



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
Rockingham Congregation  
4 Erindoon Way, Waikiki 6169

# UPDATE

SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at 9:30am

Today's Service conducted by  
Rev Toby Keva

Please join us for morning tea following worship

## Welcome to Rockingham Uniting Church

Our hope is that all who come through our doors find Spiritual rest and nourishment, and that you will experience the presence of the living God in our midst.

<b>Minister</b> Rev Toby Adhityas Keva	<b>Minister's Hours:</b> 10:00am - 6:00pm Wed - Sun <b>Mobile:</b> 0411 831 695 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:toby.keva@me.com">toby.keva@me.com</a>
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<b>Opportunity Shop</b>	169 Parkin Street, Rockingham Monday to Friday: 10:00am to 3:30pm Saturday: 9:00am to 12:00noon Phone 9527 4660

## **Christmas Day's Bible Reading: *Luke 2:1-20***

In our reading from Luke's Gospel, Luke located the Christmas story not in some fables, but in human history. He began the story of Jesus' birth by placing it in one historical moment when Augustus was the Emperor of the Roman Empire and Quirinius was the governor of Syria. He located the story in real towns of Nazareth in Galilee and Bethlehem in Judea.

In other words, Jesus was born into the real world, in the midst of human history with all its complexities and messiness. For Luke, the story of Jesus' birth was not some fairytales, but real story involving real people from the highest rank, like the Emperor and Governor, to the lowest of all, like the shepherds or a couple who sojourned as strangers (and the animals; let's not forget the animals).

Indeed, if only we were there, we would not only see what Luke told in his Gospel; if we were there, we would also smell the smell of animals' droppings in the place where Mary and Joseph laid their newborn; or the smell of the shepherds who were never really concerned about their personal hygiene; or the smell of Joseph and Mary's body odour, exhausted by the long journey. If we were there, we could hear Jesus' cry and Mary's sigh of relief and the shepherds' gasp of surprise. Jesus was born in the midst of real people and real places.

Indeed, God does not wait for us to clean up our life before God comes into it. God comes to us, in Jesus Christ, in the midst of our messy, dirty life. Even more: God chooses to dwell in our life to transform it.

So, if you think today that you are not worthy to invite God into your life, to let God lead you to a better place, think again. You do not have to wait until your life looks like a display home before you can invite God as a guest in it. God will come into your life no matter what. The birth of Jesus Christ is the story about God who comes not into a perfect world, but into a broken one.

So, do not wait any longer. Invite Christ now. Let him come to your home, to your family, to your workplace, to your private spaces, and let him guide you to the light.

## **Bible Readings 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017:**

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

## WEEK'S EVENTS FROM 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER – 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017

Today 9:30am	<u>Morning Worship</u> led by Rev Toby Keva
Today 5:00pm	<u>Afternoon Service</u>
Prayers	<u>Remember</u> the people of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.
Wednesday	<u>Craft Group:</u> There are no more Craft meetings until February next year.
Thursday	<u>Men's Group</u> - Now in Recess

### Coming Events

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January: Morning Worship Service at 9:30am & Afternoon Service at 5:00pm – conducted by Rev Toby Keva with Holy Communion

#### Focus Magazine

A reminder to all groups in the congregation that your annual reports will be due the end of January 2018.

### Notices

**Church online Photos:** the URL for the page is:

<http://www.rockinghamuniting.org/photos/>

and the password for the page is:

RUCPhotos

#### Urgent Staffing of Op Shop

We are in need of extra helpers for Tuesdays and Fridays even once every second week will be of great help.

## ROCKINGHAM CONGREGATION

Weekly Worship with Children's Activities each Sunday 9.30am (with Communion on First Sunday of each month).

We aim to be a fellowship of Christians making the crucified, risen and exalted Lord Jesus Christ to be known, loved, worshipped and obediently followed. We aim to be always open to newcomers and to serve the community and the world, doing all this by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to achieve this by committing ourselves to God in spiritual growth through prayer, bible study, and stewardship of time, talents and resources

<b>Rosters – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b>	
<b>Announcements</b>	Gerry Ligtermoet
<b>Bus Driver</b>	John Burns
<b>Reader</b>	Gerry Ligtermoet
<b>Elder</b>	Joy Williams
<b>Stewards</b>	Pat Nevin & Gerry Ligtermoet
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Val Watts & Judith Ffoulkes
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Mary Paton & Margot Evans
<b>Accompanist</b>	Ken Paton
<b>AV System</b>	Nell Morgan & Cameron Harris
<b>KUCA</b>	Recess

Four week averages: Attendance 108: 12