

Joseph Sherman with John Bolton and Chris Bolton have been rehearsing in our church over the last couple of months for Joseph's play *Last Words – a meditation on the poetics, politics and neuroscience of memory*. Performances today @ 6pm, Wednesday and Friday @ 7.30 . Next Sunday at 6pm. Notice board for details.

We respectfully acknowledge the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respects to their Elders and community past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Date	December 10	December 17	December 24
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	Simon	Mary	Andrej
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Mary	Maureen	Beverley
<i>Pre-Service Prayer</i>	Janet	Brian	Simon
<i>Flowers</i>	Desleigh	Maureen	Andrej&Petka
<i>Coffee</i>	Roma	Randall	Maureen
<i>Music</i>	Robert Glen Desleigh		

Church

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Engagement Hub

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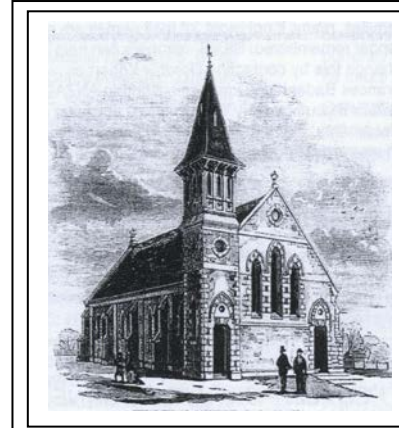
VISION STATEMENT:

As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church Parish Mission strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

NEWSLETTER DETAILS:

Desleigh Kent is the editor of the Newsletter. **Contributions are welcome and can be sent to her at desleighk@ozemail.com.au**

If you would like to be part of a growing congregational email list (and receive a full colour copy of the church newsletter in pdf format), please contact Rob Hess at Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au



**St Kilda Uniting Church
Parish Mission**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 52, Issue 44

Sunday, 10 December 2017

You are most welcome to the service today. Rev David Pargeter will lead our worship. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee.

Bible Readings: Mark 1: 1 – 8 pg. 1093

From David: 'Advent is often described as the season of hope. Of anticipation. Of things longed for. Not trivial things but deep, deep things. Important things.

On Thursday, Advent became very real for a large number of Australian citizens. **On the 7th of December 2017 history was made and a doorway into the future was unlocked.** Yes, it was controversial. Most important discussions around values often are. But a large majority of Australians voted for change.

At 5 past 6 on Thursday evening that change was ratified by Parliament. I was cooking dinner while listening to The Drum which crossed live to the decision being made in Parliament House. Just at that moment my phone went off. A friend of mine who lives in Ireland had sent me a text. He was eating breakfast. For him it was 7 am and a mutual friend had just informed him of events in Canberra. 2 years earlier he had wept with relief when Ireland had passed similar legislation. He was weeping again at 6 pm our time.

His text said, 'Accepted at last'.

Some of us can only imagine what it must feel like to be denied the fullest possible rights normally associated with citizenship. This week, one more barrier in the universal quest for equal rights was removed. That doesn't happen very often. It's worth celebrating. David

Songs/Hymns

TiS 474: Gather Us In. (verses 1 – 3)

Sing Now the Heart

Tune: Skye Boat Song

Sings now the heart of hopes that are born,

Born of a love that's true.

Guiding the heart through darkness and dawn,

Signs of a world made new.

Peace that can heal

Hope that is real

Love that is everywhere

Warm as the rain

Soothing the pain

Bringing new life to share.

Sings now the heart of hopes that are born,

Born of a love that's true.

Guiding the heart through darkness and dawn,

Signs of a world made new.

Here in this place

Fashioned by grace

Reason and faith combine.

Welcomes the least

Lays out the feast

Bread broken, shared with wine

Sings now the heart of hopes that are born,

Born of a love that's true.

Guiding the heart through darkness and dawn,

Signs of a world made new.

Faith like a dream

Sees the unseen

Hears the unspoken Word

Spirit, draw near.

Life without fear.

Peace of the hovering bird

Sings now the heart of hopes that are born,

Born of a love that's true.

Guiding the heart through darkness and dawn,

Signs of a world made new.

Words: David Pargeter December 2017

TiS 276: There's a Light upon the Mountain. (v. 1 – 3)

NOTICES

CAROL SERVICE. There will be a *Carol Service* here at the church on **Thursday December 21st at 6.30pm.** All welcome and bring family and friends

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP Sunday 24th December – worship as usual at 10.30am.

CHRISTMAS DAY There will be a *Christmas Day* service here at the church at 9.30am.

In case you missed the notice in last week's newsletter, The *Code of Conduct* for Keeping Children Safe will be ratified the next Council meeting in February. Following that a training program will be arranged for all congregational members. Louise Price has been nominated the *Culture of Safety* contact person

READING & DISCUSSION Group. Wednesday December 13th 7pm at Mary and Brian's. Please ask Mary for material to read for this. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS TREE. Our tree is now back with us – it is decorated (thanks to Maureen) with symbols representing many faiths. You are welcome to check it out

163 TABLE CONVERSATION *Sharing Food – Sharing Ideas.* The next Table Conversation will be on **Tuesday February 13th at 6.15pm** The speaker will be Vicky from Space2b Social Design just down the road at 144 Chapel Street. Space 2b was established to support people seeking asylum, refugees, and newly arrived migrants to become financially independent. All welcome. Please RSVP to Janet: 0417 670 132 for catering purposes. BYO drinks. Donations appreciated.

POETRY and FAITH. The next Poetry and Faith meeting will be here at the church on **Wednesday February 7th at 6.30pm.** Please talk to David if you would like attend. All welcome.

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK. The next meeting will be on **Sunday 25 February at 3pm** at Ewing Memorial Centre of Stonnington Uniting Church, Burke Rd. Malvern East. Glenn Loughrey, the vicar of St Oswald's Anglican Church, Glen Iris He will bring us insights into a spirituality informed by his indigenous background and expressed through his art. Newsletter on notice board.

The CHRISTMAS BOWL appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the **National Council of Churches in Australia,** is encouraging us all to give generously this year. Envelopes are on the front table. See Mary if you would like further information re donating.

Today is HUMAN RIGHTS DAY It commemorates the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** There will be a *Bring the Refugees Here* rally outside the State Library today from 2 – 4pm.