



# NEWS & NOTES

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025 - ADVENT 4



## *I Am With You* by *Lauren Wright* *Pittman*

*Inspired by Isaiah 41:5-10*  
*Hand-carved block printed with*  
*oil-based ink on paper*

Here we find the Israelites far from home, living in Babylonian exile. Fear and uncertainty hang heavy with the looming threat of Persian invasion.

“The coastlands have seen and are afraid, the ends of the earth tremble” (Isaiah 45:5). As some scramble to find courage in idols, God calls those exiled from Judah to be heartened by their rootedness in God’s story.

The image that formed in my mind was a community nestled in God’s hands amid the Mediterranean coastlands—the same lands conquered by the Babylonians, and to which the exiles longed to return.

While I was creating this image, the U.S. President shared an AI-generated video of his “vision” for Gaza, those same coastlands referenced in Isaiah. I was shaken by the contrast between his imagined future and the reality of U.S.-funded devastation. The video transformed rubble and the bone-chilling cries of mothers into panning vistas of high-rise beachfront resorts and casinos, rebranding Gaza as the “Riviera of the Middle East.”

*Continued on Page 4*

## OUR CHURCH LIFE

*To contact Rev Reuben Edmonds, Minister of All Saints Floreat Uniting Church, please email: [minister@allsaintsfloreat.com.au](mailto:minister@allsaintsfloreat.com.au) or telephone: 0404 935 167.*

<b>Sunday Service</b> <b>9:30am Sunday, 21 December</b> <b>Advent 4</b> <b>Rev Reuben Edmonds</b>		<b>Sunday Service</b> <b>9:30am Sunday, 28 December</b> <b>After Christmas 1</b> <b>Rev Reuben Edmonds</b>	
Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80-7, 17-19:5-10 Romans 1:1-7 * Matthew 1:18-25 * Isaiah 41:5-10 * Included in Service	P.675 P.587 P.187 P.4 P.702	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 * Matthew 2:13-23 * Included in Service	P.725 P.627 P.277 P.4
<b>HYMNS SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER</b>			
<b>Overhead</b>	<b>The Candle of Hope (Tune TiS 133)</b>		
<b>TiS 154</b>	<b>Great is Your Faithfulness</b>		
<b>TiS 473</b>	<b>Community of Christ</b>		
<b>TiS 265</b>	<b>O Come O Come Emmanuel</b>		
<b>TiS 778</b>	<b>Shalom</b>		
	<b>SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER</b>	<b>SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER</b>	
<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Oli Raynor</b>	<b>Carol Brearley</b>	
<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>David Saggars</b>	<b>Keith &amp; Linda Harris</b>	
<b>Church Council</b>	<b>Anne van Drunen</b>	<b>Marie Yuncken</b>	
<b>Bible Reader</b>	<b>Geoff Hadley</b>	<b>Jean Read</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Marie Yuncken</b>	<b>Linda Harris</b>	
<b>Morning Tea</b>	<b>Els Mengler Lee-Anne Bennett</b>	<b>Heather Booth Margaret Wolfe</b>	
<b>Music</b>	<b>Christine Ryan - Piano Joseph Lunardi - Violin</b>	<b>Anne van Drunen - Piano Joseph Lunardi - Violin</b>	
<b>Multimedia</b>	<b>Rhondda Tilbrook</b>	<b>Michael van Drunen</b>	
<b>Media Clicker</b>	<b>Sue Talbert</b>	<b>Marie Yuncken</b>	

## OUR CHURCH LIFE

### *Prayers*

**From The WA Synod:** Northampton Uniting Church and the Multicultural National Conferences. Assembly Circles of Interest: Walking Together as First and Second Peoples, and Being a Multicultural Church

**Ecumenical Prayer will be for:** Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and the Mainland of China.

**Our local prayers will be for:** Community Groups who use the Church.

### **All Saints Floreat UC Events This Week**

Blue Christmas Service	Sunday, 21 December	5:00pm - Sanctuary
Lectionary Bible Study	Monday, 22 December	2:00pm - Page Room
Christmas Day Service	Thursday, 25 December	9:00am - Sanctuary



### *Offerings*

Offerings to All Saints Floreat Uniting Church may be made by bank transfer to: BSB – 036 063, Account – 122093. Thank you.

