



# NEWSLETTER

4 – 10 December 2023

**Revive**  
**Restore**  
**Reach Out**

## NRCC News and Notices

### Advent 2: PEACE



#### · **Guest Preacher**

This Sunday Rev Clive Pearson will be preaching on Mark 1:1-8 and Isaiah 40:1-11.

#### · **Supply Minister**

Last Sunday the congregation was informed by Geoff that presbytery have a supply minister for us. Rev Deborah Yun will be starting with us on January 15. Her strengths are worship and pastoral care. We look forward to welcoming her in the new year.

#### · **Meeting with Presbytery**

Last Sunday we met Geoff Stevenson for our second Mission Planning Consultation. We had some very encouraging discussions with a number of possible outreach activities suggested. If you did not have a chance to put your name down to help organise an activity, the lists will be displayed in the church for a couple more weeks.

## Dates for your diary

▪ CC and the ministry team leaders have discerned together and put the dates of the events/activities for this year on our church calendar. Please feel free to contact any of the leaders if you feel led to participate or want to share your thoughts and ideas.

## NRCC 2023 Calendar

Dec		
3	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	
3	Congregation discussion	Presbytery
10	Potluck Lunch POSTPONED	Sue
24	Christmas Eve—9am A Carol Service	
25	Christmas Day 9am	

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## Community News and Notices

- **Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links**

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

NSW & ACT Synod: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/>

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## Reflection of the Week

### Peace in Praising God

Read Luke 1:46-56.

When young Mary learned from the angel Gabriel that she would soon be pregnant with the Son of God, she could have focused on all the hardship her pregnancy would surely bring her way. But Mary didn't panic, of course. She asked one simple question of the angel: "How will this be, . . . since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34). It was an honest question, not an expression of doubt or disobedience. And once Gabriel told Mary that her pregnancy would be supernatural—the work of the Holy Spirit—she replied, "I am the Lord's servant" (v. 38).

It was a beautiful, humble response, fitting for the woman God chose to be the mother of His Son. But Mary had another response as well, one that echoes down through the centuries and is known today as the Magnificat. In this song, Mary gives us an example to follow, one that will lead us back to peace.

The song begins, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, . . ." (vv. 46-47) Why mention both her soul and her spirit? Because Mary wants everyone to know that she praises the

Lord with her entire being and with her whole life. No matter what she is facing, no matter her circumstances—she is the Lord's, totally and truly.

Mary's song also points to the mercy and grace of God. Ultimately, it's not about Mary or her calling; it's about God and His goodness. The Son that would be born to Mary was God's remedy for the problems of sin, death, and evil.

Finally, Mary highlighted the faithfulness of God in her song: "He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors" (Luke 1:54-55) She was thinking about the Scriptures, all the stories of her people she had heard over the years, and she recognized that all of God's promises were about to be fulfilled in the Savior growing in her womb.

I don't know what you are walking through this Christmas season, but I want you to know that God is faithful. He never goes back on His promises. Whatever your circumstances, His loving kindness and faithfulness will lift you up as you trust Him. So, spend time magnifying His name above all others, point to His mercy and grace in your life, and rest in His faithfulness.

*Prayer: Father, I praise You for Your faithfulness. I know that as I focus on You—Your majesty and wondrous loving kindness toward sinners—You will lift me above my struggles and bring peace and joy to my heart. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name" (Luke 1:48-49).**

### **E - give** (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

**Account Name:** North Rocks Community Church  
**(BSB):** 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

### **Prayers**

If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn, or Pastoral Care Team.  
Robyn: 0424791916

## **Ministry Leaders**

### **Church Council**

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson

Secretary: Steve Turner

Treasurer: Anne Crabb

### **Team Leaders**

Worship: Cathy Nelson   Discipleship: Alex Chow   Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike   Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska

Intergen: Cathy Nelson   Mission: Steve Turner

## **North Rocks Community Church**

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Uniting Church in Australia <https://uniting.church/>

NSW & ACT Synod <https://nswact.uca.org.au/>

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery <https://parramattanepean.uca.org.au/>