

OUR NEWS

27th November 2022

Our Vision

A Community Transforming Lives



Our Values

Grace,
Inclusion,
Dignity,
Faith and Hope

Congregational life at Westmead & Parramatta,
Hospitality Services at 175 Hotel and Wesley Apartments
Meals Plus Services providing for those in need across the
Parramatta LGA

Parramatta Mission acknowledges that all of our work takes
place on the land of traditional owners.

We pay respect to the original custodians of the land on
which we gather, and acknowledge their elders past and
present, and their emerging leaders.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Advent 1A, 2022
Matthew 24: 36-44

*Stay awake
to new possibilities*
Rev Vladimir Korotkov



1. Advent, a spirituality of waking up!

Anthony De Mello, a former Jesuit priest who lived in India, shares a story he heard on Spanish TV, which leads us into reflecting on what Advent means for us:

A [man] knocks on his son's door. "Jaime", he says, "wake up!" Jaime answers: "I don't want to get up, Papa." The father shouts: "Get up, you have to go to school." Jaime says, "I don't want to go to school." "Why not?" Asks the Father. "Three reasons", says Jaime. "First, because it's so dull; second, the kids tease me; third I hate school." And the father [replies]: "Well, I am going to give you three reasons why you must go to school. First, because it is your duty; second, because you are 45 years old, and third, because you are the headmaster." Wake up, wake up! You've grown up. You're too big to be asleep. Wake up! Stop playing with your toys.

Anthony De Mello writes that:

Spirituality means waking up. Most people are asleep, even though they don't know it... They're born asleep, they live asleep, [they have relationships in their sleep...], they die in their sleep without ever waking up. They never understand the loveliness and the beauty of this thing we call human existence. You know all [spiritual teachers] are unanimous on one thing: that all is well, all is well. Though everything is a mess, all is well. But tragically most people never get to see that all is well because they are asleep....

He goes on to say that even though most people say they want to get out of kindergarten, they really don't want to. All they want is their toys mended.

"Give me back my wife. Give me back my job. Give me back my money. ... This is all they want... that's all. Even the best psychologist will tell you that, that people don't really want to be cured. What they want is relief; a cure is painful."

2. Matthew's Jesus calls us to keep awake and allow the birth of newness in us!

Matthew's Jesus is the wisdom of God, preparing and empowering people to live bravely, with thoughtfulness, passion, and openness to the future and responsibility for the present.

In our reading from Matthew 24: 36-44, Matthew's Jesus challenges us to watch, to keep awake for the coming of Christ! In this Advent period, we can hear this challenge as openness to prepare for the birth of Christ in the fullness of our lives, lives that are not asleep.

Put in different words, William Loader who comments on this passage:

Attentiveness to what is going on in relation to the big picture and the longer perspective is in deficit in our communities. Our imaginings about the realities of the future may or may not include points of time, but they can envisage both dramatic events and slowly spiralling dangers. The theology that God is in the end need not change. The same Jesus-shaped God of hope meets us from the future and lifts our gaze from our own preoccupation with eating and drinking, marrying and being married. These good things and the rest of life's activities which make so many people very busy today conspire to produce a situation where people have or make room only for small thinking and limited horizons. They often prevent or subvert our watching.

As Edward Schweizer adds in his commentary on Matthew, the people of Noah's time were not wicked people. They probably were mostly good people engaged in good everyday events, eating, drinking, marrying! The paradox is that they were "respectable people who have forgotten the reality of God." And that they were without thought! Many people who believe in God, but they do so without thought, without responsible, thorough, and courageous reflection on themselves, life and God's reality in this! They are not awake to the fullness of God future and present, nor awake to themselves in their fullness. And we can only know God as we know ourselves. As Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest and Enneagram teacher, writes:

I believe we are all an infinite mystery to ourselves. I quote the German Jesuit Karl Rahner:

The faith it takes to accept the infinite mystery that you are, and the faith it takes to accept the infinite mystery that God is, are finally the same act of faith.

I would add that the acceptance of both mysteries -who I am and who God is -moves forward in parallel order.

Good things can conspire and distract our Advent preparation for the birth of Christ in our lives now! This means, avoid the birth of new things now, when we avoid working on waking up in our personal and community lives!

