

THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

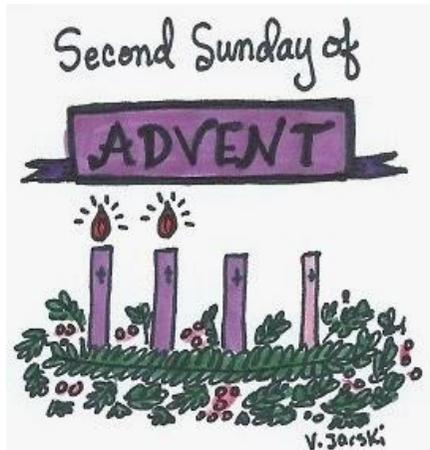
The Grape: Advent

Good morning!

Saturday 6th December 2020



The GRAPE: It is a solitary thing and yet even in isolation it has come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.



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SOMETHING TO REFLECT UPON:

In the midst of change some things DO NOT change, particularly with God: Gods' LOVE never ends... no expense too great as seen in the life and love of Jesus. God desires to bring **CHANGE: RENEWAL & NEW LIFE** into our lives.

“Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.” Isaiah 40:4

It could be argued that the **ADVENT of Jesus into our world could be described as being like a BULL DOZER... levelling, flattening. Ha.**

Jesus came that we would have ABUNDANT LIFE: Jn 10:10, to bring positive change, so why are people so afraid of this life-giving change?

Don't look – you might see.

Don't listen – you might hear.

Don't think – you might learn.

Don't make a decision – you might be wrong.

Don't walk – you might stumble.

Don't run – you might fall.

Don't live – you might die.

Don't change – you might grow.

Source unknown.

ADVENT SIGNIFIES CHANGE:

Q. What has changed most about you this year?

Perspective, friendships, future goals, faith, other?

Q. Do you look at life differently now?

Q. What changes do you want to keep, going forward?

Rev DJ Prior

LATEST UP DATE regarding **WORSHIP SERVICES** for the rest of **DECEMBER: XMAS EVE** and **XMAS DAY**.

On the 03rd of December the Leader's Team met and discussed the SA Gov rulings and decided the following:

- § As long as the rule for churches is 4sqm per person, we will NOT have face-to-face services.
- § If the rule changes to 2sqm per person for churches , we have the option to resume face-to-face services and in this case we want to follow our usual process of having a two-week rotation cycle before introducing a change.
- § Christmas services on Dec 24th and 25th will be pre-recorded and uploaded online.

What a way to top off the year! First Easter On Line and now XMAS On Line! Wow how insane is that?

Fortunately because this is COVID none of this is a surprise, certainly a disappointment, but not surprising.

So remember all the things you have learnt this year, bring them to your hurts and apply your Faith remembering to "Phone a Friend and choose life!" Because it is by helping others that hope grows.

OTHER DECISIONS:

- *"Due to COVID 19 The Leaders Meeting recommend that the Budget for 2021 be given provisional status until Congregation can ratify it in the Feb 2021 meeting." (Budget in next week's Grapevine)*
Any questions or comments email David or Tiju
- Congregational Chairperson for 2021 - Leon Magrin has been appointed as interim chairperson for 2021.
- Leaders Meeting will continue to COOPT individuals to assist in decision making, based on identified skill sets.

So in summary, COVID changes continue to bring chaos. But we know that Faith is birthed in chaos. So we do not despair. We use our armour, we remember our anchor and we build our muscles. God's peace.

Rev David Prior

CHRISTMAS MARKET

“The Mini Christmas Market” at the Reynella Community Centre is next Saturday 12th December. If you would like to donate items for the stalls-especially baked goods, the church will be open from 3pm-5pm on Friday the 11th for you to drop them off. Or they can be brought to the Market on Saturday morning from 9am. Thank you in anticipation.



Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

**“Connect with people
and Choose Life”**

**‘Cos to grow stronger during Covid
we *have* to pass on God’s Love.**