

Rev Glenn Ingram - Minister's Message

IT LOOKS A LITTLE BIT LIKE CHRISTMAS

In the book 'A Search for Meaning' by Victor Frankl he writes of observations in the prisoner of war camps he was imprisoned in. Having not being sent to the gas chamber he noted how over the years the men who survived and those who lost the will to live and drew the conclusion that those who believed they had loved ones to return to or some higher purpose to live for had a far greater chance of survival than those who believed they had nothing. He also quotes a later study at the John Hopkins university where students were asked what they considered most important to them now. 16% ticked 'making money' while 78% said their first goal was 'finding a purpose and meaning to their lives.'

Added to this is a further radio discussion about construction workers this last week. Evidently there is a great need for help, (whether workers realise it or not) as the only 'deep and meaningful conversations had at work were about the football. What's to become of us? During the Advent Season I am sure you and I all give thought to what is happening in the community. You may find it hard to believe but one man seemed to share some 'special knowledge' on talk back radio a couple of years ago by saying, 'Why do Christians want to get in on Christmas for? It's got nothing to do with them!' I couldn't believe it but I wonder how widespread his idea was. Then again Christmas is now all about lights, buying and supporting the economy, plenty of food and drink and evidently a lot of peace and good will: though I dispute that with police having to visit tens of thousands of homes suffering violence this year.

However not only is it difficult to have meaningful conversations, have a great need to make plenty of money and a need to find meaning and purpose to life but we have distanced ourselves from the One who came into this world that we might have the very thing people seek: meaning and purpose! That we might have life and have it to the full. In effect it seems we have exchanged the truth for a lie. Well, it's not helpful to ridicule society but we do have a place and perhaps opportunities to share something important. I don't wish to talk about the church for some struggle with that too but Christmas is a time when I believe God got very personal with the world. It says 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' In fact, he became very personal to me. You and I may understand that but many have no idea.

However, it becomes a little easier to appreciate that my life and yours has taken a dramatic shift when Christ came into the world and into our lives. I know His presence has given me real meaning and purpose to living. There is much said about Bethlehem, mangers, cows, sheep, wise men, shepherds and stars but I find it far richer to ponder the words of the hymn, "Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man? And why? Because something happened; something we find hard to put into words but grace has been offered us and the Lord seeks to have a relationship with us; such a relationship of love that offers hope, meaning and purpose for every person who seeks. Christ has made such a difference.

May the Lord take you deeper into his Grace as we celebrate His coming.

God bless you all.

Rev Glenn



Our Church family in Nambour prays for
Rev Maile Molitika and his lovely wife Siale,
and all their family
as we place our support and encouragement
for his coming Ministry
into Nambour Uniting Church.



All things going well for their move
into the Manse,
Rev Maile should be leading
our worship in God through Jesus Christ
in the second Sunday Worship Service
9th January 2022

The Uniting Church in Australia
Nambour Congregation
Services & Special Events for
Advent & Christmas 2021



Service times 9.00AM unless stated otherwise

28th November – First Sunday of Advent - *Candle of Hope*

Empty Christmas Tree - for Local Family Home

**5th December – Holy Communion Second Sunday of Advent
- *Candle of Peace***

Empty Christmas Tree - for Local Family Homes

12th December – Third Sunday of Advent - *Candle of Joy*

Empty Christmas Tree - for Local Family Homes

19th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent - *Candle of Love*

After Church ‘Christmas Morning Tea’ Christmas Bowl

24th December – Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Eve 7.00PM

Service of Readings, Carols & Candles

25th December – Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Day 7.30AM

Christ Candle is lit.

26th December – First Sunday After Christmas

Be renewed in the spirit of Christ who dwells among us in new and dynamic ways

Minister

Rev Glenn Ingram 0453 677 303

Rev Maile Molitika Jan 2022 Ministry

Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

Eva Donaldson Lay Co-ordinator 5441 3381

Nambour Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

Church Council Officers

Ian Woodward - Chair

Helen Staines - Secretary

Lyn Metelerkamp - Treasurer

Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn
Property & Compliance

Church & Office: 5441 1135

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9.30AM to 2PM Jimmy 0411 314 306

Our Church Manse

34 Highview Avenue has been a hive of activity in preparation for Rev Maile, Siale and family to take up residence at the end of December. Due to the age of the home and general wear and tear, a number of jobs have needed to be carried out.