Conclusion

Advent is a time of preparation for the future, from which God draws near to us, and into which God beckons us, and in the great mystery of Christ, the Spirit and Wisdom of Christ now accompanies us in.

Advent is a time where we prepare our hearts and our minds, personally and in community, for the changes that beckon us.

All the stages of adulthood require ongoing growth and development if we are to keep pace with the changes that our personal and group lives require. Patience and courage are essential, as change in mind, emotions, behaviour are different for each person. Changing mindsets involves the head and the heart. We need to change mindsets to enable behavioural change, and practice new behaviours too, and be open and flexible to create a new future. This is not just a matter of insights or personal devotion, but a praxis approach of action-reflection and then reflection-action. And in all this we must care for each other on this new journey: transformational learning and change requires challenge and compassionate tending to the anxieties that change and loss of the past arouses. Challenge and support, support and challenge. May this be our Advent adventure.



Foster your faith this week

Is 2:1-5 Ps 122

Rom 13:11-14 Mt 24:36-44

Parramatta City Uniting Church

ADVENT 2022

Special Events – All welcome!



Friday 25 November

6.30pm: Christmas Carols & Sausage Sizzle – The Hills School, Mary St; Northmead

Thursday 8 December

6.00pm: 'Service of Solace' – Uniting Retirement Village/Aged Care, Caroline St; Westmead

Sunday 18 December

6.00pm: 'Jazz on Hammers' Christmas Celebration (inc. Carols & BBQ)
@ Northmead Uniting Church

Friday 23 December

11.00am – 2.00pm: Community Christmas Lunch & 'Open Church'
@ Parramatta Mission

Saturday 24 December

7.30pm: Christmas Eve Carols Service – Centenary Uniting Church

Christmas Day services

8.00am: Northmead Uniting Church

9.00am: Leigh Memorial Uniting Church

(Onsite + Zoom: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>)

PCUC Sites:

Centenary Uniting Church – 46 Sorrell Street, North Parramatta

Northmead Uniting Church – 3-7 Hammers Road, Northmead

nucchurch@bigpond.net.au / 9890-5814

Leigh Memorial Uniting Church & Parramatta Mission – 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta

Westmead Uniting Church – Cnr Queens & Hawkesbury Rds; Westmead

LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com / <https://www.parramattamission.org.au> / 9891-2277.



Leigh Memorial Congregation

WORSHIP @ LEIGH MEMORIAL – FIRST IN ADVENT

We look forward to seeing you this Sunday, 27 November @ 9.30am with Rev. John Barr.

ADVENT WREATH & CANDLES

The Advent wreath and candles is a longstanding Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of the liturgical calendar that precede Christmas. The first Advent Candle is purple and symbolizes HOPE. It is known as the 'Prophet's Candle' because the prophets of the Old Testament, notably Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah. Purple also represents royalty & repentance.

ADVENT "GIVING TREE"

The Leigh Memorial 'Giving Tree' starts this Sunday! Each week during Advent, we'll be collecting non-perishable food, which will be used by Meals Plus for meals and hampers throughout the festive season. Some suggestions include canned fruit, veg, meat/fish, biscuits, cakes, puddings and chocolate, and staples such as pasta, rice, ready-meals/soups, cereal, uht milk, juice, tea, coffee, sugar etc.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our prayers remain with everyone in the congregation who needs additional support and uplift at this time. Mae is home! Blessings Mae and Steve, and our ongoing thoughts and prayers as Mae continues her recovery and rehab. We also offer our loving prayers for Bev, and her family and friends, at what is a concerning time for all.

COVID SAFETY

As we experience another wave of COVID – please follow all the familiar safety measures/health advice to protect the most vulnerable among us. Thank you.

PCUC LEAD MINISTER

Last Sunday, Rev Geoff Smith was announced as the incoming Lead Minister for the Parramatta City Uniting Church. "Welcome" Rev Geoff! Enquiries: VSAG.

ADVENT 2022 PROGRAM – PCUC

The Parramatta City Uniting Church's Advent program is in the weekly newsletters and on the PM website. Everyone is welcome! Enquiries:

LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com (Parramatta events) or
nuchurch@bigpond.net.au (Northmead-Centenary events).

We look forward to seeing you.

