



OUR ROLE IN GOD'S UNFOLDING KINGDOM

Commentary on Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44 by Nathalie Nelson Parker. Disciplines, in Upper Room, November 2025

I am often amazed by the vigilance of my six-pound toy cavapoo. He spends endless hours quietly and restfully lying around the house. And yet even in moments of deep sleep, he can become immediately awake and alert. The faintest sound of footsteps down the driveway or the distant crack of a car door down the street—sounds I don't even perceive—arouses the most visceral reaction of awareness from him. He is suddenly on guard and ready to attack to a degree out of proportion to his physical ability.

Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44 call us to rouse from slumber and adorn ourselves with the armour of God. It is a directive to stay vigilant and prepared. The Advent season commemorates the coming of the Christ, and the call throughout these four weeks preceding the birth of the baby is for us to prepare—prepare for the coming of a Saviour who will bring

justice and love embedded within every thorn, tear, and nail endured for our gift of eternal life.

Jesus awakens us to the significance of our role in God's unfolding kingdom to actively pursue justice and love. Christ's life reflects the inseparable fabric of love and commitment to justice. Let us prepare to work for justice and love this season and all year long.

Gracious God, awaken us to the urgency of justice and love. May our spiritual readiness be a testament to our commitment to the work of revealing the full nature of your kingdom and what it means to live within it right here, right now. Amen

The 'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

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Sentence: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.
Isaiah 2.3a

Collect: Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings Isaiah 2.1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13.9-14, Matthew 24.36-44

pray for those in

Need

- Peter Bufton, Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, Keith Grigg, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durran, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Dawn Tait, Bernard Conradie and André, Debra Conradie, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Lorraine Bignoux, Mavis Palmer, Dale Price, Judith Kus & Joan Ham
- For the Dying and their Support Services.

pray for the

wider church

- For the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For the new Archbishop Rick Thorpe and the Diocese of Melbourne
- For the Oodthenong Episcopal Area Bishop The Rt Dr Brad Billings.
- For the Geelong Archdeaconry The Ven Stephen Pollard.
- For the incumbency committee of St Albans North Geelong as they seek a new Priest.

Pray for the

World

- For all world leaders during this time of stress and turmoil.

- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- Give thanks for the peace between Israel and Gaza and pray that it will continue and become permanent
- For the Hamas to release all the remaining prisoners.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan as they face an uncertain future.
- For Wellspring Initiative for finances and the leadership team

pray for the

Community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and for treaty.
- For those without influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For those God is calling to come to know Him
- For families struggling with the cost of living and difficulty due to rental and mortgages. increases

Pray for

Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George as they prepare to enter into a time of well earned retirement Cont'd on pg 5

Cont'd from page 2

- For Jen Zradovkovski, Josh and Eloise.
- Please pray for the Wardens and Parish Council.
- Please pray for LyCig and Parish Council as they plan for 2026
- Please pray for all St Stephen's parishioners.
- For the Eucharist Assistants.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For Chad and Chandre Bartus as they prepare to bring their son Cruz for baptism on Sunday

ADVENT STUDY

When: Friday 28th November

Duration: 4 Weeks

Where: The meeting room 7pm

Leader: Jen Zdravkovski

Please let Jen know if you wish to attend

Prayer for Growth

God of Mission,

Who alone brings growth
to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give,

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

Joy to our worship

And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in spiritual commitment to you, in numbers,

And in service to our
local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

9.30 am Tuesday in the hall

Meditation Group

10 am Thursday in the meeting room

Prayer Group

11 am Thursday in the meeting room

House Groups

Monday Afternoon

29 Jacobs St, Belmont 2.15pm

Ph 5243 1835

Thursday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm

Ph 0421 017 882

Pastoral Care

11th December 12 noon

Kids Church

Kids Church 9.30am

9.30am Sunday service

5th Sunday Lunch & Farewell to

Shirley & George

30th November Following Morning tea.

