



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS
20th December
2020

Thanks be unto God
for His
Unspeakable Gift.

2 Corinthians 9:15

A Church-Based Community Transforming Lives
Our Values Grace, Inclusion, Dignity, Faith & Hope

Congregational life @ Westmead & Parramatta, Hospitality,
Community and Mental Health Services across Greater Sydney,
Central Coast, Hunter and Mid-North Coast

Parramatta Mission acknowledges that all of our work and
our 36 sites are on the land of traditional owners.
We pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on
which we gather, and acknowledge Elders past and present,
and emerging leaders.

From the Interim Lead Minister

I share with readers the short piece below on the meaning of the birth stories, written by one of the profound New Testament scholars of the 20th century, Eduard Schweizer, who was one of my teachers when I studied theology in Zurich, and who shaped our interpretation of the New Testament.

Vladimir Korotkov

Advent 4B, 2020 • The meaning of the birth stories

Professor Eduard Schweizer

New Testament Scholar

In the case of the Christmas story and the associated narratives it is especially difficult to realise that the true miracle of Jesus' birth does not lie in various details and ephemeral legends...

It was assumed of many great men at the time, from Plato to Alexander, that they had been born without a human father. The fact of such a birth therefore did not single Jesus out as unique, it simply placed him in the company of all the great men of the age.

More important than the idea of Mary's virginity therefore are the points that distinguish the birth stories in the Gospels from these other accounts. ...

Whether a virgin birth is possible is a question only a modern [person] would ask; virgin birth was an accepted notion to [people] of the New Testament period. By no means, therefore, should a [person's] faith be judged by whether or not [they] think a miracle like this is possible, the less so because the virgin birth plays such an infinitesimal role in the New Testament. It is nowhere described; only the Annunciation is mentioned in Matthew 1 and Luke 1. Neither Matthew nor Luke returns to the subject, not even in the course of the Christmas story proper. According to Mark 3:21, Jesus' mother, who thinks him mad, appears to have no inkling of the promises made by the angel. No other document, above all none of the many summaries of the faith in a formula, hymn, or sermon in the New Testament, mentions the virgin birth. ...

What the text asks is therefore not whether we can consider a virgin birth physically possible, but ... whether in this birth we can see God's own and unique intervention for [humanity's] salvation.

And if this is the case, then we can also say what this story of the virgin birth is further meant to say: that this birth stands not merely as one among many in the long series of millions of births, that it took place not merely through the creative will or drive of [humanity], but through God's own will as creator.

Eduard Schweizer, *The Good News According to Matthew*, 32ff



Nicholas Poussin, Nativité (c.1653)

Friends

Last Sunday I received a visit from Rev Dr Amelia Koh- Butler to advise me that a formal letter of Call from Eastwood Uniting Church to be their Minister had been received and that Amelia had accepted the Call. Amelia will be concluding her placement at Parramatta Mission on 28 February 2021 and will take leave from 19 January 2021.

In her placement as Chaplain at Western Sydney University Amelia has made a significant contribution to building an inclusive, robust and flourishing relationship between the Uniting Church and Western Sydney University that we are now tasked to nurture into the future.

We have benefited from the skills and expertise that Amelia has brought to the life of Parramatta Mission. In recent times Amelia has changed her focus to support the congregational life of Parramatta Mission in this very strange and complex year and has opened our eyes to the digital church experience.

It has also been a privilege for Parramatta Mission to share with Amelia the journey travelled with Terry over the past three years and to stand beside her at a time of loss and grief.

The seasons continue to change at Parramatta Mission.

As a refresher, I have included the report I provided to the congregations in mid-October which included confirmation that Amelia's placement would be concluding by June 2021 due to Parramatta Mission's inability to fund this placement in the future. The report also set out the seasons of change being experienced by Parramatta Mission. In November, Paul Linossier, as chairperson of the Implementation Board provided a report to the Congregations outlining progress and advising that a period of reflection and discernment was underway in relation to the transition of services to other parts of the Uniting Church.

As Amelia's transition to Eastwood gets underway it is time for the Mission Council and Combined Congregation Leaders Meeting to discern supply ministry needs for the months after Amelia's placement concludes. This task is underway in consultation with Presbytery.