SYDNEY ALLIANCE EVENT

A reminder that the Sydney Alliance forum at Parramatta Mission will take place on Wednesday 30 November, 6 – 8pm, with NSW Treasurer, Matt Kean. Thanks to our group of congregation volunteers. Further details to follow. NB: Participants & volunteers need to pre-register.

TOUR GROUPS @ LEIGH

On Tuesday, a second Mandarin-speaking group from Eastwood Uniting came to Leigh Memorial for a heritage tour. The group again brought an interpreter and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Next week (9 – 11am, 29 & 30 November and 1 December), Liz will be hosting church heritage tours for 130 Year 10 boys from The King's School, during which the students will also visit Meals Plus and hear from Paul. If anyone is available to lend a hand, please see Liz.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year, our congregation will be participating in the Mission's Christmas Lunch & Open Church with the community, 11am – 2pm on Friday 23 December. Lunch volunteers are needed – and we'll also have the church open during the event – so if you'd like to help, please register your interest with Robert or Liz or contact us via the congregation email:

LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

CALENDAR REMINDERS...

- Friday 25 November:** Carols & BBQ at the Hills School, Mary St; Northmead – 6.30pm;
- Wednesday 30 November:** Sydney Alliance forum with Treasurer Matt Kean (evening) at PM;
- Saturday 3 December:** PCUC 'Vision' Day at Centenary (ie. commencing 09.00am and concluding at 12:00noon with a sausage sizzle).
All welcome. Enquiries: David or Fiona (VSAG);
- Sunday 18 December:** 6.00pm, 'Jazz on Hammers' Christmas Night, Northmead Uniting Church (includes Carol singing and a BBQ). All welcome!

SOME CHRISTMAS GIVING SUGGESTIONS...

DONATE-A-PLATE:

<https://www.parramattamission.org.au/donateaplate/>

TEARFUND: Meaningful, useful & sustainable gifts:

<https://www.tearfund.org.au/>

CHRISTMAS BOWL: Refugee appeal:

<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

UNITING WORLD: Fight Poverty & Build Hope:

<https://everythingincommon.com.au/>

CONDOLENCES

The Parramatta Mission Heritage Committee conveys its sincere condolences to the family of the late Bob Evans of Hazelbrook Uniting – a past President of the UCA's NSW/ACT Historical Society. Bob's family has generously donated many of his personal belongings to Meals Plus. Thank you Evans family. A service of thanksgiving for Bob is taking place at Hazelbrook UC at 11am,

Westmead Congregation

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 27th November 2022 – 9.30am

Today's service is led by Pastor Fil. Thank you for visiting us Fil, we look forward to hearing from you.

Last Sunday Reverend John Barr gave an interesting look back at some of the Kings and Queens and then Jesus as our "King". Some of the ways Jesus' kingdom differs is because He is "Supreme" and "Pre-eminent". "Jesus is the head of the Church and He holds all things together" – a very secure and comforting image. Thank you Rev. John, and we wish you all the very best in settling into your new home.

Covid – with the new variant of covid and the unfortunate rise in cases, please stay home if you are or feel unwell and recover well. Please use hand sanitizers and maintain social distancing. Mask wearing is optional however you may wear a mask if you feel you need extra protection.

There are some extra copies of the bible study booklet 'With Love to the World' for the new study quarter, cost \$5. If you would like a copy, please see Lorna.



ADVENT:
For PCUC services and activities please see the Newsletter or the PM website.

PLEASE NOTE:

THERE WILL NOT BE A CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT WESTMEAD BUT YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE NORTHMEAD SERVICE AT 8.00AM OR LEIGH MEMORIAL SERVICE AT 9.00AM FOR CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP.

DATES

Saturday 3rd December - 9:00am to 12:00noon, 'Vision Day' at Centenary Church – this will be a gathering Number 3, of the Parramatta City Uniting Church with all the congregations meeting each other and sharing thoughts, ideas and plans for the future of our combined Church. Please join if you can for an interesting day.

