

**13th December 2020 Rev Donald Hegan**

**Welcome & Call to worship**

**Songs:** In Christ alone

For unto us a child is born

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession:**

**Announcements and sharing**

**God Moment:**

**Advent: Candle Two**

**Offerings and Dedication**

**Hymn:** Silent Night WOV236

**Prayers for Others:** Alan Smith

**Readings:** Luke 2:4-7, pg 1590, 1 John 4:7-21, pg 1902 Christine Whitehead

**DVD:** "Advent Conspiracy"

**Sermon:** Love extravagantly" - The Greatest Gift

**DVD:** "Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

**The Lord's Supper**

**Hymn:** Love came down at Christmas WOV243

**Benediction** Now unto Him

**Elders on Duty for December**

Neville Wilson and Neville Harris

**Organist** Len Hockly

**Pianist** Joy Smith

**Door Greeting** Erin Stubbs and Ruth

**Security 2nd week** Janet Freeman

**Sound** Janette Telfer

**Prayer Chain** We are available to pray for you, your friends and families in your joys and concerns. Please contact Glynnis (576 4814) or the office.

## THE COMING WEEK (3rd)

Monday

Tuesday 9.00 am– 9.25 am: Staff Meeting, Donald's office

10.30 am Preschool Playgroup in the lounge - Final

5.45 pm Service at Radius Matua. Walk through singing carols

All welcome to join us.

Wednesday 10.00 am O Team meets in crèche

2.00 pm Mitchell Court service

Thursday 1.30pm Radius Matua Remembrance Service. All are welcome.

Friday 9.00 am Prayer meeting in crèche

10.00 am Cuppa & Chat in lounge

Sunday 8.45 am Prayers

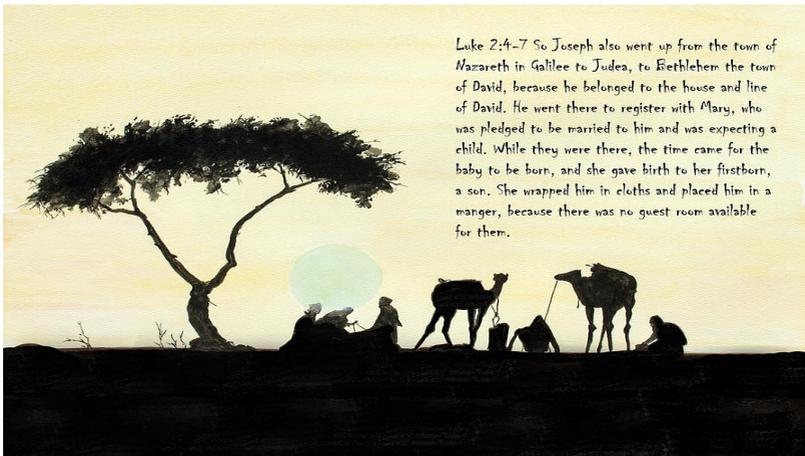
Wed/Thurs/Fri 10.00 am—4.00 pm: Basement Boutique

We would like to say a huge thank you to Marjory Henderson for all of the wonderful work cleaning our Church. Marjory is stepping down. Well done good and faithful servant!

Would you like to join the Sound Team? We welcome anyone who is interested and provide training and support. Its not difficult and is a great opportunity to extend your skills. Please contact the office.

Let's remember the people in our community - a bit like over COVID - those with no family, who maybe are housebound, are ill and alone. Please check on your neighbours, your friends. A nod, a smile, a coffee, a prayer are all not to be deemed as insignificant to those on the receiving end.

WWJD? = what would Jesus do....?



## "Love Extravagantly: The Greatest Gift!

### 1. The proof of love

This is how ... *God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.* v.9

Jesus a concrete demonstration of God's love

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins* v.10

Christmas and the cross go hand in hand, the cradle and the cross.

### 2. The response of love

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.* v.7

Receive the gift, then love one another

*They demonstrated something I didn't have. ... the way they loved each other.* Tertullian

*Dear friends ... since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* v.11

### 3. The responsibility of love:

*No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.* v.12

In Jesus we see the fullness of God

Love becomes manifest when we love Christians, and evangelistic when others see this

*If we are to be Christian we must be Christ like.* Mother Teresa

*If Christians lived their Christian life to the full there would be no more Hindus left in India.*  
Ghandi

At Christmas, one of the things that should distinguish a Christ follower is a love that reaches out to the marginalized and the forgotten.

Such giving is an act of true worship. For Jesus this is personal. Read the Christmas narrative and remember that the Son of God chose to be born into a family that was struggling with poverty. Nobody expected the Messiah to be born in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem.

Over and over again in scripture we see Jesus teaching that He is on the side of the impoverished. As followers of Christ, we are called to do the same—to lavishly love the poor, the hurting, and the lonely. The people in our neighbourhoods, in our schools, in our cities, and around the world.

When God's people serve in humble, generous ways, the story of Jesus is told again and again. The poor in our world will be touched by God through how we choose to celebrate Christmas. Through our actions and our words, people will be reminded that they are loved by the Creator of the universe and He has not forgotten them.

When we show up and love in the name of God, God shows up.

That's part of the mystery of partnering with Jesus in the work he is still doing. Remember to love and serve not out of a place of guilt but as an act of worship. We must not forget that. The good news of the gospel is for all people, including us! We radically love others because we have personally experienced the radical love of God. That changes our hearts and it should change the way we celebrate Christmas.

We love because He first loved us. – 1 John 4:19

-Donate the money you saved from spending less.

-Invite someone to church with you this week. Share a meal together after.

- Listen well to others, with an extra dose of patience.

-Read Matthew 25. Notice how much Jesus cares about the way we love and serve others.

-Pray for families in need: single mums, refugees, villages without clean water, the homeless in your city.



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**Minister:** Rev. Donald Hegan, 570 3281

**Session Matters:** Neville Wilson, 576 4814

**O-Team Matters:** Graham Jamieson, 552 4143