The processes to appoint a new lead Minister for Parramatta Mission will also commence in January.

However, in this season of advent please take time to pause and reflect that Christ is in everything as messy as it may be.....

Please pray for Amelia and for the Eastwood Uniting Church as a new season of ministry unfolds for them in 2021.

Take care this Christmas.

Best wishes

Ian Gray

Chairperson Church Council



Sunday, 13 December 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that I write to formalise my finishing as a Minister-in-Placement with Parramatta Mission. As you are aware, I accepted the Call to be your Chaplain to Western Sydney University three years ago with excitement and a desire to share Parramatta Mission's vision with the University and bless our wider community. I believe our experimentations together have, on-the-whole, been very well received and, by any measure, successful in sharing the good news of God in the world. I would not have chosen to end so soon, but had hoped that this would be a five-year Placement with the real possibility of planting and establishing new forms of ministry that are appropriate to our context. That Parramatta Mission found itself in a position not to be able to continue with this vision has been understandable, despite the disappointment. While we had embarked on this journey together, the recent events have seen me having to withdraw from the more experimental and exciting elements to support you in pastoral ministry during transition. I have served in that capacity out of the love I have for the members of all three congregations.

I shall be forever grateful for the love, care and concern you had for Terry and the way you have held me in the most difficult period of my life. Your genuine and generous spirit has stayed strong when I have felt broken. Your understanding and encouragement has been appreciated by my family. Know that Terry loved you and prayed for God's blessing for you.

This morning I received a formal Letter of Call from the Eastwood Uniting Church to be their Minister and I have responded to accept the Call. I will commence with Eastwood from March and would expect to conclude with Parramatta Mission at the end of February, taking some of my accrued leave from January 19th. [Note: This enables PM to claim my Jobkeeper until the end of February. It would seem appropriate for me to share in the Closure of Ministry ties service with Keith.]

Eastwood is not far away and, initially, I will stay living in Parramatta until other arrangements are made. There are four worshipping groups: 8am (experimental), 9.30 (family), 10.45 (liturgical) and 2pm (Chinese). They are part of the Macquarie University Chaplaincy Team and will also establish new links with the Chinese-Australia Institute at Western Sydney University Rydalmere Campus. I will have a Pastoral Team that includes office staff, a Children/Youth/Family Worker, a Chinese Pastoral Worker, a couple of retired Ministers and voluntary Pastors. Eastwood Uniting Church also has its own Musical Society, which includes singers who used to be my students from when I taught at the Conservatorium.

I know that things feel strange, with the changes to the mission, and to life in general. Nevertheless, I am confident that God sees you and loves you and calls you to move forward with fresh words and deeds. God will never leave you without possibilities, but sometimes you will need to open your eyes to see what God puts in front of you. Do not be fearful or anxious, rather, be confident that you will be breathed into life by the Spirit as Parramatta and Westmead become the hub that has been planned for so long. You are a people who have been blessed to be a blessing in the world. I have experienced your blessing – thank you!

With love and prayers

– Amelia Koh-Butler



Advent-Christmas Services

Advent 4

Sunday 20 December	9:30 am	Leigh Memorial (online)
	9:45 am	Westmead (online)
	11:15am	Fijian service @ Leigh Memorial Church.

Christmas Eve

Thursday 24 December 9 Lessons and Songs / Carols

This service will be pre-recorded and available from 6pm on a designated link

Christmas Day

Friday 25 December

30 minutes repeated services on site at Leigh Memorial Church

Open to all.

8:00 am.

9:15 am.

10:30 am onsite and live streamed from Leigh Memorial.

Westmead service

9:00 am. In church

At Leigh Memorial, Macquarie Street, Parramatta

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-morning-at-leigh-memorial-church-at-parramatta-mission-tickets-132754477215>

At Westmead Uniting, Hawkesbury Road, Westmead

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-morning-at-westmead-uniting-church-parramatta-mission-tickets-132870375871>

If you are not able to attend in-personal, we look forward to connecting with you online.