Sunday 4th December - Westmead will hold a Christmas luncheon beginning at 12.00 midday.
Lunch will include a light meal and desert – cost \$15 pp.
For catering purposes please rsvp
Lorna on 0408 365 478 by Monday, 28 November



Thursday 8th December at 6pm – Uniting Westmead Chaplain, Kate Thornley, will lead a ‘Service of Solace’ in the chapel at Uniting Westmead. All very welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are some volunteering opportunities for Meals Plus Christmas Day Lunch on Friday 23rd Dec. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Liz de Reland. Sydney Alliance Forum to be held on Wednesday 30 November, 6-8 pm. A team of congregation helpers will be needed on the evening to assist with various tasks. (The Sydney Alliance Forum is an information/discussion evening on community affected topics with NSW Treasurer, Matt Kean and other community organisations.)

For further information contact Liz de Reland or Robert Key.

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN JOIN

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday afternoons, **2pm**. All are welcome.

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95043695512>

TAI CHI: Friday at Uniting Westmead **10am-11am \$10**

Christian Meditation on Zoom led by Pastor Sarah Bishop - Tuesdays, and Thursdays at **6.20am**. Contact Sarah for Zoom Link.

Email: sarah@bluetardis.com.au Phone: 0412 606 049

ENQUIRIES:

Chairperson: Jan Robson 0418 438 901

Administration: Lorna Porter 0408 365 478

Prayer Chain Requests: Ruth Geggie 0430 271 205

Newsletter: Cheryl Shyam 0432 436 999

Technology: Alysa Biju westmead@uca.gmail.com

Leigh Fijian Congregation

- 1.Lotu ena macawa oqo 27/11:** Na lotu ena macawa oqo erau na vunau kina ko Sireli Tuiloma kei Senitiki Qata. Tu vakarau ena vunau Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Veiliutaki na matamasumasu naba 3.
- 2.Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 04/12:** Na qaravi tiko na lotu vulavou ena sigatabu mai oqo, ka na qaravi tale tikoga na sakaramede ni vakayakavi ni Turaga. Ena veiqaravi kina ko pastor Filikesa Kamotu. Veiliutaki na soqosoqo ni tabagone. Tu vakarau na vunau Ofa Foiakau kei Soweri Suguta.
- 3.Vunau lesi Westmead 27/11:** Na vunau lesi ena macawa mai oqo ki Westmead ko Adi Akisi Allison.
- 4.Lesoni ni macawa oqo: 21/11 – 27/11:** Aisea 2:1-5 Same 122 Roma 13:11-14 Maciu 24:36-44
- 5. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo: 28/11 – 04/12:** Aisea 11:1-10 Same 72:1 -7, 18-19 Roma 15:4-13 Maciu 3:1-12
- 6.Sa vakadonui ena bose I PNP e 3 na yaca ena vuku ni vaka Deputy Chairperson ni PNP,tou vakavinavinska ni sa dua vei Ira o Inise Foiakau.**
- 7.Sa lesi talega o Inise me mata ni Presbytery kina JNC e Auburn Parish kina I lesilesi ni Emerging Gen/First Third Life Multicultural Ministry Leader.**
- 8. Sa kau cake talega na yacai Talatala Samu Sadrata me sa tabaki (pending placement),ka sa vakadonui ena bose ni PNP.**

Lolo kei Na masumasu - Veinanumi ena lolo kei na masumasu ena vei matai ni Vukelulu ena vei vula mai na 6am – 12pm se 6am – 6pm. Soli tu na galala ke o rawa ni qarava.

Veinanumi ena Masu : Kerei meda veinanumi tikoga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase kei na vuvale ra sotava tiko na dredre ko Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, Akisi Dovibua Baranski, Dia Allison Lotawa Family Satala Family Tuiloma Family. Ko ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodratou veiqaravi na Bula Feeding.

Gadrevi na noda veinanumi ena masu vei ira na lewe ni vavakoso era mai sasaga kei na nanumi talega ni nodra vuvale mai Viti .

대림절 첫 번째 주일 (1st Advent of Sunday) 2022년 11월 27 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 3 장** **통 2 장** 성부 성자와 성령 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 33 장 **통 12 장** 영광스런 주를 보라

새 250 장 **통 182 장** 구주의 십자가 보혈로

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **요한복음 9:35-41**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 **보는 눈과 못 보는 눈**

봉헌 송 (Offertory Hymn) **새 96 장** **통 94 장** 예수님은 누구신가?

