

Sunday
23
December



Christmas
Day

Welcome to Elanora Uniting Church. And Merry Christmas.

This Christmas ...We wish you God's Love

We also wish you God's Peace, Joy, Hope and on Christmas Day the love above all love – Jesus.

They say love came down at Christmas. Christina Rossetti published a poem in 1885 about it. Some of the words are

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

You might recognize the words as they were put to song.

Paul talked about having all sorts of gifts and attributes but he said the greatest of all these is Love. He understood this because Jesus had stated it, lived it and asked us to follow it in the same way.

The message we have heard from Jesus is that we should love one another as He has loved us.

Love reveals the state of our heart. Love is an action. It is demonstrated through sacrificial kindness.

Jesus said that the mark of a Christian is love.

We see glimpses of love at this time of year. No matter what people actually think about the birth of Jesus they are mostly drawn into the festive season of Christmas as a time of giving and sharing. It is without doubt the time of year when love abounds the most.

It is short lived and certainly not universal, far from it, but we do have glimpses of what it could be.

In the courts as a prosecutor we used two terms to prove something. For criminal matters it is beyond a reasonable doubt and for civil matters proof must be on the balance of probabilities.

Well from all the evidence available to us from all the sources I came to these conclusions using those two principles.

God loves us. Why else would the creator of heaven and earth go to all the trouble of having his son come and live amongst us to show us that love. Not only that you can't have Christmas without Easter the ultimate understanding of love.

Jesus loves us. Why else would Jesus follow the Father's will? He showed us over and over again how to love and then ultimately through his sacrificial kindness gave the greatest gift of love – life - through his own.

People love – well mostly. We were born to love and when we get it right it is a wonderful thing to behold. As I said at the beginning this time of year brings out the best of our love.

Imagine if we could pull it off 24/7, 365 days a year. What a beautiful place we would all be living in. So much love.

This Christmas our wish is that you find God's peace, joy, hope and ultimately love through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Have a Merry Christmas and wonderful start to the New Year.

Blessings Rev Russ and Katie

The next Newsletter will be written
for Sunday 20th January 2019.
Contributions due
9am Tuesday 15/1/19.
church@elanorauniting.com.au



SERVICES – Christmas & beyond

Date	Time	Details
Monday December 24	7:00pm	Currumbin Valley Carols Service
Tuesday December 25	8:00am	Rev Russell Knight
Sunday December 30	9:00am	Dr Jill Gray
Sunday January 6	9:00am	Rhonda Coleman
Sunday January 13	9:00am	Kingsley Neale
Sunday January 20	9:00am	Rev Robert Weyer
Thursday January 24	7:00pm	Induction of Rev Catherine Solomon
Sunday January 27	9:00am	Rev Catherine Solomon

The Church Office is now closed, and will
reopen at 9am on Monday 14th January, 2019.

Until Christmas,

Rev Russell is available on 0427 243 455.

After Christmas,

please contact Kingsley Neale if you have
any urgent pastoral concerns, on 5598 3821.

For other matters, please ring 5534 5817 or check
our website: www.elanorauniting.com.au



Resuming in 2019

Currumbin Valley Uniting Church	No services in January. First service 3 rd February
Adult Fellowship	AGM 4 th February
Leisuretime	AGM 29 th January Classes 30 th January
Cooinda	Monday 21 st January

For more information, visit our website:
www.elanorauniting.com.au



News from Church Council

Michele Lake
will be acting Chair of our Church Council until April 2019.

Jo Rogers
has been appointed as Worship Assistant to the minister
from 4th February 2019. The position is for 8 hours per week.

Some recent attendance statistics...

Date	Adults	Children
Nov 25	97	
Dec 2	93	
Dec 9	82	3
Dec 16	98	5