



**22 DECEMBER 2024**



## **Advent 4**

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

## **Lectionary readings**

**This week 22 December, 2024**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

**Next Sunday 29 December, 2024**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

## **Op Shop Christmas Closure**

The Shop closed yesterday and will re-open on Tuesday 28th January, 2025.

Thank you to all the volunteers who keep the shop running and to all who have supported us during the year.

## **Blue Christmas Service**

This morning we will be holding a Blue Christmas service after our usual service, from 10.30—11.15 in the carpeted area at the back of the church.

This service is for any who find Christmas difficult for any reason, and will be a quiet time of prayer and reflection with the opportunity to light a candle for loved ones who are no longer with us.

## **Retiring Offering for Christmas Bowl Appeal**

As we have done for many years, the offering on Christmas Day will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal, to provide on-going support for the many millions of refugees around our world. If you would like a tax-deductible receipt for your donation, please place it in the envelope from the back table, fill in your details, and place the envelope in the offering bag. You can also donate on line at [mycb.link/48489](https://mycb.link/48489)

## **Help Needed**

We are looking for a few extra volunteers to join with the welcoming roster. If you would like to help please let Sue know.



### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## **Our responses to pictures that sparked joy last Sunday.**

### **Joy**

The sun rises and says "Welcome to another day"  
Birds echo its dawning with awesome songs of praise.  
It then burns with ferocity, and later gently  
retreats, filling the evening sky with beauty.

In its light seedlings burst through the soil  
and buds open.  
Fruits and grains and vegetables can then be harvested  
This sustain us; we must eat to live.  
And yet, there is a simple and pure joy to be found in the sweetness of a  
cherry  
or the taste of a home grown tomato.

In the sun we holiday, spending time near the lakes and beaches.  
We watch the light shimmer across the water,  
reminding us of the joyous living water of Christ.  
Memories of time spent with our families,  
in nature's beauty spots fill us with joy too.  
In nature we glimpse sparks of joy all around us.

A feeling of freedom and happiness enlivens us  
when we see a whale breach above the waves.  
The turtle under the surface, so calmly and gently  
continuing on its life journey, reminds us,  
to live only in the moment.

The beauty of God's creation is subtle yet powerful,  
it speaks to us of belonging.  
It does not demand our attention.  
Beauty knows why it exists and who its gives glory to.

It is God who provides, God who is there to help us,  
God who watches over us  
and God who sparks all this relentless, ever present joy.

Praise God!

Rev Gail