



**29 DECEMBER, 2024 - 19 JANUARY, 2025**



## Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us today.

## Christmas Bowl

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Bowl retiring offering. We are still taking donations for a few more weeks if you would like to contribute, or you can donate on-line at [mycb.link/48489](https://mycb.link/48489)

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the activities of this congregation, whether it is helping with our Hands and Feet food program or at the Op Shop, or with our Craft Groups, providing leadership on Church Council or Ministry Team, as well as those who provide morning tea, clean and maintain our buildings, welcome people, tell stories with puppets, do Bible readings or assist with the powerpoint and sound, run our Facebook page or care for our kids, your support is greatly appreciated, we can't do it without you!

## January Return dates

Hand and Feet - 8 January 2025

Op Shop - 28 January, 2025

## Lectionary Readings for January 2025

### 29 December, 2024

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

### January 5, 2025

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

### January 12, 2025

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 19, 2025

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### January 26, 2025

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21



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## A Poem and Prayer from our Blue Christmas Service, reminding us that God is always with us

### I have a sad.

God,  
I have a sad.  
I want to be sad with my sad.  
I shared my sad with others,  
and they seemed to listen.  
but then they wanted to talk.  
They didn't seem comfortable with my sad.  
They seemed to want it to go away.  
When I said that I had a sad, some  
wanted to take it from me  
and instead give me their sad,  
some wanted to lessen my sad and tell  
me that my sad wasn't too bad.  
Some wanted to take my sad and fix it,  
To turn it into a joy or a happy.  
I have a sad. I don't want people to  
pity me,  
but I do want people to care.  
I want people to say that is OK to have  
a sad.  
When I shared my sad  
all I wanted was someone to hold my  
hands  
and help me carry my sad.  
Holding me in love just as you do  
God.  
I have a sad.

*Adapted from a poem by Rev. Jon  
Humphries. Used with permission of  
writer.*

### A Prayer for God's Help, Healing and Hope

Who can we turn to when our sorrows over-  
whelm us?  
Who will be there for us, when those around  
us don't seem to understand?  
Who will comfort us when everyone else  
is so busy rushing around  
trying to have the perfect Christmas?

God is the One who wants to take away our  
pain.  
God understands us completely and is never  
too busy to listen.  
And let's remember, God did not expect a  
perfect Christmas all those years ago, so  
why should we?  
God came to be one of us and was born in a  
shed, no tinsel, no Santa, no stuffing of  
faces or forced family gatherings.

Loving God, we ask that you give us your  
peace today.  
When we find it hard to celebrate Christmas  
and cannot feel the joy,  
may we instead remember your promises of  
hope.  
In Jesus we know that all things will made  
new,  
there will be no more tears, no more pain.

Until that day, grant us strength to carry on.  
Give us the courage to still see the beauty in  
your gift of life.  
And create within us a compassionate heart,  
that although broken,  
will never be hardened. **Amen.**

-Rev Gail