



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 1 December 2024



**A message from  
Rev. Aaron Moad**



## **A Message for the First Week of Advent**

Advent is a season of expectation and hope, a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus (the first Advent) while looking forward to His promised return (the second Advent). This first week of Advent centres on **hope**, and our reading from Luke 21:25-36 seems to be a strange choice, at first glance it doesn't seem hopeful. But read more carefully this reading shows us that there is hope even in the midst of the unsettling imagery at the beginning of the passage.

In the opening verses Jesus describes a world in turmoil—signs in the heavens, roaring seas, and distress among nations. It's a picture of chaos that might feel uncomfortably familiar as we face challenges in our own world. Yet, into this scene, Jesus speaks words of reassurance:

*"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* (Luke 21:28)

What an incredible promise! While the world may tremble in fear, followers of Christ are called to stand tall with confidence. Why? Because we know that God's purposes are unfolding, and He will keep His promises. The chaos we see is not the end—it's the beginning of God's ultimate plan to redeem and restore all creation.

This hope is not a fleeting feeling or wishful thinking. It is a confident expectation rooted in God's faithfulness. The same God who fulfilled His promise to send a Savior in Jesus will fulfill His promise to return and make all things new. Advent reminds us to anchor ourselves in this truth, even when life feels uncertain.

So, how can we live out this hope during Advent?

1. **Lift Your Eyes to God:** Instead of being overwhelmed by the anxieties of the season, take time to pause and pray. Fix your heart on God's promises, trusting that He is in control.
2. **Look for Signs of His Kingdom:** Hope is often found in the everyday—kindness shared, justice pursued, and love extended. Keep watch for how God is at work around you.

**Share the Light of Hope:** As we light the first candle of Advent, remember that we are called to reflect the light of Christ. Offer encouragement, lend a helping hand, or simply be present with someone in need. This Advent, as we light the **Candle of Hope**, let it remind us that Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. May our hearts be filled with hope as we wait with expectation, standing firm in the promise that our redemption is drawing near.

Grace and peace

**MINISTER:** Rev. Aaron Moad  
Phone: 0411 325 527

### **Church Office:**

63 Darlington Drive, Banora Point, NSW 2486  
Postal: PO Box 577 Banora Point, NSW 2486  
Phone: 07 5524 9035  
Email: bpt.uchurch@gmail.com

### **Acknowledgement of country**

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

### **Today's Bible Readings**

**Psalm 25**

**Luke 21:25-36**

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Contemplative Prayer 10am BCC Family Fun Day 3pm

## Other upcoming events for your diary

<b>Mainly Music</b>	10 December 9.30am
<b>Church Council Meeting</b>	10 December 7pm
<b>Book Swap, Coffee &amp; Chat</b>	11 December 9.30am
<b>Fellowship Lunch</b>	11 December 12 Noon
<b>Craft Club</b>	13 December 9am
<b>Chaira Companions</b>	15 December 12 Noon
<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	21 December 8am
<b>Elder's Meeting</b>	14 January 4.30pm
<b>Pastoral Care Meeting</b>	February 10.15am TBC

## Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kids' Church	Lynn	Elizabeth
Duty Elder	Neil	Walter
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Jill & Mel
Greeters	Lorraine S & Terryll	Robyn & Audrey
Bible Readers	Dorothy B & Lumiere	Terryll & Robyn
Prayers for Others	Terryll	Joyce
Morning Tea	Shirley & Dorothy McA	Steph & Terryll
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Nigel
Sound Room	Nathan	Nigel
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	Terryll & Lynn

If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.**

## There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;  
Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527  
or Your Pastoral Carer

## Contemplative Prayer & Christian Meditation

**Join us and discover the peace and spiritual depth of ancient Christian disciplines.** Come and join us for a time of Contemplative Prayer and Christian Meditation. Through a step by step process, you'll learn how to apply these ancient Christian practices into your daily devotional time. This welcoming space is open to everyone—whether you're new to prayer, seeking a deeper connection with God, or simply curious about the Christian practice of contemplation and meditation. **When & Where—** 10am Saturday 7 December at the church.

## Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 12 noon on Wednesday 11 December in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 9 December.

## BCC Family Fun Day

A little reminder that the Border Council of Churches Family Fun Day is on this Saturday, 7 December, at Jack Evans Boat Harbour from 3pm to 7pm. Our church's contribution to the day will be a Christmas decoration craft table for children, and games/competitions.



## Church Calendar 2025

The calendar for next year is currently being worked on. Can the various groups please forward their dates for 2025 to Nigel at [bpt.uchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bpt.uchurch@gmail.com) as soon as possible?

## Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community. Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church 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