



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 8 December 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



The Gift of Peace: Embracing Shalom in the Season of Advent

As we light the second candle of the Advent wreath, the “Candle of Peace,” we are drawn into the profound truth that Jesus Christ is our Prince of Peace. This week of Advent invites us to reflect on the peace He brings—a peace far deeper than the absence of conflict or the fleeting calm of worldly comforts. It is the all-encompassing *shalom* that God desires for His people and His creation.

The Hebrew word *shalom* is often translated as “peace,” but its meaning is rich and multifaceted. *Shalom* signifies wholeness, harmony, and completeness. It encompasses physical well-being, relational unity, and spiritual fulfillment. It is a vision of life as God intended it to be—flourishing, reconciled, and free from brokenness.

This peace was promised long before the birth of Jesus. The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of a Savior who would establish an everlasting peace:

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.” (Isaiah 9:6–7)

In Jesus, this promise was fulfilled. His birth heralded peace to a weary world, as the angels proclaimed to the shepherds:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” (Luke 2:14)

But what does this peace look like in our lives today? It begins with reconciliation with God. Sin fractured humanity’s relationship with our Creator, but through Jesus, we are made whole. His death and resurrection bridge the gap, offering forgiveness and restoring our connection to the One who is the source of true peace.

Paul reminds us of this in his letter to the Romans:

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have

peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

This peace with God transforms our hearts, allowing us to experience peace within ourselves. Amid the chaos of daily life, we can rest in the assurance that God is in control. Philippians 4:7 describes this peace as one that “*transcends all understanding,*” guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. It is a peace that anchors us, even in the storms.

Shalom also extends outward, calling us to live in harmony with others. As followers of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers, reflecting His love and grace in our relationships. This means seeking reconciliation, practicing forgiveness, and embodying compassion. Jesus Himself said:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

In a world marked by division and conflict, the peace of Christ is a powerful witness. It reminds us that God’s kingdom is breaking into our reality, offering hope, healing, and restoration. As we live out this peace, we become agents of His *shalom*, pointing others to the Prince of Peace.

This week of Advent, let’s take time to nurture peace in our lives. Reflect on God’s gift of reconciliation, surrender your worries in prayer, and seek opportunities to bring harmony where there is tension. Imagine the wholeness of *shalom*—families united, communities restored, creation flourishing—and know that God is working through us to bring His vision to life.

As we light the second candle, let its flame remind us of Christ’s promise: He came to bring peace, and His peace will reign forever. Let us pray for His *shalom* to fill our hearts, our homes, and our world this Advent season.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Rev. Aaron

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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

Isaiah 40:1-11
Luke 3:1-6

What's Happening This Week

Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am Church Council Meeting 7pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am Fellowship Lunch 12 noon
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Chaira Companions 15 December 12 noon
Mainly Music 17 December 9.30am
Men's Breakfast 21 December 8am
Elder's Meeting 14 January 4.30pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 5 February 9.30am
KYB (CWCI) 6 February 10am
Craft Club 7 February 9am
Church Council Meeting 11 February 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 12 February 12 Noon
Pastoral Care Meeting February 10.15am TBC

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kids' Church	Elizabeth	Jane
Duty Elder	Walter	Audrey
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Jill
Greeters	Robyn & ?	Lynn & Joan C
Bible Readers	Terryll & Robyn	Lynn & Audrey
Prayers for Others	Joyce	Audrey
Morning Tea	Terryll & ?	Hazel & Sylvia
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Craft Club
Sound Room	Nigel	Ross
Cleaning	Terryll & Lynn	Craft Club

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

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.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 21 December at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South). **All men are welcome.**

December/January Break

Please note that a number of activities are taking a break over December and January. The ones I have been made of aware of are—

1. Book Swap, Coffee & Chat—finishes this Wednesday and back on 5 February.
2. Craft Club—finishes this Friday and back on 7 February.
3. KYB (CWCI) - has finished—back on 6 February.
4. Fellowship Lunch— finishes this Wednesday and back on 12 February.

Others to follow—watch this space!

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



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 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