	5:30PM SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE	9:00AM THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Welcomer	Lee-Anne Burnett	Shyrelle Bennett
Door Steward		Michiko Stuart
Church Council		Sue Talbert
Bible Reader	Lee-Anne Burnett Sue Talbert	Lynn Coates
Flowers	Marie Yuncken	Linda Harris
Supper	Heather Booth Jean Read	
Music	Anne van Drunen - Piano	Glenn Coughlan - Organ Matt Smith - Trombone
Multimedia	Michael van Drunen	Rhondda Tilbrook
Media Clicker	Els Mengler	Christine Ryan

## CHURCH NEWS & INFORMATION

### *Closure of One of the CLC Bank Accounts*



The CLC has two bank accounts which will be rolled into one account number. Therefore one account will be closed and will no longer receive payments.

**The continuing account is: BSB: 036 063      Account: 368982**

Could you please ensure you are donating to this account.

Many thanks for your continuing support of the CLC.

*Marie Yuncken, CLC Secretary.*

### *I Am With You by Lauren Wright Pittman*

This bombastic vision mocks a people clinging to threads of existence. Watching the powerful revel in the demise of the vulnerable is horrifying—but fitting. In Isaiah, God’s people are exiled under the thumb of a world power. Fearful artisans solder golden idols, hoping for security. But God is not found in the hands of the powerful or the shine of idols. God is present amid the rubble, comforting the forsaken and reminding them of their place in God’s story. No matter which empire holds sway, God sides with the subjugated and disenfranchised. Despite the fear that causes the very earth to tremble, God accompanies the downtrodden, upholding them with a steady hand.

From my study of this passage and shock at the video, a counter-vision of hope emerged. Coastal Mediterranean plants — bougainvillea for peace, lantana for liveliness, and red valerian for strength — anchor the shifting sand. God’s hands cradle the community like a fragile flame as their light resiliently radiates. The twelve figures in simplified Palestinian garb represent the exiled Judeans in Isaiah, the Palestinians in modern day Gaza, and all crushed by empire—each cherished by a faithful God. The hands in the image could also be ours.

*Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*

## ***Your Retiring Offering on Christmas Day will be for Christmas Bowl***



Each December, All Saints Floreat Uniting Church supports the ongoing work of the World Council of Churches by giving our December Retiring Offering and Christmas Day Offering to the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl. Your offerings will help support communities around the world affected by conflict and disaster.

If you are making a donation by post or transfer, please include the code CB-A45800 as this will ensure your donation is attributed to All Saints Floreat Uniting Church.

For more information, contact Bob Sumner on 0439 875 818.

## ***Moderators Christmas Message***



Uniting Church WA Moderator Rev David Jackson brings a Christmas message to the Uniting Church community for the 2025 season.

The message can be viewed and a transcript of the message is also available to download at:

[Moderator's Christmas Message 2025 -  
Uniting Church Western Australia](#)



*Join us at  
All Saints Floreat UC  
this Christmas Season.  
All are welcome.*

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE  
SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER  
5:00PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
THURSDAY, 25 DECEMBER  
9:00AM**

**All Saints Floreat Uniting Church  
50 Berkeley Cresnet, Floreat  
Tel: (08) 6168 1116**

## *Friendship Group News*



Jean took the photo!

Our last Friendship gathering was held at Jean's house where we enjoyed some Christmas fare and a Christmas quiz. Lots of fun and good fellowship.

In the Picture Left to right:  
*Lesley, Elaine, Russell, Bruce, Helen, Sue & Haisu (Helen's husband).*

# Merry Christmas

May Your Christmas be  
blessed with lots of love, fun,  
peace and happiness





***Summer Spirit  
20 and 21 February 2026  
Early Bird Registration closes  
31 December 2025***

Once again All Saints Floreat will be hosting the WA Synod annual gathering “Summer Spirit” on 20th and 21st February 2026. The topic this year has been guided by our WA Congress members and is titled ‘Walking Together, Covenanting Together’. It will be educational, inspirational and empowering for our churches and for us as individuals. It’s a great time to get together at the beginning of another year to strengthen our friendships and have a bit of fun.

Keynote speakers this year are Rev Ken Sumner, the State Development Officer from Congress in South Australia, and Len Yarran, a Noongar educational leader from Perth.

The Friday night gathering, with soft drinks and nibbles provided, will be held at Lake Gwelup, Huntriss Road Karrinyup. Len will share the Noongar stories and artefacts of the area, before leading a walk around the lake for those who wish to join in. The Saturday session involves talks by keynote speakers, workshops, some art and music.

For more details, please visit: <https://unitingchurchwa.org.au/event/summer-spirit-2026/>

**Early Bird Registrations Now Open!**

Scan QR code or follow link for registration options.

Enquiries to Mahshid Zadeh

pa.education@wa.uca.org.au | 08 9260 9800



<https://bit.ly/SummerSpirit26>

**Early Bird Registration closes 31 December 2025**