



NEWS & NOTES

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2025 - AFTER CHRISTMAS 1



Stay With Me by T. Denise Anderson

*Inspired by
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Acrylic on canvas board*

I used to think my mother was cheap. When we'd go on road trips, she'd spend the night before preparing food for the trip. I thought it was

because she didn't want to spend money on fast food. She didn't. But her reasons had nothing to do with a drive-thru.

My mother was a Black child in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s. When they went on road trips, they had to leave in the dead of night with everything they'd need for the trip. For Black folks, there was no casual stopping along the way. If you stopped at the "wrong" place, you might not make it home. Her elders taught her what they had to learn themselves, often the hard way. My mom grew up in the Steel Belt, but the family had moved there after leaving the Jim Crow South during the Great Migration for greener (and ostensibly safer) pastures. Her preparations were vestiges of a circumspect upbringing designed to keep her safe.

I was well into adulthood when I realized my family had been refugees in their own country.

Continued on Page 3

OUR CHURCH LIFE

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

Sunday Service 9:30am Sunday, 28 December After Christmas 1 Rev Reuben Edmonds		Communion Service 9:30am Sunday, 4 January Epiphany Rev Reuben Edmonds	
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	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18 * Matthew 2:1-12 & 16-18 * Included in Service	P.765 P.626 P.240 P.116 P.4

HYMNS SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

TiS 312	Once in Royal David's City
Overhead	Christmas Come Close
Overhead	O Little Town of Bethlehem
TiS 690	Beauty for Brokenness
TiS 778	Shalom

	SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER	SUNDAY 4 JANUARY
Welcomer	Carol Brearley	Lee-Anne Bennett
Door Steward	Keith & Linda Harris	Beth McKechnie
Church Council	Marie Yuncken	Michael van Drunen
Bible Reader	Jean Read	Sue Talbert
Flowers	Linda Harris	
Morning Tea	Heather Booth Margaret Wolfe	Oli Raynor Cathy Smith
Music	Anne van Drunen - Piano Joseph Lunardi - Violin	Glenn Coughlan - Organ Joseph Lunardi - Violin
Multimedia	Michael van Drunen	Deborah Marshall
Media Clicker	Marie Yuncken	Lillian Hadley

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Prayers

From The WA Synod: NorthWay and Trinity North Uniting Churches.

Juniper Aged Care.

Ecumenical Prayer will be for: Japan, North Korea, South Korea.

Our local prayers will be for: Volunteers and Rosters.

All Saints Floreat UC Events This Week

Lectionary Bible Study

Monday, 29 December

2:00pm - Page Room

Stay With Me by T. Denise Anderson

The story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt takes new significance as I consider not only the experiences of dear ones around the world, but also my own ancestors. My piece focuses on a parent's desperate grip of their child's hand as they escape a despot's fiery wrath, possibly in the dead of night. The colours subtly recall the Pan-African, Palestinian, and Sudanese flags.

I remember those left behind, and the lower part of the composition depicts the anguish of mothers whose children were not spared. Rachel still weeps (Matthew 2:18).

Our fears aren't unfounded. Salvation may have arrived, but the world still isn't safe. How will we remember Rachel's children as we resist and rebuild?

—*Rev. T. Denise Anderson*



Offerings

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

With Love to The World - Time to Subscribe



With Love to the World is a quarterly daily devotional guide that provides a reflection on a Bible passage for each day of the year. Bible readings used in WLW are based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week, four of the readings come from the lectionary, and the others are chosen to provide context and background. In this way, daily devotions prepare

readers for Sunday worship. The resource is primarily intended for daily personal devotional time. Our commentaries take seriously both biblical scholarship and an engagement with the hopes and hurts of everyday living — to nurture and encourage readers in their faith. Our latest edition on Creation, featured commentaries by our very own Rev Reuben!

We offer grateful thanks to Sylvia Ryan who has been coordinating the ordering and delivery of With Love to the World for so many years, but who now wishes to step back from this role. Many thanks Sylvia! You will be a hard act to follow.