There will be a combined live-stream from Leigh via Zoom [at 10.30am](https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355) on

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>

or

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>

Note: the link to Christmas Eve pre-recorded worship will also be sent to you soon.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

Warmest blessings for Christmas and the New Year are extended to all our members and everyone in our Parramatta Mission family. Please join us for this year's Advent-Christmas program, including opportunities for onsite participation at Leigh Memorial (remember to officially register if attending in person!). Many thanks to the Pastoral Team, Worship Committee and others who have been hard at work in planning and overseeing this year's schedule of events and special gestures, including Fiona, Margie & families' delicious Christmas puddings! Let's share the joy of the Christmas message with others and look ahead to 2021 with faith in Christ's loving and healing presence. Thanks for everyone's support in 2020 – the LM Leaders: Bruce, Fiona, Samantha, Johana, Liz & Moses.



ADVENT-CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Friday 18 December: 7.30pm, 'Blue Christmas' meditations at Leigh Memorial. NB: The PM Christmas Carols in Centenary Square have been cancelled due to a weather warning;

Sunday 20 December: Sunday worship (9.30am, Zoom service);

Thursday 24 December: Christmas Eve lessons & carols (pre-recorded) (online @ 6.00pm);

Friday 25 December: Christmas Day worship (8.00am, 9.15am and 10.30am. NB: The 10.30am service will take place onsite *and* be live-streamed for those at home).

THANK YOU AMELIA

With the news of her acceptance of a call to Eastwood UC from early 2021, we offer Rev. Dr. Amelia our warmest thanks, love and support at this transitional time.

PASTORAL CARE

We continue to hold all who serve us in our prayers – along with community & congregation members who are unwell, grieving, or otherwise in need of additional support this Christmas time.

COMMUNICATIONS 2020

"Many thanks" to Chairperson Ian, Mission Secretary Robert, the Pastoral Team, PM leaders, staff and congregation 'secretaries' for their efforts at information sharing and record keeping during this busy year. Their supply of newsletter entries, information updates, reflections, reports, minutes, discussion papers and other key communications has represented a mammoth task – but one handled with efficiency, discretion and inclusivity. Moreover, the Mission's commitment to thorough and transparent communication has not only allowed for more fruitful discussion and decision-making in a time of crisis, but provided an important archival record of 2020 for future generations.

GREETINGS FROM THE GHOSHES

Rev Manas is settling into his new role as Minister at St. John's UC Wahroonga, and both he and Nita send their love and warmest greetings to the Leigh Memorial congregation and everyone at PM – with blessings for Christmas and the new year ahead.

PM FUNDRAISING – THANK YOU

Many thanks to Leigh Memorial members who have contributed to PM's 'Direct Giving' in 2020 and/or supported this year's Christmas fundraising. Every contribution makes a difference!

CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEAR OFFICE HOURS

The Mission office will be closed between 1pm, Thursday 24 December and Monday 4 January. Should urgent assistance be required during this time, please contact the Pastoral team.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

LIGHT ONE CANDLE FOR HOPE
LIGHT ONE CANDLE FOR LOVE
LIGHT ONE CANDLE FOR JOY
LIGHT ONE CANDLE FOR PEACE

Foster your faith this week

Is 61:10-62:3

Ps 148

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:22-40

Our prayers, thoughts and support For our Fijian family and nation

As Tropical Cyclone Yasa hits Fiji,
The Fijian Government has declared state of disaster.
Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama said
95 per cent of the country's population
— more than 850,000 people — were in the direct path of the storm.
"The impact forecast for this super storm is more or less all Fijians!"

We offer our prayers, thoughts and any support needed
To our Fijian brothers and sisters, and their families in Fiji.

The leadership team will listen for ways we can support you all in this current crisis.

May God's strength and peace be with you all at this time.

May we all journey with our Fijian family and keep our hearts and minds in prayer through this next



**A little more
sparkle
A little less stress
This Christmas,
we wish you
the very best.**

**Tracey & Coral
2020**

WESTMEAD Congregation

Welcome to worship at Westmead today ON ZOOM
ZOOM:<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Friday 25th December, 2020 at 9.00 am
This service will be face to face, in the chapel at Westmead.
It will be exciting to meet on Christmas morning.

