



# EMMANUEL

## —Uniting Church—

Real People with Relevant Faith for Our Community

[www.emmanueluca.org.au](http://www.emmanueluca.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/emmanueluca](https://www.facebook.com/emmanueluca)

**22 December & 25 December**

## Front and Centre

### Worship

#### Sunday 22 Dec

Christmas Carols  
6.45pm with food  
starting at 5pm

#### Sunday 25 Dec

8am  
Luke 2:21 - 40  
Fa Matangi

### Coming Events

**Dec 22** Christmas  
Carols

**Dec 25** Christmas  
Day Service 8am

**Dec 29** Summer  
Worship 9.30am (one  
service)

**Feb 2** 8am Services  
recommence &  
Kick Start 9.30am

Next newsletter  
**29 December**

Greetings!

As we celebrate Christmas at Emmanuel Uniting Church this year, we are reminded that the carols we sing are an opportunity to reflect on the hope that we have received. At Holiday Club, and throughout the Christmas services, we are digging into the themes "Jesus is God's Son", "Jesus is Good News", "Jesus is the promised Rescuer" and "Jesus is the light of the World". As we sing carols such as "What Child is this?", "Go tell it on the Mountain", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" we will be exploring these themes together.

Written in 1865, "What Child is this?" is a poem by William Chatterton Dix who wrote it after recovering from a near death experience. His lyrics are a reminder to us that Jesus is God's Son: the Savior of us all and the King of Kings. Jesus came to Earth in order to save us from our sins and to invite us to be in relationship with God. This relationship with God endures throughout our times of celebration and our times of struggle. While it can be difficult at times to remember the goodness of God during trying times, we are reminded that at all times Jesus is Good News through the song "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

When the choir director John Wesley Work Jr. added "Go Tell it on the Mountain" to a songbook, people weren't sure if it was an appropriate choice. Its place in history as a song sung by slaves who were being mistreated made people question John's decision. However, his reply was to use these songs as a reminder that the fact that "Jesus is Good News" is a message that rings true not only the good times but also the bad. The Good News of Jesus is that he has come to rescue us. He is the fulfilment of a promise made long ago, and continues to fulfil that promise today.

The promise was that God would send a

rescuer to save us from sin. The long wait for God to fulfil the promise meant that some people thought that it was a broken promise, but Jesus is the rescuer that God promised. The lyrics of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" were written by pastor Phillips Brooks in response to his experience travelling the same road that the Magi travelled when they went to see Jesus. It speaks of the coming of the saviour, born in the town of Bethlehem, to cast out sin and enter into our hearts today. The good news that Jesus is the rescuer and is meant for the whole world, as he is the light that shines in the hearts of us all.

In Luke 2: 28 - 32 we read of Simeon's response to Jesus being brought to the temple: a declaration that Jesus was the means through which God's salvation would be revealed to the whole world. Interestingly, the music we sing also has a history of celebrating the communication of the good news of God to the whole world. When the melody most closely associated with "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" was written by Felix Mendelssohn, the purpose of the music was to commemorate the invention of movable type printing by Johannes Gutenberg. The movable type printing press was the means through which the western world was able to explore the Bible in their own language. Just as the printing press helped people come to know God, Jesus is the light of the world who helps us to know God.

As we reflect on Jesus being God's Son, Good News, the Promised Rescuer, and the Light of the World, I hope that everyone has a fantastic Christmas time! If you'd like to Dig In a little more into the Christian Christmas Story then may I encourage you to look at the Dig In Materials on the following page and also on our Church App and Website.

Merry Christmas Everybody!  
Grace and Peace

**Dom Chan (Worship Pastor)**



## Follow-Up Questions

### Sunday 29 December – Sunday 28 January

We hope that you have been enjoying Digging into Discipleship during 2019 and deepening your understanding of God's word and your relationship with him during this time. During our Summer worship period, we will not provide weekly follow up questions in the newsletter, but there will be weekly Dig in at Home resources on the 'Devotions' Tab on our App and Website. Instead, we have included here information on the 'Discovery Bible Study' method for you to try. It can be used as a handy help in D.I.Y. bible study and is also useful in helping lead a bible study or explaining something you've read to another person. It's designed to work best in a small group of 4-7 people, especially in terms of practising what you might explain to others but you can use it on your own, it just removes the discussion and multiplication part.

#### Discovery Bible Study

- Choose a bible passage of about 10-15 verses –maybe one that relates to the Sunday preaching (below) or material you or your Explore Group is working through. Then it's over to the Holy Spirit.
- Read the passage in multiple ways
- first read around the room
- then one read with others listening
  - then with everyone pitching in to try and recall what they have read without looking at the passage.