If you would like to subscribe to receive With Love to the World in 2026, please contact Dot Lewis or Rev Reuben. Orders need to be made by January 11, 2026 to meet the publisher's deadline and the cost is \$28 for 4 issues across the year. Payment may be made through the Church's EFTPOS machine, in the office or on Sundays after Church. Subscribers without credit cards can pay Dot and she will make the contribution for you.

Continued on Page 5

CHURCH NEWS & INFORMATION

If paper is not your vibe, With Love to the World is also available as an App on your device, from the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. It's \$28 for an annual subscription, the same price as the physical copy.

Dot is thoroughly enjoying her subscription and has no hesitation in recommending it as a daily reading resource.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Dot Lewis and Rev Reuben

A Christmas Message of Light and Action From the President of UCA



In her main Christmas message, President Rev Charissa reminds us of the profound mystery at the heart of our faith: God chose to draw near, entering our world not in power but as a vulnerable child. Through the Gospel of John's timeless promise—**"the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"**—we find hope for our weary world.

This Christmas calls us beyond celebration into action. We become bearers of Christ's light through the smallest gestures: speaking kindness into someone's day, sharing a meal with those who hunger for connection, or summoning courage when it matters most.

May the Christ child steady your heart and illuminate your path into a new year rich with possibility for peace, courage, and enduring hope.

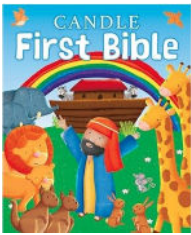
A video of her message can be seen here:

[President's Christmas Message 2025 – Uniting Church Australia.](#)

Call for Donations

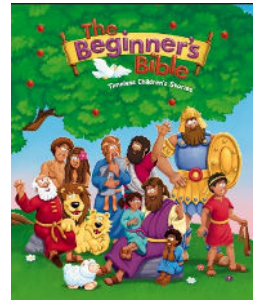
The chaplains at Perth Children's Hospital, where we donate our teddy bears, are asking for donations of children's bibles that they can use and give to children in the hospital.

They would like 5-10 copies of three different Bibles for different age ranges:



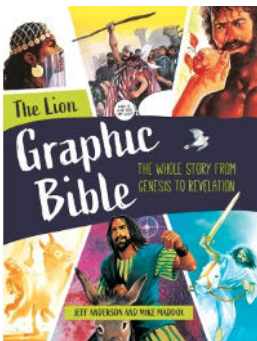
'Candle First Bible' (2023) by Karen Williamson (Author) and Sarah Conner (Illustrator) for ages 2+.

It costs approximately \$25.



'The Beginner's Bible (Timeless Children's Stories)' 2017 for primary school children.

It costs approximately \$30.



'The Lion Graphic Bible: The Whole Story From Genesis to Revelation' 2021 by Geoff Anderson and Mike Maddox for teenagers. It costs approximately \$35.

All donations can be given to Carol Brearley and she will drop them to the hospital for you. Alternatively you can offer Carol a cash donation and she will purchase the Bible on your behalf.

Thank you for considering this request.

Carol Brearley



Good, New by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20

Acrylic on canvas

We often link fear and anxiety to bad news. But what about the moments when the news is good—almost too good to believe? The dream job offer arrives. The long-hoped-for pregnancy test is finally positive. The illness goes into sudden remission.

Euphoria, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they're often followed by a quiet dread. What now? What could this mean?

In Luke's Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart?

The word "new" is nestled in "good news"—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings.

Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Reminder - Limited Access to Church

While Marika is taking a break from the office from Monday, 22 December to Friday, 2 January inclusive, the church may be closed during the week.

Uniting Church Centre Christmas Closure

The Uniting Church Centre, 85-89 Edward St, Perth
will be closed for the Christmas break from:

**1.00pm Wednesday, 24 December 2025,
to 9.00am Monday, 5 January 2026**

Wishing our Uniting Church WA community a safe and happy Christmas!



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia



A WELCOMING
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY



**SUPPORT UNITING AID! BRING YOUR
WEET-BIX & ROLLED OATS
TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**