

## Nambour Retirement Village Services 2023

16 January Rotary Rev Graham 2.00PM

**NAMBOUR UNITING CHURCH** 37-39 Coronation Avenue Nambour QLD 4560  
(PO Box 1100 NAMBOUR QLD 4560) opposite Nambour State College  
**CHURCH EMAIL** nambouruca@gmail.com  
**FACEBOOK** www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church  
**WEBPAGE** nambouruniting.org.au  
**YOUTUBE CHANNEL** nambouruca.youtube

### Service Roster

**8 January 2023**

**FIRST SUNDAY**

**AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**Minister:** Rev James Stevenson

**Music:** Nola and Margaret

**Readers:** Sheila Hodges, Lyn Colley

**Prayers:** Ian Woodward

**Data Projector:** Alison Hall

**Sound System:** Linda Woodward

**Offering:** Weekly retiring offering

**Welcome:** Our great welcoming team

### Ministry

Rev Maile Molitika 0425 378 174

### Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

### Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

**Church Office:** 5441 1135

PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: most Tuesdays and Thursdays

AFTER 9AM to 2PM

Jimmy 0411 314 306

## THE BIRTHDAY BOOK

**No birthdays this week.**

**Let us all rejoice for the new  
born babies that have arrived  
in 2023. Please pray for those  
babies who aren't well enough  
to go home, Amen.**

## VANDERBILT LECTIONARY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8 January 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9,

Acts 10:34-43,

Matthew 3:13-17,

Psalm 29.

Nambour Weekly  
~~Nexus~~



**Nambour Uniting Church**

9AM Sunday Worship Service

We are called to be evidence of God's  
love breaking into the world

**SUNDAY 8th January 2023**

**My Servant, in whom I Delight (see Isaiah 42.1ff)**

"God loves you." "I love you." These words roll off our lips relatively easily, and we can find ourselves reeling them off to countless people. But, does God "like you, or me?" I think this causes us more than a little awkwardness and some hesitation. Let's face it, haven't we said this very thing, "I love you, but that doesn't mean I have to like you?"

Consider for a moment what we are actually saying of ourselves, let alone God. What is it that pulls us up short of making this profession. Have we been harangued, judged, criticised, vilified so much and for so long that we cannot find a way to accept or believe it? I suppose if we have been called worthless sinners, filthy rags, bad, worms ... it may just have some effect on us. And, why would God want to be bothered to hang around with us. I wouldn't want to hang around with me either.

Maybe it is time to hear the story differently and to receive all the other affectionate ways God speaks of us. If Jesus baptism is our baptism, **and it is**, and what is his is ours, **and it is**, then, we not only are **we beloved, we are God's delight, friends, companions, in short God likes us**. And because God likes us, we can stop pretending. And because we can like ourselves and one another, we can stop pretending and face life honestly - warts and all without shame or guilt, or shaming and guilting.

From beginning to end, the Bible is filled with experiences of God hanging around, getting in and out of scapes, pleading just to be included. **The Christmas story is the best one of all. A baby, a real live baby, conceived in love from the foundation of the world, given in love to adore and be adored, to capture our hearts and minds and souls all because God thinks the world of you and me.**

This is so much more than God simply tolerating us. That makes no sense at all. We could say our "sin" is the rejection of this truth, it is to say to God, "I don't believe you."  
**Grace and peace, Rev James**

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