



The VINES Uniting Church

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Rev. David Prior

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THE GRAPEVINE 18/12/2022

HERSTORY #6 MARY = Mother and disciple - Mt 1:18-25

This is our final week in the Her tory series including: The love of God; the mother, Mary and Martha, Sarah, Naomi and Ruth, Eve and today Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Have you ever wondered what it would have felt like for Mary, who was both mother and disciple to Jesus? What a life she had. From a 13 – 14yr old (normally girls married at this age) betrothed to Joseph. Her life took a massive twist when she encountered the angel Gabriel, and she committed herself to be God’s “handmaiden.” Her life was not the same.

Jesus, conceived of the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ teaching in the temple at 12 years old.

Remaining unmarried and at 30 years old, became an itinerant preacher and teacher: the Messiah. Jesus gathered disciples, of which Mary was one, (his brothers only believed after his death). Mary was present at Cana at the start of his ministry and then at the end, sitting at the foot of the cross. We find her present in rooms in Acts waiting for the spirit with the other disciples.

Looking back over life, we realise life does not often go to plan.

Q. When you look back over life what is one thing that surprised you?

Q. How did that eventuate?

Q. What enabled you to get through that experience?

Q. And what does this say about you?

If Mary’s definition of success was married, kids and an uncomplicated life, well, surprise! Christmas time reminds us again, that there is no such thing as a simple life. Our faith comes alive in the mess of life, in the midst of change and uncertainty. May you continue to know God’s peace.

Rev DJPrior

- ❖ **OUR VISION:**
To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.
- ❖ **OUR MISSION:**
*To reach out and reflect God's Love –
connecting others to Christ.*



MINISTER'S HOLIDAYS

Please note that Rev DJP will be on holidays from 26th Dec. 2022
to 09 Jan 2023



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS to you ALL from Rev David *Merry Christmas to you, my Vines family.*

Thank you for your commitment and faith during this long year.

The catch cry of the pandemic: “it is what it is”, while annoying with its repetition, recognises that while there are many things that we are powerless to change, we have a choice in how we live and express ourselves in the midst of uncertainty.

Whatever the type of Christmas you are planning to have, and what it actually looks like (see front cover), may you know you are not alone.

Being a part of the Vines family means you have people who care, so reach out if you need.

Finally let me say I have enjoyed sharing my life with you this year, and as we move into 2023 be assured of my desire to see you thrive and be all you can be as individuals and a congregation: working and living together to be the change we want to see in the world.

Peace



CAMERA OPERATOR

We are in need of one more person to work the camera for online services. Are you interested? Please speak with Fiona or one of the people on the sound desk if this is something you'd like to do.

WORSHIP TEAM

If you play an instrument or can sing and would like to offer those skills to Sunday worship, please speak with David McAvenna or Pastor David.



PIANO CONCERT

Verelle Fudge will be having a Piano Concert with her students at the Vines Church on

Monday, 19th December at 2 pm.

All are welcome to attend.

Moderator's SA Flood Appeal

By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning. (Hebrews 11:7)

The Riverland in South Australia is preparing for what is believed to be one of the larger floods of the River Murray. The Moderator is calling the Uniting Church in South Australia to respond to this emerging disaster, through financial assistance and prayer. To read more and to make a donation please visit this [link](#). A 'donate now' button is also available on the front page of the Synod website at this [link](#).



NEXT WEEK:

Saturday December 24th - Christmas Eve Service 7.00 pm

Sunday December 25th Christmas Day Service 9.00 am



***Take time to phone a Friend
or meet with others and
CHOOSE LIFE
Share God's love.***



LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church

Rev. David Prior	Minister	0403 991 475
Colleen Farmer	Administrator	0430 646 844
Leon Magrin	Acting Church Council Chairperson	
	Mission & Outreach / Food Parcel Ministry	8322 3658
David McAvenna	Worship Team	8322 7154
Neil Satterley	Church Treasurer	0404 028 827

**Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer
by 12 noon Wednesday poppy@adam.com.au**

***Please note that this is the last Grapevine for 2022.
They will recommence on Sunday 29th January 2023.***