Using Bill's truck
for the garden cuttings

The front and back verandas required extensive repairs due to age with some boards and bearers replaced and painted, the kitchen ceiling was painted, the air-conditioner serviced, kitchen partition extended to accommodate a larger fridge, safety tread applied to internal stairs and replacement of rotted wall section in the laundry. There have been many other smaller jobs completed as well. The garden has been tidied up (two large truck loads carted away) and the lawn mown and maintained. The smoke alarms have been upgraded which was required to meet new Government legislation.

While jobs such as the smoke alarms and the removal of two large trees and the poinciana tree (roots presenting potential tripping hazard and damage to house foundations) have had to be done by paid professionals, we are very fortunate to have a group of skilled folk who have been able to carry out these jobs.

We thank them for their willingness and generosity of time and labour in saving our Congregation a great deal of money and for making the manse safe and comfortable for the Molitika family. Thanks to Foreman Keith, Graham K, Bill, Woody, Graham R, Lyn M, Tim, Lester and Wayne. Please thank them when you see them.

Property and Compliance Team



The boys on a well-earned break

The **NeXus** between our mission and our spiritual power is the gathered congregation. While God comes to us by His Spirit thus transforming us by his grace, we are drawn into precious fellowship with each other. As a congregation gathers for worship, it is being strengthened, then sent out again for a missional purpose. In times such as these, this copy of **Nambour NeXus** is provided so that you may have resources to assist you in your personal or household worship of God, to assist you in growing your faith, and to encourage your concern and prayers for others.

CHURCH EMAIL

FACEBOOK

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

WEBSITE

nambouruca@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church

[nambouruca.youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

[nambouruniting.org.au](https://www.nambouruniting.org.au)

2021 Sunday Services are available on the Nambour Uniting Church Website and youtube

The website also contains Mission Possible photos, word study, reflections, stained glass windows and more

Thanks to Don Heaton for recording our Services, and Ian Brown for our great website

DAILY PRAYERS

ON A JOURNEY... FROM ADVENT INTO THE NEW YEAR

DAY 1

*Lord, we are your pilgrim people –
together on a journey with you.*

And our journey begins with Advent –
Advent is a time of waiting,
waiting in hope
Waiting for the wonders still to come.
So let's light our Advent candle,
may the flames be for us a sign of hope;
may its warmth be a symbol
of God's love for us;
and may they inspire us to be
hope bearers –
people of compassion and integrity,
as we pray in the name of Jesus
who is the light of the world.

*Born in the night, Mary's child,
A long way from your home,
Coming in need, Mary's child,
Born in a borrowed room.*

DAY 2

*Lord, we are your pilgrim people –
together on a journey with you.*

Loving God, may this Advent
be a time of peace,
let our Peace candle be a sign of peace
Peace in our hearts,
Peace in our community
and Peace in our world.
Help us to be your
messengers of peace in all
our contacts with others.
Be with those families this Advent time
where tensions live on year after year-
Give them your peace, we pray.

*Clear shining light, Mary's child,
Your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's child,
Dawn on our darkened day.*



DAY 3

*Lord, we are your pilgrim people –
together on a journey with you*

Eternal God, Hope of the world,
Peace of the world,
and Love of the world
we cannot grasp the immensity
of your being,
and yet all around us
we catch glimpses of your power.
You speak to us in nature's blessings.
You speak to us through
science and creativity.
You reveal yourself in the love, care and the
support of those around us.
You show yourself when
we most need you
Giving us love, hope, peace so we can be there
and live for others.

*Truth of our life, Mary's child,
You tell us God is good,
Prove it is true, Mary's child,
Go to your cross of wood.*

DAY 4

*Lord, we are your pilgrim people –
together on a journey with you*

When we least expect it,
we see your hand at work.
We read your Word, time and time again,
and suddenly, we are amazed
by seeing something new.
And the wonder of Christmas is revealed to the
shepherds, to the wise men,
to us – and to all the world today,
The babe is born,
The Christ has come,
The hope of the world,
The Peace of the world,
The Love of the world,
The Joy of the world is with us forever.

*Hope of the world, Mary's child,
You're coming soon to reign,
King of the earth, Mary's child,
Walk in our streets again.*

DAY 5

*Lord, we are your pilgrim people –
together on a journey with you.*

The journey continues into the new year –
Living with the wonder of
Christ's birth around us.
Loving God, we bring to you all those
we name in our hearts:
those who find life hard;
those who are not looking forward
to the new year;
those who are being robbed
of energy and life
by illness or anxiety;
those who have been bereaved.
Touch their hearts with hope,
give them your peace and love
so their hearts will be filled with joy,
and use us to bless them in your name
with whatever we have to offer.

