

The Banora Pointer



Don't be Afraid As The Lord Is With You

We hope you enjoy your time acknowledging the Lords
direction and support in these trying times

Preacher: Pastor Debra Pinkerton

Sunday 29 November 2020

Advent Sunday 1

Advent
The Season of Hope and Expectation



Our Mission: to love God and love our neighbours

The Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledge the indigenous traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Goori people and their Elders, past, present and future.

Banora Point Uniting Church

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Message from Pastor Debra Pinkerton

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O Come, O Come Emmanuel was originally written in Latin with the title *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*. The lyrics date to 1710 and reference Immanuel in the Old Testament Book of Isaiah and Matthew's Gospel, a specific reference to Jesus Christ. The music dates to 15th century France but the composer is unknown.

Traditionally in the Roman Catholic church it was chanted in the last seven days of Advent. It was translated into English in 1851 when priest and scholar John Mason Neale's version featured in *The Hymnal Noted*, a collection of hymns documented by Thomas Helmore. Neale also wrote the lyrics to *Good King Wenceslas*.

Over the decades, there have been adaptations to the original lyrics and two verses added.

As we begin this season of Advent (the season of Coming in Latin) in a year of unparalleled impacts on our lives, the truth is Jesus will return again. Advent is our season of Hope.

For your prayers and meditations this week, you may like to use these lyrics to focus your thoughts.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer for Advent

"God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you." - *written by Matthew Kelly*



Pastor Debra Pinkerton

A Message From Elizabeth

*"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emanuel shall come to you, O Israel" (TIS 265)*

Welcome to the Season of Advent! There is always a sense of excitement throughout advent – "coming". I hope that you are feeling that sense of excitement as your Church Council/Elders, JNC representatives, Presbytery and current supply agent work together to determine the best way forward for BPUC.

On behalf of the leadership team, I offer my sincere thanks to all who attended the Consultation Meeting that was held on Saturday 21 November 2020. It was made clearly evident that the members of BPUC wish to see God's church in this place grow, thrive and spread the gospel message to all in our area and beyond. Did you remember to spend some time in prayer for "Congregation Regeneration" at 7.30am on Monday? I encourage everyone to do this every week.

In relation to the COVID-19 regulations etc, particularly in relation to Social distancing and "mingling", please be aware that these are part of the governments COVID-19 policies. The church is not above the government. I can assure you that I will be very grateful when I do not have to check these every day. In the mean time, let's all work together to keep everyone safe, well and connected.

God Bless you throughout this season of Advent

Elizabeth Wells,

Chair, BPUC Church Council

Consultation Meeting - Regeneration

Report by Councillor Janice

It was wonderful that 60 of us were able attend the Consultation Meeting with Rev David Busch, our Presbytery minister, on Saturday 21 November 2020.

Our meeting opened and closed with prayer.

CC Chair Elizabeth introduced David who used a Power Point presentation to define and explain Regeneration within the Uniting Church.

We then watched a short video in which Scott Guyall explained how Regeneration is progressing in a number of churches throughout Australia.

There was a time of Questions (and answers), comments and discussion.

There was a consensus to commit to Prayer, and to advise Presbytery we wish to begin the process of Regeneration.

Very Important points:

- * Regeneration begins and ends with Prayer
- * We need to advertise nationally for a Ministry Agent to lead and guide us
- * It will not happen overnight - it will be in God's time not our time. Months and years, rather than days.

Rev David Busch also noted useful information about Regeneration occurring in other parts of the Uniting Church can be found on the website of *Port Phillip Bay West regenerating*.

A Treasurers Message To The Congregation

Friends,

Thank you all for your marvelous support and love during these difficult times. Please continue to direct debit/credit directly into your nearest Commonwealth Bank Branch, drop off offering at the church Thursday mornings between 10:30am and 11:30am or take advantage of my offer to pick up offerings from homes within the Banora/Tweed area.

Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church

(Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611

Account No: 10120762

Most importantly- please keep safe.

My prayers go out to each and everyone of you.

Neil Rackham

Sunday Church Services

If you wish to join in the Sunday Service, please contact Les (Admin Officer) on (07) 5524 9035 between 10am and 1pm on the Thursday prior to the Sunday Service



Keep This Date!!!!

Christmas Eve Service for all ages, Thursday 24 December 2020 - 7.00pm DST
"Come with me to Bethlehem" ~ Led by Elizabeth

Updating Of Contact Details

Every so often we need to make sure our records are accurate and up to date. So there will be a letter sent out accompanied with an "Update of Details" form for you to fill out and bring or send back to Banora Point Uniting Church. If you do not receive one and would like one, please contact Les at the church to organize a form to be sent to you.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday service will be available on YouTube from Pastor Debra Pinkerton via email to your personal email address, the BPUC YouTube Channel or by clicking the link on the Banora Point Uniting Church Website: www.banorapointunitingchurch.org.au

"Preparing for the end of this year or preparing for eternity" ~ Matthew 6:19-21

If you have not received any emails and would like to keep updated via this method, please call Leslie or Pastor Debra or email: bpuchurch@optusnet.com.au