



**1 DECEMBER 2024**



### **Advent 1**

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

### **Lectionary readings**

#### **This week 1 December, 2024**

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

#### **Next Sunday 8 December, 2024**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

### **Christmas Collection**

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to our collection of Christmas Treats for our Hands & Feet Clients. **Next Sunday will be the final day to bring in your donations** for distribution on Wednesday 11th December.

### **Advent 2024**

Today we begin our journey through Advent. Each Sunday we will be adding native foliage to our Advent Wreath.

Next week we will be adding Australian Native leaves to our wreath so we invite you bring in leaves if you have any suitable plants growing at home.

### **Christmas Picnic**

Our Child Care Centre is having a Christmas Picnic on Friday 13th December with a sausage sizzle, items from the children, a few carols and hopefully a visit from our puppets.

You would be most welcome to come along from 5.30—7.30pm, for catering purposes, please RSVP to either the child care centre or to Sue by next Sunday if you are planning to attend. Don't forget to byo chairs or picnic rug.



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## **Rev Gail's Message**

Last week in worship we celebrated Christ as King. We thought about different types of kings, royalty in general, and world leaders, noting that Jesus is the ideal sovereign, compassionate, humble and self-sacrificing.

When Jesus stood before Pilate for the first time, he explained that his kingdom was not founded on principles of domination through violent coercion and threats, like that of Ceasar Augustus. Instead Jesus remained true to his nonviolent, non-retaliatory stance knowing without any doubt that love conquers all in the end.

The poem below was written to reflect last week's gospel reading, John 18:33-38b. The author wrote them as alternative lyrics to *O for a thousand tongues to sing*. When you have read through, *Our Lord, you Stood in Pilate's Hall*, I invite you to ponder the questions below.

### **Our Lord, You Stood in Pilate's Hall**

Our Lord, you stood in Pilate's hall, His judgment to endure.  
Yet all he ruled would one day fall; You reign forevermore!

You are our King and yet you said it's not by sword or might;  
Where truth is lived and love is spread, Your reign comes into sight.

Where people live in deep despair, forgotten, hurt, alone,  
We hear their urgent, whispered prayer: "When will your reign be known?"

And where your Christian church today is mighty, rich and strong,  
Lord, may we not forget your Way, nor lose your kingdom's song.

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done" not just in heaven above;  
May we on earth obey your Son, who reigns o'er all in love.

*Lyrics: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

### **Questions to Ponder**

What difference does it make to your life knowing that Jesus has conquered death, evil and suffering and will return to make his victory complete?

Where does God's reign come into sight for you?

In the lyrics above what do you think the writer means by never forgetting the "kingdom's song?" Have you sung it recently?