*Let us live in hope,
and be signs of hope for all to see.
in Jesus' name*

DAY 6

*Lord, we are your pilgrim people –
together on a journey with you.*

God of truth, as we seek
to serve you in our daily lives
may the warmth of your Spirit
surround us with the assurance
of your acceptance and hope.
Envelop our life's journey
in your arms of forgiveness.
Surround us with the constancy
of your presence among us
so we can reach out to others
in your name, and with your love,
peace, hope and joy.

*Let us live in peace,
and be signs of peace for all to see.
in Jesus' name*

DAY 7

*Lord, we are your pilgrim people –
together on a journey with you.*

God of surprises,
Shock us into awareness
like the strong wind of a cyclone -
may your spirit startle us,
shaking us out of
the over comfortable/familiar,
calling us toward the unexpected.
Let us put our faith into action,
looking for opportunities
to offer signs of hope, peace,
love, joy to others –
send a card, or email, give a flower,
phone with good wishes,
give love, hope, peace and joy.
to share Christ's love.

*Let us live by love, peace, hope, joy
and be signs of them for all to see.
in Jesus' name.*

JOURNEYS

Life is the biggest journey
that each of us will take –
its beginnings and its endings
are not our choice to make.

It's the middle that makes the journey
so worthwhile day by day –
with our doing - and our daring,
our laughing – and our crying
our caring – and our sharing,
our hurting – and our healing,
our doubting – and our trusting,
our giving – and our forgiving,
our living – and our loving,
That's what makes life
the richest journey
that anyone could take.

E.E.D.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

This land on which we live and worship is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here.

We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi people, traditional custodians
under God of the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland.

We pay our respects and pray for their elders and all their descendants.

We are thankful that we can share with them in our community and nation.

We reaffirm our commitment to care for the land
and participate in the reconciling journey, for God requires this of us.

Light One Candle



Light one Candle

There's something magic about candles. It may be small and flickering, yet it is alive, ever moving, constantly changing and shedding its light, however small. Candles are quite versatile. They can be used to celebrate birthdays, joyful, happy occasions; or sadly, they serve as a remembrance of someone very precious to us who has died. Most of all, in worship a candle may be used to represent the divine presence; the presence of Christ, the Light of the world, is symbolically represented with a candle.

Christmas, of course, is a great time for candles as there is so much to celebrate. The Advent Wreath celebrates the birth of the Christ child at Bethlehem, who brings hope, peace, joy and love into our needy world.

We light a candle for Hope! Christian hope is more than a nebulous, wistful dream of a better future. Hope is grounded in the concrete reality of Christ, who has come into our world from “above” (outside of us) to show us that there is something more to this physical life than the material world which we see around us. Through his dynamic resurrection he has shown us that there is more beyond mortal life. We have a hope that goes beyond what we can physically see.

We light a candle for peace! The Eternal God has come to us in Christ, breaking the barrier between the human and the divine, mortal and immortal, enabling the creation to be one with its Creator. In an act of absolute reconciliation, Christ has restored harmony between God and humanity. God's Peace is a sense that, at the very heart of everything, all is well! In the depths of our being, we can rest content in the knowledge that everything is OK.

We light a candle for joy! Peace and joy go hand in hand. Again, this is much more than emotional happiness: that can be quite superficial. Christian joy is an emotion that wells up from a deep inner consciousness that we are right with God, and the world around us. We can face any challenge with courage and optimism, for God is with us. Joy is simply an outward expression of that deep inner peace we have in Christ which gives us eyes to see the world around us quite differently.

We light a candle for love. The love we celebrate is so different from worldly “Hollywood” style love. That is all about self-satisfaction! The love which we celebrate at Christmas is a love which is completely other-orientated. It is a love which has the welfare of the other person in mind, and commits itself to serve that other one with grace, care and faithful service. Christ-love is agape, a love which involves a commitment of the will as well as the heart. It requires the total giving of oneself to another person. It is uniquely Christian and excels all others.

That is why...

“If everyone lit just one little candle, what a bright world this would be!”

An Advent Blessing (Source unknown)

The light of the Christmas star to you

The warmth of home and hearth to you

The cheer and good will of friends to you

The hope of a childlike heart to you

The joy of a thousand angels to you

The love of the Son, and God's peace to you...



