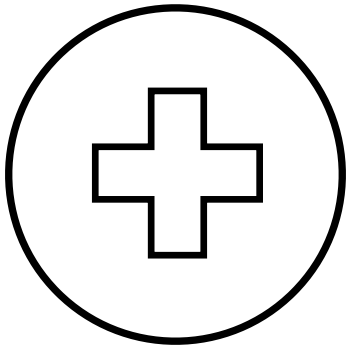

CARINGBAH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, 20 December 2020

393 Port Hacking Rd Caringbah | caringbahchurch.org.au

info@caringbahchurch.org.au

Welcome

Thanks for joining our service. We hope that you find us here at Caringbah Presbyterian Church welcoming and encouraging. We gather together to worship the LORD Jesus Christ who took on flesh, died on the cross, rose from the grave and ascended to heaven. His life, death, resurrection and ascension changes everything about us and it changes the world. Instead of being punished for our disobedience, God is now our Father, Jesus is our brother and we have one another as part of the family of God. We have an inheritance in heaven that is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit. We have eternal life.

Sunday Services

The NSW Premier has announced as from Monday 7 December a relaxation to the number of people in a church from 4 to 2 square meters per person and that as a result we can now accommodate an increased number of people in our church – this is 60 rather than 41 previously. Our seating arrangement has therefore been adjusted to take account of this change. We should however seek to continue to maintain a 1.5 metre separation in our seating as far as possible, recognising that family units can sit together. However as we approach the maximum allowable number of 60 for our church, it is recognised that the 1.5 metre separation distance will not be able to be fully met. We are now allowed to sing in services, but we ask that you wear a mask during singing as an act of love to those around us.

Christmas Day

Our Christmas Day service will be held on Friday, 25 December at 8:30am in the church. It will be followed by morning tea in the church hall.

Half of the Christmas Day offering will go to the **PresAid 2020 Christmas appeal**. It is focused on education. Completing the funding for sending Aussie lecturers to our connected Bible Colleges in Zambia and Zimbabwe will be a great blessing to them when travel is allowed again. SEWAH in northern India has been given charge of a fifth primary school by the government and need financial assistance to complete two classrooms, build a toilet and install water tanks.

The other half will go to **Special Religious Education in Shire High Schools**. Caringbah Presbyterian Church is involved with running SRE in Woolooware, Caringbah and Cronulla High Schools.

Luke 2:1-14 (ESV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Prayer

We remember, Father, that when Jesus was born, all Heaven and earth rejoiced. We remember how the angels sang: “Glory to God in the highest”, because the bringer of forgiveness had come, and we realise that they continue to rejoice each time Christ’s forgiveness is received. May the angels have cause to rejoice again today. We remember how the humble shepherds worshipped, and we realise that we can only worship you still with a humble and contrite heart. Give us humility to worship him this day in spirit and in truth. Give us wisdom to seek after the Lord Jesus with our whole heart, and to go on seeking until we find, to seek him while he may be found and call upon him while he is near. Grant us grace so to respond to the Saviour’s birth, that we may rejoice with trembling, and stand in awe of the dignity of the person who came into the world to save sinners. Grant us the faith to receive him and to believe in his name, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

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Psalm 98 (ESV)

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!
Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Prayer

Lord God, thank you for visiting your people with salvation. How you have cared for us, as a shepherd over his sheep, as a father with his children. Look upon our joy this day as we celebrate the Messiah's birth, and cause us to look upon Jesus, the guardian of our souls, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Away In A Manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

James Ramsey Murray | John Thomas McFarland | Martin Luther
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1 Corinthians 13 (ESV), Read by Sid Wishart

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong
or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries
and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not
love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,
but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It
does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at
wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will
cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in
part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child,
I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a
man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to
face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

When Love Came Down III

1. Love is not resentful

2. Love does not rejoice in evil, but rejoices in the truth

3. Love believes all things and hopes all things

4. Love bears all things and endures all things

5. Love never ends

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful joyful we adore Thee
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

All Thy works with joy surround Thee
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee
Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest vale and mountain
Flowery meadow flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Thou art giving and forgiving
Ever blessing ever blest
Wellspring of the joy of living
Ocean depth of happy rest
Thou our Father Christ our Brother
All who live in love are Thine
Teach us how to love each other
Lift us to the joy divine

Mortals join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning o'er us
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing march we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music lifts us sunward
In the triumph song of life

Edward Hodges | Henry Van Dyke | Ludwig van Beethoven
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Church Family Prayer by Mike O'Sullivan

To God be the Glory

To God be the glory great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life gate that all may go in

Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory great things He has done

Fanny Jane Crosby | William Howard Doane
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