



**Parramatta
Mission**



**uniting
church**
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS
25th December
2020



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

Christmas Day

Luke 2: 1-20

Luke 2: 10: "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."

God the Weaver

God the weaver, making patterns,
spinning threads throughout our days -
Joy and sadness interwoven,
strands of sorrow, strands of praise.
Help us to discern your weaving
in the multi-coloured maze.

Marjorie Dobson/mm

Living Joy, Part One

Luke's story of the great joy that is born within and to the world in Jesus' birth is set within life's raw realities. The pregnant Mary, with Joseph, is forced to travel by the ruling colonial power of Rome. As Bruce Epperly wrote,

"... taxes are levied to support the imperial government. Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem to pay tribute to a foreign government and, to add insult to injury, the only shelter they can find for the birth of their child is a stable.

The angelic messengers deliver the good news, first, to shepherds "living in the fields," enduring the elements without a roof over their heads. There is nothing romantic about this theophany; the life of the shepherd is lonely, harsh, and unappreciated. Their job is necessary for society, but they have the social status of those who pick up our trash. In the most unlikely place, the angelic voices ring out.

The romantic stuff and tinsel of the Christmas season can push aside this realisation that marginalised shepherds, isolated in field and from society, are favoured by God.

Luke writes that the shepherds choose to go and witness the birth and then shared the amazing news with others. Through this child they see that they too are favoured by God and they find new community. They lived the joy from within their lived reality. Joy grew in unexpected place.

Bill Loader writes "[t]hat ... we need the angels, the romance, the symbols, the colour of the story. People can enter the story, find themselves there, make their own exploratory or rededicatory journeys with the shepherds, just to see, to be there."

Luke wants us to see that through the angelic singing and the witness of this baby God's love and care lights up the dark night of the poor, questionable shepherds! No other human being takes an interest in them, and goes and sees them in the fields on cold nights!

Has Jesus been born into their hearts? As Matthew Fox writes:

"To me, and to many people before me, Christmas is not so much about the birth of the baby Jesus as it is about a birth going on in us. Hopefully. A birth of the Christ in us... That is the Coming we wait for. That is the happening we hope for. Meister Eckhart put it this way seven centuries ago: 'What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the son of God and I don't give birth to the son of God in my person and my time and my culture?'"

Vladimir Korotkov

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](#) on

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/my/rev.ameliak>

or

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

PASTORAL MESSAGE

JESUS, EMMANUEL
GOD WITH US!
TODAY, EVERY DAY

Foster your faith this week

Is 9:2-7

Ps 96

Ti 2:11-14

Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)

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.

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Wider Work

- 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

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