Rev Graham Warne

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER 2021

*PLEASE CLICK ON THE READING LINKS BELOW
TO ACCESS THE VERSES OF THE DAILY BIBLE READINGS
ON THE VANDERBILT LECTIONARY WEBSITE*

Wednesday, December 1, 2021: Psalm 90; Isaiah 1:24-31; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday, December 2, 2021: Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 3:5-12; Philippians 1:12-18a

Friday, December 3, 2021: Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 3:13-18; Philippians 1:18b-26

Saturday, December 4, 2021: Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 9:1-6

Sunday, December 5, 2021: Second Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Monday, December 6, 2021: Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25

Tuesday, December 7, 2021: Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Peter 1:2-15

Wednesday, December 8, 2021: Psalm 126; Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30

Thursday, December 9, 2021: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Friday, December 10, 2021: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 8:4-12; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Saturday, December 11, 2021: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66

Sunday, December 12, 2021: Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Monday, December 13, 2021: Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:1-19; Hebrews 13:7-17

Tuesday, December 14, 2021: Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:20-35; Acts 28:23-31

Wednesday, December 15, 2021: Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35

Thursday, December 16, 2021: Psalm 80:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:10-18

Friday, December 17, 2021: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 42:10-18; Hebrews 10:32-39

Saturday, December 18, 2021: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 66:7-11; Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, December 19, 2021: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Monday, December 20, 2021: Psalm 113; Genesis 25:19-28; Colossians 1:15-20

Tuesday, December 21, 2021: Psalm 113; Genesis 30:1-24; Romans 8:18-30

Wednesday, December 22, 2021: Luke 1:46b-55; Micah 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:11-22

Thursday, December 23, 2021: Luke 1:46b-55; Micah 4:6-8; 2 Peter 1:16-21

Friday, December 24 & 25, 2021: Nativity of the Lord - Proper I

Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Friday, December 24 & 25, 2021: Nativity of the Lord - Proper II

Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

Friday, December 24 & 25, 2021: Nativity of the Lord - Proper III

Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 26, 2021: First Sunday after Christmas Day

Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Monday, December 27, 2021: Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:32-36; John 21:19b-24

Tuesday, December 28, 2021: Psalm 148; Isaiah 54:1-13; Revelation 21:1-7

Wednesday, December 29, 2021: Psalm 147:12-20; 1 Chronicles 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

Thursday, December 30, 2021: Psalm 147:12-20; 2 Chronicles 1:7-13; Mark 13:32-37

Friday, December 31, 2021: Psalm 147:12-20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY 2022

PLEASE CLICK ON THE READING LINKS BELOW
TO ACCESS THE VERSES OF THE DAILY BIBLE READINGS
ON THE VANDERBILT LECTIONARY WEBSITE

Saturday, January 1, 2022: Holy Name of Jesus

Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21

Saturday, January 1, 2022: New Year's Day Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, January 2, 2022: Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Psalm 147:12-20; Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

Monday, January 3, 2022: Psalm 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21

Tuesday, January 4, 2022: Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53

Wednesday, January 5, 2022: Psalm 72; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:10-18

Thursday, January 6, 2022: Epiphany of the Lord

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Friday, January 7, 2022: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1

Saturday, January 8, 2022: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20

Sunday, January 9, 2022: Baptism of the Lord Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Monday, January 10, 2022: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17

Tuesday, January 11, 2022: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; 1 John 5:13-21

Wednesday, January 12, 2022: Psalm 106:1-12; Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 11:33-36

Thursday, January 13, 2022: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24

Friday, January 14, 2022: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Saturday, January 15, 2022: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23

Sunday, January 16, 2022: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Monday, January 17, 2022: Psalm 145; Isaiah 54:1-8; Romans 12:9-21

Tuesday, January 18, 2022: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-17

Wednesday, January 19, 2022: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1; Luke 5:33-39

Thursday, January 20, 2022: Psalm 19; Isaiah 61:1-7; Romans 7:1-6

Friday, January 21, 2022: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 2:1-10; Romans 12:1-8

Saturday, January 22, 2022: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Luke 2:39-52

Sunday, January 23, 2022: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Monday, January 24, 2022: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:1-10; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Tuesday, January 25, 2022: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:11-26; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Wednesday, January 26, 2022: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:27-32; Luke 4:38-44

Thursday, January 27, 2022: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7; Acts 10:44-48

Friday, January 28, 2022: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27; Acts 19:1-10

Saturday, January 29, 2022: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 30, 2022: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Monday, January 31, 2022: Psalm 56; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16