

WELCOME to
Elanora Uniting Church

God's

Hope

This Christmas...
We wish you

We have wished you peace and joy this Christmas.

This week we wish you God's hope.

Hope is an interesting word because in the main the worldly understanding is significantly different to that expressed in the bible and the hope which God offers.

Hope in our ordinary English use is generally distinguished from certainty. We use it as a synonym for wishful thinking ... "I hope it doesn't rain on Christmas Day".

The word hope in the bible is not set on wishful thinking. Christian hope is when God has promised that something is going to happen and we put our trust in that promise.

Christian hope is confident.

In 1 Peter 1: 13 we read *set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

When one re-reads the story of Mary receiving the news of being pregnant and then sharing that news with Elizabeth, the great understanding of the biblical hope *is optimism.*

This is biblical hope at its finest. Expecting the best in all things, based not on your skills, based not on a benevolent world, but based on God's goodness.

In Portuguese (not one of our usual dialects in Australia) the word hope (*espera*) sits with an expression of wait or expect. It fits beautifully with Mary at this point in time. And it also implies optimism.

This Christmas our wish is that you find God's hope. A hope which sits with faith as they overlap. A faith that comes from hearing the word of God and is strengthened by the word of God.

Mary and Elizabeth believed in the best about the future, not because they believed in the future itself but because they believed in God, the Holy One who holds tomorrow in the palm of his hand which he has revealed through his son Jesus Christ.

We wish you God's hope this Christmas. May it be filled with optimism.

Blessings
Rev Russ and Katie



Stay for our Pot
Luck lunch
today!



Sunday 23rd December, 9am
We wish you Love

CHRISTMAS DAY, 8am
We wish you Christ –
Our Christmas Wish

GURRUMBIN VALLEY GAROLS SERVICE

You are invited to begin your Christmas celebrations at Currumbin Valley State School. Starting at 7pm on Christmas Eve, this is the traditional gathering of the local community. All are welcome.

Enjoy the children's Nativity Play and join in the carol singing. Enquiries to Tom or Doris Boyd: 5533 0233
Address: 1233 Currumbin Creek Rd, Currumbin Valley



The Summer edition of JOURNEY magazine is available today. Don't miss the article by Rev Nigel Rogers:
"Unwrapping the true wonder of Jesus' birth"

The Bible Society Australia is offering individuals three free copies of a special Christmas book for 5-7 year olds:

"The really good News of Christmas – For Me!"

Visit: biblesociety.org.au/goodnews