PLEASE REGISTER WITH LORNA OR KAREN if you are able to come,
AND BRING A FACE MASK TO WEAR WHEN SINGING.

ANGEL TREE gifts have been purchased and wrapped, ready for delivery. There is a hamper and small gift for the carers, to each family, and of course each child has a gift.
Wonderful wrapping Lorna.
Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this wonderful outreach.



CAROL SERVICE. Tuesday 15th December, 2020, No. 28 folks and some other members of Westmead congregation gathered at Westmead and enjoyed a Very pleasant and relaxed afternoon, listening to the lovely singing of Rev. Amelia and Lee Green, and singing the carols, especially Colin who enjoys carols. Edwina and Carol, also enjoyed singing along. Geoff was soothed by the singing.

A JOYFUL TIME



There are 7 copies of With Love to the World still available, cost \$5.
They are at reception at 175. If you need to have one delivered please contact Lorna and she will deliver to you

WESTMEAD ELDERS:

KAREN BANFIELD (Chairperson) is contact person for Worship -
0488 101 469

LORNA PORTER is contact person for Administration and Finance -
0408 365 478

JAN ROBSON is Prayer Chain and Pastoral enquiries -
0418 438 901

MERE VULAONO (NO. 28)
BIJU CHAKO

Please do not hesitate to call your Leader if you have any concerns during this Covid-19 time.

We are continuing to support families at **Wesley Apartments**, supplying a voucher for their use and also welcome packs to new families on arrival.. There will be five families staying in the accommodation over the Christmas period. Thank you for your continued support.

We will keep these families in our prayers during the Christmas and holiday period.

Offerings may be dropped off at reception at the 175 Motel between 9am and 3p.m. each week day, and they will be collected by Lorna for processing. **OR** offerings may be made electronically, details as follows:

Account name: PM Direct Westmead
BSB634634

Account number: 100046885

Christmas Bowl Appeal envelopes are now available for your special donation, or you may place your donation in a plain envelope for collection.

STAMPS. Please keep collecting any stamps you may receive on your mail, especially with Christmas drawing near.

BIBLE STUDY is in recess until February, 2021



Send a Card that shows you care

Your gift this Christmas could make a real difference to the lives of those in need.

Many of us may not be able to celebrate with our families this year, or get to the shops. So these are a great way to give a meaningful gift. Each card represents a need for someone in our community - accommodation, food, essentials, or a gift

So why not give a gift with purpose!

Please visit our website to view our cards and purchase a gift that creates a lasting impression. You can opt to download a printable version or be sent an actual card to give as a gift. With your support we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy Christmas this year – even though it may not be the one we had imagined.

Giving a meaningful gift sends a hopeful message that together we are a community transforming lives

Visit our online store today to purchase your cards in time for Christmas

www.parramattamission.org.au/virtualgifts



대강절 제4주째 (4th Advent of Sunday) 2020년12월20일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 1 장** **통 1 장** 만복의 근원 하나님 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 120 장 **통 120 장** 오 베들레헴 작은 골

새 270 장 **통 214 장** 변참는 주님의 사랑과

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 **새 635장** 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 히브리서 13:1-3

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사
당신은 어떤 주님을 기다립니까?

봉헌 송(Offeratory Hymn)

새 126 장 **통 126장** 천사 찬송하기를

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 전 세계가 전염병으로 힘들 때 주님과 동행하시는 성도가 됩시다.
2. '매일 성경' 말씀으로 주님과 교제의 시간(QT)을 갖고 적용하는 훈련을 합니다.
3. 말씀, 기도, 전도 생활로 하나님이 기뻐하시는 삶을 사는 성도님들이 되시기 바랍니다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn)

새 502장 **통 259장** 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
벤후 2:1-9

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
벤후 1:1-3:18

1. Lotu ni Siga ni sucu:

Na lotu ena 25 ni Tiseba eda na lotu cokovata tiko kina, ka na tolu tiko nai wasewase ni lotu.