Next, discuss these 4 questions:

- What does this passage tell us about God, Jesus, people and/or life?
- Does it give us any promises, principles, commands or warnings?
- What is God saying to me through this, and what am I going to do about it?
- Who can I tell about what I have learnt here, within the next week?

The first 2 questions are about **exploration** – what is the passage saying? You should spend half your time on these questions. This is giving space for the Holy Spirit to be speaking through all the members of the group. Follow this with a short pause for people to think on their own about what God might be saying to them (especially important for the introverts in the group!)

Question 3 is all about **application** – these two discipleship questions help people process their "Kairos" / light-bulb moments. If you're not sure what this means here, please ask.

Question 4 is about **reproduction** – this helps people to think not just as a disciple, but also as a potential disciple-maker.

Have a go over summer . . . maybe invite someone for a coffee and do it together informally while you get used to it. It's fun and you don't have to be an expert. Try it on these readings which we'll be using over Summer...

<b>December 29</b>	Revelations 21	<b>January 5</b>	John 10:1-16
		<b>12</b>	Luke 23:26-43
		<b>19</b>	Acts 1: 1-20
		<b>26</b>	Acts 10: 9-33

For families with children, the weekly Dig in at Home Resource with videos and other activities will be available under the devotions tab in our App and Website.

In 2020 we will continue to Dig in to 'Epic Teachings of the Bible' together as a whole congregation, and we look forward to journeying with you then.

**God Bless and Shalom,**  
*Jess, Dom & Helen*

## Explore Groups

Explore groups are a great way to Explore faith as a growing disciple by meeting regularly with others to study God's Word, and spend time in prayer and reflection. Explore groups also build relationships and promote pastoral care.

**How can I join?** Speak with one of the Ministry Team Members, or one of the Church Council Members.

**I'm interested, but not available when existing groups meet?** Please let the church office know. We may be able to start a new group at a different time.



#### Solfa

2nd & 4th Mon 9:30am

#### KYB

Tues 9:45am

#### Wednesday Morning

Wed 9:15am

#### Wednesday In the Word

Wed 7:30pm

#### Bunnies Explore Group

Tues 7:00pm

#### Wednesday Wonderers

Fortnightly Thurs 7:00pm

#### Thursday Thinkers

2nd & 4th Thurs 7pm

#### Women's Bible Study

Mon 12.45pm

## Pastoral Care

### Pastoral Care & Prayer Team

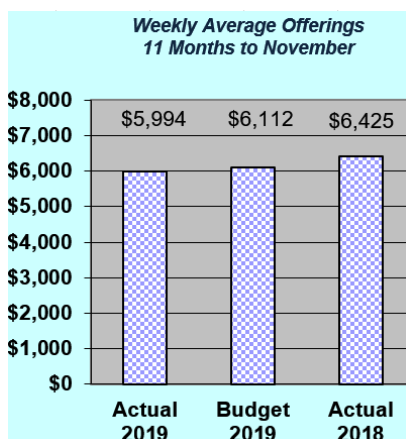
At Emmanuel, pastoral care is **"for everyone by everyone"**. What does this mean? It means that we care for each other in our family, this often happens within our Explore Groups. We also have a dedicated Pastoral Care team lead by Bronwyn Kelly if you want to know more about how this works or to get connected with meal support or want to connect with others with prayer you can contact Bronwyn Kelly who can be contacted in the first instance on 3354 4961 or [pastoralcare@emmanueluca.org.au](mailto:pastoralcare@emmanueluca.org.au)

### Prayer Points

- ✝ For the congregational meeting on the 15th December.
- ✝ For the potential new minister.
- ✝ For Tiny Town and their new Director.
- ✝ For families doing it tough this Christmas especially those affected by fire and drought.
- ✝ Brigade members going on National camps over the school holidays.

### Finances

Thank you to everyone who has returned their stewardship pledges. *Weekly Average Offerings are approx. \$430/week below Last Year's Offerings which is in excess of \$20,000 per annum.*



## Notices & Coming Events

**Brigades News** Some of our Brigade members are attending National Camps over the summer break. Both Brigades ask if you could pray for those who are attending National camps during January. For more information about Girls' and Boys' Brigade please check out our app/ website. Weekly Brigade programming recommences in the second week of school going back GB 6th Feb and BB 5th Feb.