Ladies Afternoon Tea

1st December 1.30pm in the meeting room

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 8th December 7pm

Wardens

9th December 7pm

Pastoral Care

11th December 12 noon

Parish Council

16th December 7pm

Messy Church

Christmas Outdoor Service

14th December 5pm

On the front lawn



Turn off
all mobile
phones

If you are last to leave the Church, the Hall or the Meeting Room, please turn off the heaters and lights. Check that ALL doors are locked.

CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR THOSE IN NEED

St Andrew's Anglican Church Corio

With Christmas approaching, we are seeking donations for St Andrew's Anglican Church Corio food pantry so their clients can receive something 'extra' at Christmas. If you are able to give at this time, here are a

couple of ideas – they are mostly looking for Christmas treats:

Christmas biscuits, Christmas cakes,

chocolates, plum puddings, custard, cordial, jams.

Please leave items under the Cross in the sanctuary of the Church. Donations will be delivered to Corio Thursday 4th December. If you have any questions, please contact

Jan – 0428 621 121

Thank you.

*The members of the Parish Council
will, on behalf of the congregation, pre-
sent Rev'd Shirley and George with a
farewell gift during the worship service.*

POT LUCK LUNCH

30th November

Farewell Lunch for

Reverend Shirley & George

If you will be attending, please bring something savoury

OR something sweet to have as dessert.

We always have plenty, so if you are unable to bring something, please come as we don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to say goodbye to Shirley and George.



Wellspring Initiative Education Program

The Beginning of the Wellspring Children's Education Program

As many would be aware, St Stephen's supports Wellspring with a donation of \$200 per month. This contribution to the Christian work of Wellspring helps to pay the working team that includes a pattern makers, cutters, and seamstresses. None of the money given is used for advertising or even administration costs.

Three months ago Lynn was inspired to start an education sponsorship program for the children of the staff—to help them access a good education instead of having to attend local government schools.

As Lynn listened to the women's stories, she came to understand clearly why God had placed on her heart to begin the education program. All the women at Wellspring are the primary breadwinners for their families, often supporting up to four children—and sometimes paying as much as half their income for schooling.

Lynn discovered that in the government schools, families are required to pay teachers monthly for their children to be educated, and the children are often only taught one subject—Kmer.

Lynn is reaching out to those who understand the importance of receiving a good, well rounded education that will enable the children to study and eventually break out of the cycle of poverty.

Age Range	3 years old—year 12
Support Includes	School Fees, administration, uniforms, and sports gear.
Purpose	To give children a quality education and an opportunity to thrive.

How You Can Help

* **\$105 AUD/monthly** supports one child's full education

* **\$35 AUD/monthly**— three friends, members of St Stephen's, or family members together supporting one child

*A **one-off donation** to a shared fund helps with the support listed above.

If you feel you can help these children, in any way, please speak to
Helen McLean Ph 0408025204

We are on 'Zoom' every Sunday.

Here is our Zoom link for people to access our 9:30 am service if they are not able to attend live church. Go to the home page of St Stephen's website and click on "Zoom Link"
Meeting ID: 864 84911358
Passcode: 379683

Next week we welcome
Reverend Barbara Colliver as our
Locum until a new priest has been
selected and appointed.



A PRAYER FOR CHOOSING A NEW INCUMBENT

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Send your Holy Spirit to give those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for
Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Readings for Next Sunday 7th December

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-21
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Parish Contacts

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Jen is in the Church Office on Thursday

Vicar's Warden

Brett Gear **0418 717 141**

Church Warden

Peter Bufton **0448 694 204**

Tim Rowlands **0439 412 000**

Parish Treasurer

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Prayer Ministry

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

Kid's Church

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Playgroup

Pam Osborn **0425 729 163**

Music Ministry

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

Men's Afternoon Tea

Max Osborn **5243 4122**

Girls' Night Out

Jane Moloney **0439 419 694**

Rosters

Jan Douglas **0428 621 121**

Child Safety officer and

Family Safety champion

Cassie Calder **0448 024 951**

Link Editor & Advertising

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

**Key Ministry Co-ordinators Families
& Ladies Afternoon Tea**

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

Pastoral Care

Jennifer Zdravkovski **0408389159**

