



Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;
people to people; and people to community.

Newsletter

November 2022

Worship Services

9.30am on Sundays in the church.

6 Nov Rev Keith Hamilton
Holy Communion

13 Nov Brian Mowbray

20 Nov Rev Keith Hamilton

27 Nov Rev Keith Hamilton

First Sunday of Advent

4 Dec Rev Keith Hamilton
Holy Communion

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

'Sunday @ 5'

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall. All are welcome.

Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email BUConnect@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with someone.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com

Reflection

Rowan Williams, former archbishop of Canterbury wrote a series of small books on the aspects of the Christian faith. One of interest is titled *Being Christian*. Williams suggests there are four elements or essentials to being a Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer.

Here is a brief summary of the book, and of the "essentials" of Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer

Baptism is the formal way in which people enter into the Christian faith. It is the action of God, who loved us first. Baptism is a bit like branding, being marked as God's, but as Williams says, baptism does not mean we are better than anyone else (p5). Baptism into God is baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and sealed with God's Spirit. We are joined with all the baptised, to quote Williams, "our lives are interwoven" (p11).

The baptised read the Bible. The Bible teaches us the faith. Williams wrote, "Christians are people who expect to be spoken to by God" (p22). The Bible reminds us of God's love, who we are and of how we live in God's love. The Bible is a library of books, with different genres of literature, that includes poetry, prose, history, story. In earlier times, when few could read, and before the printing press made reproductions easier and cheaper, people learnt the Bible and recited it to each other. Williams said, "The Bible is not intended to be a mere chronicle of past events, but a living communication from God" (p33).

The Eucharist is food for the journey of faith. Williams wrote, "In Holy Communion, Jesus Christ tells us that he wants our company" (p41). Holy Communion points to the end of the world ending in God. Williams wrote, "Holy Communion makes no sense at all if you do not believe in the resurrection" (p45). Holy Communion reminds us of resurrection hope, of life over death, and from this hope Christians have courage to live. Williams also wrote, "when we gather as God's guests at God's table, the church becomes what it is meant to be" (p58).

Being Christian is to pray. The model prayer is the Lord's Prayer, from which all other Christian prayer flows. The disciples requested Jesus teach them to pray (Luke 11:1-4). Williams wrote, "Growing in prayer is growing in Christian humanity" (p61). The early church leader, Origen, said that the whole of our life says, our Father; which

is to say that the whole of our life is to be lived as a prayer to God, and that is more likely to happen when we designate times morning, noon and night for prayer. Of prayer, Williams wrote, "Your vision is clarified, your actions are gradually disciplined; the divine life slowly transforms you" (p70). Two more quotes of Williams, "Prayer, more and more, is not something we do, but what we are *letting* God do in us" (p78); and "Prayer is the life of Jesus coming alive in you" (p80).

Rowan Williams describes these four as the essentials to being a Christian. What do you think? Would you add any to William's' list? Is there anyone of these that you could give more attention to learning about and taking up?

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News:

The changeover to the new church year coincides with a change in Gospel from Luke to Matthew. On Sunday 27 November, there will be a discussion on the themes in Matthew's Gospel, 11:30-12:30 in the church foyer. All welcome.

This coming week, starting Sunday 6 November, we begin a celebration of our global neighbours with Uniting World. On Monday to Friday 7-11, morning prayers on zoom, 7-7:15 am will use resources from Uniting World. The conclusion will be in church Sunday morning worship on Sunday 13 November. All welcome to join in these morning prayers on zoom. We will use the Bathurst UC zoom. Go to the Bathurst we site, click on the purple button and join in.

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

Lavender planting

A small group gathered around the memory garden next to the church to plant lavender bushes in memory of family members. The rain held off long enough to plant all the plants. The garden is looking much better after all the hard work the Green Team and others have put in. Thank you Green Team!



When the planting was complete the rain came down to water them in and we all retired to the hall to enjoy afternoon tea and some singing with the Sydney Street Choir.

BUSS Update



What a magical time with the Sydney Street Choir during their recent visit to Bathurst!

The choir, many cafe guests and volunteers; and people from the Uniting Church and Bathurst community enjoyed a yummy BBQ lunch in the church hall. Despite the rain we all had a marvellous time. After lunch the Sydney Street Choir conducted a music and singing workshop in the Uniting Church. There were many opportunities to sing with the choir and be in awe of their talents.



In response to the gas outage BUSS is encouraging people who need blankets etc to be in touch and we can assist them.

Coming Up at BUSS

- There is a music and singing group starting up on Saturday afternoons in the hall. A variety of people including many of those who attend the café or other groups are keen to get singing!
- There will be gingerbread house/train decorating again this year for families. It will be on Wednesday 7 December after school .

A Date for your diary

On Sunday 18 December at 9.30 worship the KUCA kids will be presenting Kids Praise.





Almost Christmas

Bathurst's Allegri Singers, directed by William Moxey, present concerts in Bathurst and Cowra this November.

Songs of hope, love, mystery and faith – and just a little bit of Christmas.



Sunday 13 Nov, 2pm
Uniting Church, **Bathurst**

Saturday 19 Nov, 2pm
St Raphael's Church, **Cowra**

Tickets: \$35 Adult
\$30 Concession
Child/Student free

Tickets www.trybooking.com
or cash only at BooksPlus (Bathurst concert only) or at the door

Enquiries: 0435 564 903



CD'S/DVD'S AVAILABLE AFTER CONCERT (EFTPOS AVAILABLE)

TUESDAY | DEC 13 | 7PM
BATHURST UNITING CHURCH

LOVE OFFERING | FREE ADMISSION

ENQUIRIES: bookings.hwiseman@gmail.com | www.haydenwiseman.com

PLEASE NOTE

The December newsletter will be a little late. I will prepare it by 9 December rather than the 2nd. It will be available at church on 11 December.

There will be no January newsletter so please send me anything that needs to go in by 8 December.

As the December issue will cover two months it would be great if the various groups sent me something about what they have been doing in 2022. Pictures are always welcome.

As always, urgent matters will be emailed as needed.

For good news stories, upcoming events or updates to be added to the church website email Allan - allanwray@hotmail.com

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth at revaughan@bigpond.com by 9pm on the last Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month.

THE FIRST SUNDAY
IN ADVENT:

HOPE



Mowing Roster

12 November David McLeod

26 November Alan Paul