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 501 장** **통 255 장** 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
전도서 2:1-11

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
전도서 1:12-3:22

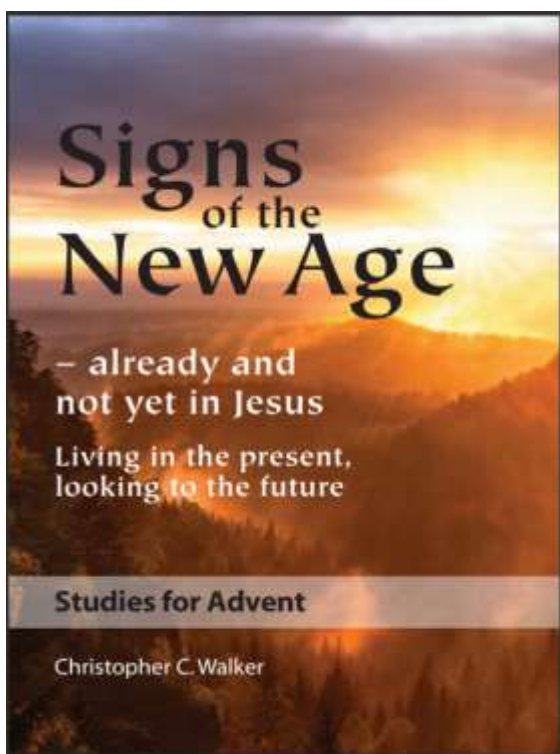
Advent Study

As you prepare for Advent, there is a new resource and study:

Chris Walker's new Advent Study *Signs of the New Age - already and not yet in Jesus* is now available. It includes not only considering the lectionary readings but includes stories, quotes and prayers. It is selling for \$11.95 by MediaCom.

You can obtain it from: mediacomeducation.org.au He will be conducting it from 7.30 - 9.00pm on 21, 28 November and 5, 12 December at Auburn. The Zoom link is:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93347342432> for those who would like to join by Zoom.



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TOILETRIES

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119 Macquarie St, Parramatta NSW 2150

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

- For those that have succumbed to ill health or are nearing end of Life's journey- We pray for healing where it is needed and comfort and peace where the need is. May loved ones around them find day to day support.
- For the recent flooding here in Australia, floods overseas in Venezuela, Congo, earthquake fatalities in Indonesia and other countries affected by extremes of weather- we pray for humanitarian aid, courage and divine comfort for those grieving loss of lives and livelihood.
- We pray for the homeless that they may be helped to find proper shelter and that they may be able to tell their personal stories, that their cycle of homelessness may end.
- For those battling depression, anxiety, or loneliness – Lord become their personal friend and create a life worth living through the pain and brokenness.
- For those in economic crises – We pray for relief and help from those around them. May their circumstances improve and change for the better.

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.

PM Korean Faith Community

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for the revival of the church.
- We pray especially for Nak Su Baik, Kyeong Ok Hyeon (Those who are not in good health).

Prayer Points

PM Leigh Memorial

- We pray for congregation members, leaders and staff who are unwell, or having tests or procedures, and those experiencing anxiety surrounding work, study, family life or health. We particularly remember our members in need of additional support at this time, including those who are separated from their families or grieving. We also remember those within our congregations who are devoted carers to others in their family or within the community;
- We pray for wisdom and inspiration to infuse all current and forthcoming decision-making processes and actions by our dedicated ministers, leaders, managers and staff – and specifically pray for Paul and the team at Meals Plus, Cameron and his team at Westmead, the Bula Feeding ministry, and the life and witness of our fellow Parramatta Mission & Parramatta City Uniting Church congregations;
- We also pray for greater mutual respect, compassion and care within our local communities, and for the realisation of a community-wide spirit of inclusion and love for all people.

Wider Work

For our Combined Parramatta Mission Team

- May God guide all our staff and volunteers to live out our values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope;
- Rev. Vladimir, Rev. Hyun Goo, Chaplain Sarah, PMC Chairperson, David and Secretary Robert and all those who lead and serve.

Service & Zoom Information

Leigh Memorial Congregation

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site & Zoom

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Congregation

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site

Leigh Fijian Congregation

Time: Sundays 11.15am on site

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 2277

IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED

Please contact our minister Vladimir Korotkov for any pastoral needs.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Transition Minister)	0431 759 573
Rev John Barr	0457 879 099
Pastor Fil Kamotu	0404 552 915

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



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