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

-- [John 13:34-35](#)

**Let us pray:**

***Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior.***  
**Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will: prepare our hearts for his coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7.1-11, 16 HELEN O'HAGAN MICHAEL SMIT

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord : Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

## PSALM 89.1-4, 19-27 (verses will be said alternately with the reader & congregation)

1. I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**2. I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

3. You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

**4. "I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations." ' (continued over page)**

## **PSALM** *(continued)*

19. Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: 'I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

**20. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;**

21. my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

**22. The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.**

23. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

**24. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.**

25. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

**26. He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"**

27. I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

**SECOND READING:** ROMANS 16.25-27    KAREN BLAND    JANINE HARTSHORN

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

## **GOSPEL**

## **LUKE 1. 26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

## Parish Prayers

### The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

#### In The World:

- ◇ **The Diocese of Kontagora - (Lokoja, Nigeria):** +Jonah Ibrahim
- ◇ **The Diocese of Rockhampton:** +David Robinson; Clergy & People

#### In The Diocese:

- ◇ **The Parish of Mundubbera-Eidsvold-Monto:** Carol Palmer
- ◇ **St Catherine's Pastoral Care Group**
- ◇ **All Saints Anglican School:** Headmaster - Patrick Wallas; Chaplains - Ann McGuinness; Chair of School Council - John Fradgley; members of School Council

**Locally:** All who are sleeping on the streets.

**Pray for The Sick:** Joel, Jim, Valmai, Bronwyn, Albert , Duncan Family, Coral, Marie, Sandy, Steph, Kerrie, Ollie, Ken, Ellen, Adrienne, John.

*(NOTE: under the Federal Privacy Act, consent of the person you wish to pray for must be obtained. No details of need / illness can be published without consent)*



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

– Sunday 21 December 2014

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Psalms 89.1-4, 19-27

Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

This week we begin to get the sense that the powerful coming of Jesus about which we have been hearing in the last three weeks might be in a surprising form. An angel comes to a young, powerless, marginalized woman in an outlying province of the world's largest empire and announces the birth of a son. Yet this story is full of surprising reversals: the powerful Messiah will come as a helpless baby, and at the same time, powerless Mary is filled with more power than anyone on earth when she consents to become the mother of our Lord.

Pray that we may consent to God's work in us, however surprising it might be.

Pray for the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, the Philippine Independent Church, giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.

Text: Mr Joe Woodfin, the School of Theology,  
the University of the South (Sewanee, TN, USA)

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## **21 December 2014 News & Coming Events for your Diary**

If you are new to the parish or visiting **Welcome**. Please accept this invitation to stay and join in with us for fellowship and a chat outside after the service, where tea and coffee will be served.

- ◇ Wednesday 24 December: 6.00pm—Christingle
- ◇ Wednesday 24 December: 11.30pm—Midnight Eucharist
- ◇ Thursday 25 December: 7.30am—Sung Eucharist
- ◇ Thursday 25 December: 9.00am—Family Eucharist
- ◇ Friday 26 December: - No Service
- ◇ Sunday 28 December: 8.30am—Eucharist Service—one service only

### **Children's Church:**

Children's Church is currently taking a break for the school holidays and will resume again on Sunday 1 February. Children's Church is for children from 3 years-old to the end of primary school (and younger children are also very welcome to attend with a parent). Children's Church happens every Sunday in term-time, during the 9:00 service.

### **Advanced Notice of 2015 Annual General Meeting:**

The 2015 AGM will be held at 10.00am February 15th in the Maheno Room. All reports are required by the 4th February 2015. The future of the Parish urgently needs motivated people to stand on Parish Council. Please pray that people will come forward to help our Church develop more mission opportunities in 2015.

### **Christmas Bowl Appeal:**

Envelopes for this appeal are at the back of the Church . This year monies raised go to help rebuild lives of those in under privileged countries. Please consider you gift prayerfully and return the envelope by today Sunday 21st December

### **Making the Christingles:**

We will be making the Christingles on Wednesday 24th December at 10.00am. If you are able to help please be at the Church offices at 10.00am, and if you have a small paring knife bring it with you.

# *Advent Resources for Children*

There are 3 lovely activities parents and Grandparents could do with their children which help explain the Church's Season of Advent.

Please feel free to take one and use them or share them with friends who perhaps aren't familiar with the Season of Advent.

If you would like more copies, please let the office know.



## **CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SERVICES**

**December 24th Christmas Eve**

**6.00pm—Christingle Service, a very special way to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Very family orientated. (the children love it.)**

**11.30pm—Mid-night Eucharist**

**December 25th Christmas Day**

**7.30am—Sung Eucharist**

**9.00am—Family Eucharist**

**December 28th**

**8.30am- Eucharist**

**January 4th**

**8.30am- Eucharist**

**No Friday Eucharist until 9th January**

## **NEXT WEEKS READINGS**

### **The First Sunday after Christmas**

**Sunday 28 December 2014**

Isaiah 61.10-62.3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 2.22-40

#### **ROSTERED DUTIES**

**8.30AM**

#### **L.A.'S**

ALLAN THOMSON  
ROSLYN THOMSON

#### **READERS**

ANN WINFIELD  
LINDA MITCHELL

#### **INTERCESSOR**

MICHAEL O'KEARNEY

#### **DOOR**

LIONEL ROWE  
SUSAN ROWE

#### **TEA / COFFEE**

DOROTHY CAMERON  
RUTH SOUTHGATE

#### **OFFERTORY COUNTER**

ALLAN THOMSON  
ROSLYN THOMSON

#### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

#### **LITTLE CHILDREN'S**

#### **CHURCH**

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

#### **FLOWER ROSTER**

**WEEKLY GIVING : BUDGET \$1250/WEEK; LAST WEEK \$934.90**