**Newsletter** We would like to extend a huge thank you to Margaret Douglas for her countless hours of volunteer service over many years organising the Newsletter roster and also helping with the folding of our Emmanuel Newsletter. Thank you Margaret In 2020 we are looking for a new Newsletter champion. Someone to work with Helen in the office to coordinate a team of volunteers to fold our fortnightly newsletter. If this sounds like you, please contact Helen Smith in the office. Thank you.

### Group News

Most groups have now finished for the year and after a time of rest planning for 2020 will commence. If all group leaders can confirm church room bookings with the office as soon as they can to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made by emailing [buildingbookings@emmanueluca.org.au](mailto:buildingbookings@emmanueluca.org.au) Thank you to those groups who have already done this. If all groups could please complete their Safe Program paperwork before recommencing in 2020.

### Congregational News

Emmanuel is pleased to announce that Rev Brian Hoole has accepted the call to be our next Senior Minister. Brian brings 25 years of ministry experience, and with his wife Claire is looking forward to being part of the Emmanuel journey from Feb 2020.

### Postage Stamps

Please continue to collect used **postage stamps**. There is a blue plastic



container in the cupboard in the foyer. (The stamps are a fundraiser for Qld Synod) Thank you. Carole Simpson

Thank you for continuing to save used stamps. This year approximately \$1200 was raised.

**Pastoral Care** During the holiday season many of our regular groups take a break from meeting regularly. If any pastoral matters come to your attention please take the time to check in with the people in and outside your groups, to offer support. If you feel you need help in supporting someone, please contact the pastoral care or ministry team so that we can try to assist.

At Emmanuel, pastoral care is **"for everyone by everyone"**, and this means for and by you. Please check up on and check in with each other, and if something is worrying you please share it with someone. Together we are family, and together we share Christ's love, care and compassion every day.

### Stay Connected and Informed

To keep updated with all that is happening at Emmanuel be sure to download the app or check out the website.



### Leave and Office Closure

The office will be closed from 24th December to 30th December also on January 1st 2020.

Jess will be on leave from 26th Dec to 19th Jan.

The ministry team would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and we look forward to continuing to do mission with you all in 2020. Thank you all for your support, prayer and patience in 2019.



# SUMMER IS HERE

Sundays Worship Times  
Dec 29 - Jan 26 @ 9.30am

Here @ 92 Laurel Street Enoggera



We are a  
Fairtrade  
community.



Guarantees  
a **better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers



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## **Ministry Team Contacts**

### **Families Pastor**

Jessica Pinkerton

0438 168 706

[jess@emmanueluca.org.au](mailto:jess@emmanueluca.org.au)

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri

### **Worship Pastor**

Dom Chan

0423 902 762

[dom@emmanueluca.org.au](mailto:dom@emmanueluca.org.au)

Mon, Fri

### **Office Coordinator**

Helen Smith

Church Office: 3355 2162

249 South Pine Rd

Enoggera Q 4051

[office@emmanueluca.org.au](mailto:office@emmanueluca.org.au)

### **Office Hours**

Monday to Friday

830am - 3pm

## **Church Council**

<b>Chair</b>	Nathan Robertson	<a href="mailto:Chair@emmanueluca.org.au">Chair@emmanueluca.org.au</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Christine Manning	<a href="mailto:secretary@emmanueluca.org.au">secretary@emmanueluca.org.au</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barry Jardine	<a href="mailto:treasurer@emmanueluca.org.au">treasurer@emmanueluca.org.au</a>
	Rosemary Costello	3355 4074
	Kristy Johnson	<a href="mailto:kristywakem@gmail.com">kristywakem@gmail.com</a>
	Dennis Shanks	<a href="mailto:dennis.shanks2099@gmail.com">dennis.shanks2099@gmail.com</a>
	Alison Anderson	<a href="mailto:alison.a03@gmail.com">alison.a03@gmail.com</a>

## **Team Leaders**

<b>Support &amp; Resources</b>	Mark Robinson	<a href="mailto:property@emmanueluca.org.au">property@emmanueluca.org.au</a>
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Bronwyn Kelly	<a href="mailto:pastoralcare@emmanueluca.org.au">pastoralcare@emmanueluca.org.au</a>



**A hearing aid loop is installed on the car park side of the church.**

## **Banking Information**

This is for anyone who would prefer to use Internet Banking for their Offerings, Special Appeals or payments for events e.g. Lights Camera Christmas, Community Helping Hand etc.

**BSB: 334 040 Account Number: 553 839 228**

**Account Name: UCA – Emmanuel Uniting Church Enoggera**

**Note:** Please ensure that you include name and a brief reason for the payment.