Ena gadrevi mo regisita taka online na gauna o nanuma ni ganiti iko mo lai lotu kina.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-morning-at-leigh-memorial-church-at-parramatta-mission-tickets-132754477215>

- **24 Tiseba** – Ena qaravi tiko na lotu vakaviti ena (Christmas eve) e valenilotu ena 7pm.
- **25 Tiseba – Gauna ni sokalou**
 - ✦ 8:00am
 - ✦ 9:15am
 - ✦ 10:30am Ena qaravi tiko e vale ni lotu na sokalou ka na biu cake talega ena zoom.
- **27 Tiseba** – Na lotu ena veiliutaki na matamasumasu naba 2.

2. Veinanumi ena Masu:

Kerei meda veinanumi tiko ga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase Aqriu Rogoimuri, Vilikesa kei Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Me nanumi tale tiko ena noda masu na vei qaravi ni Bula Feeding.



**RETREAT
YOURSELF** #RY21
2021

15/01/21
Communal Friday Night
Cook-Off™ (evening)

16/01/21
Worship, study, and a deeper
encounter with God

ENCOUNTER
How do we encounter God personally, locally, within our
church and wider community, and as we grow as disciples?

Hybrid online/ local gathering

REGISTRATION:
nswact.uca.org.au/Ry21

  

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for

Our Community

- We give thanks that some small gatherings are starting to take place. We give thanks for welcoming cafes and the disciplines we have learnt to help keep us all safe
- We give thanks for coffee, tea, muffins and spiritually encouraging conversations.

PM Westmead

- We pray for chaplain Sarah and the ministry at the Children's hospital, for the teams and guests at 175 and Wesley Apartments, for those who are contemplating life changes, for those who grieve, especially Karen, Kath and Amelia. We pray for the researchers and health care responders at Westmead WSU campus.

PM Korean Faith Community

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for Rev Hyung Goo and Hannah.

PM Leigh Memorial

- We pray especially for those whose health is not the best. We ask for calmness for people having treatments for illnesses and for the courage of their carers
- We particularly remember - Betty E (who is doing well and singing along to Songs of Praise on Sunday mornings) Himmi and family, Liz and family and Jolame.
- For those who are experiencing anxiety around home, work or life changes, we pray for supportive community. We continue to pray for those unable to gather, community members who are unwell, people who are unable to work and those who are lonely or depressed.

PM Fijian

- We pray for those who are going through transitions from school to beyond.
- We pray for the Synod Pulse Team and Ofa's role as a newly commissioned Pastor in the Team, resourcing youth ministry across NSW/ACT.
- We pray for the guests at the Bula Feeding Ministry and Meals Plus and our wonderful volunteers. We pray for those who are unable to meet because of rain or storms and for those who have been sleeping rough.

-

Wider Work

We pray for Parramatta Nepean Presbytery.

- for the Chaplaincy at Westmead and the transition of the Team as people come and go - we pray especially for Sarah as she continues while others change
- UC leaders doing the DIGITAL MINISTRY training with Rev Amelia, learning how to use technology to hold communities together during COVID times.

For Our Combined Parramatta Mission Team

May God guide all our workers and volunteers to live out our values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.

Rev Vladimir, Rev Mary, Rev Clive, Chaplain Sarah, Sunil, Robert, Coral, Rev Amelia, Rev Hyung Goo - and their families, as they support us to serve in mission.

We ask for God's help to bless the world. AMEN

Pastoral Contacts

Prayer Points may be sent to

wecare@parramattamission.org.au

For a conversation or to contact a Minister, please call

Parramatta Mission Reception (9am-3pm)

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

9891 2277

Leigh Memorial Church

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

9891 2277

Westmead Church

175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead NSW 2145

9891 9354

IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED

Our three ministers, Amelia Koh-Butler, Clive Pearson and Vladimir Korotkov are available to each congregation and members and your friends; their contact details are listed below.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Interim Lead Minister) 0431 759 573

Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler 0427 955 157

Rev Dr Clive Pearson (Supply) 0409 523 024

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THESE PEOPLE FOR PASTORAL ISSUES

Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith Community) 0433 320 588

Pr Sarah Bishop (Children's Hospital) 0429 912 943

Anare Vocea (Fijian Vakatawa) 0432 772 852

 Parramatta Mission

 @parramission

 Parramatta Mission

Visit our website and blog www.parramattamission.org.au