

	Advent 2 — Dec 8	Advent 3 — Dec 15
Preacher	Rev Dr Mark Hillis	Rev Myung Hwa Park HC
Organist	Merril Hillis	Sylvia Ireland
Bible Readers	George Osborne John Cox	Chloe Ahern Paul Cameron
Vestry Elder	Annie Cox	Kerry Jordan
Welcomer	Annie Cox	Mel Macarthur
Steward	Malcolm Ireland	Dennis Christie
Prayers of the People	Peggy Goldsmith	Lorraine White
Flowers	Kate Prowse	Margaret Neville
Morning Tea	Annie Cox	Carolyn & William Emilsen
IT/Audio-visual	Paul Cameron	Trevor Prowse

Rosters

Bible readings

Advent 2 — Dec 8

Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6

Advent 3 — Dec 15

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

Sunday

Morning Worship (& Zoom) 9.30am

Taize Services 3rd Sun 5pm

Contact Carolyn 0413 993 368

Twilight Services

4th Sunday at 5pm (Carol service in Dec)

Monday

Playtime 10am – 12noon in school term

Contact Denise 0427 784877

Book Club- 3rd Monday 2pm Contact Delma 0407 140 837

Leura Forest Holy Communion Contact: revmel@bigpond.com

Friday

Christian Meditation/Prayer 11.30am

Contact John Connor 47841819

Open Table

Tuesday brunch

Thursday breakfast

Junction 142 Katoomba

Contact John Cox 0408 993007

Activities

Online giving

For those who wish to contribute **to the Church** via Bank Transfer, the details are: Leura Uniting Church – General Account BSB 634 634 A/c No. 100031809 Reference – Offering

If you wish to donate **to Junction 142** via Bank Transfer, the details are: UCA—Junction 142 Account, BSB 634 634; A/c no. 100044848; Reference—J142 Donation

Website: <https://leura.unitingchurch.org.au>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LeuraUnitingChurch>

Bulletin Editor Karen Basant: karenbasant@optusnet.com.au 0425 273 604

Bulletin Deadline Wednesday 8pm

Leura Uniting Church



Corner of Grose & Megalong Streets, Leura.
 Located on Dharug and Gundungurra country.

We have a zoom service every Sunday as well as a face-to-face service in the Church at 9.30 am.

Our Church embraces diversity. All welcome.



Welcome!

A very warm welcome to everyone joining us today, especially any visitors. It's good to be worshipping together. We hope you will join us for morning tea and a chat after the service! If you are on zoom, if you are able to, please stay online for a chat after the service.

Second Sunday of Advent: Dec 8, 2024

The rough ways made smooth Luke 3:5

Throughout this year I have become increasingly interested in the words “the way”. It has heightened as the church drew together its mission statement to express our Mission “in the way of Jesus”.

The use of the word “way” of course has many uses. Luke uses those well known words “prepare the way of the Lord” in Isaiah 40:3-5 to describe John’s ministry. It features in Handel’s Messiah and in the musical Godspell. Its original meaning was used to describe repairing and preparing the cobble stones or roads and decorate them to greet the ruler of the region or empire.

Luke’s use of this passage goes further than Isaiah who says make straight the paths of our God. Luke says make “his paths smooth.” A small but significant change Luke acknowledges that the Messiah, Jesus, has come.

The early Christians in Luke’s other book Acts, were known as “people of the way”. The Christians sought to live (in) the way Jesus lived. The radical change in the coming of the Messiah would change the landscape of its time, valleys filled, and mountains made smooth, the crooked straight and the rough smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God”.

The way is both a lifestyle and pathway. If we are “people of the way” how are we being transformed and transforming the landscape of the world in which we live to see Jesus, the salvation of God. To mix metaphors, does the way we live make it rough or smooth for others to see Jesus?

John Cox



Welcome

NSW Christmas bush

December

Mon 9, 7pm—Church Council

Thurs 12, 7pm—Leura Singers

Wed 18, 7pm—J142 Board

Sat 21, 11am—Blue Christmas Service followed by lunch



Leura Singers will conclude the year on **Thursday 12 December at 7pm** with a free Friends & Family Concert featuring Christmas music and extracts from

Handel’s Messiah. Members of the congregation are invited.

A ‘Blue’ Christmas Service will be held on **Saturday 21 December at 11am** for those who find Christmas a difficult time; followed by lunch.

Beyond Blue: For 1 in 3 people, it’s the most difficult time of the year.



Minister

Myung Hwa Park 0400191880

Congregation Chairperson

Kate Prowse 0439 581 664

Congregation Secretary

Stephen White 0474 224533

Congregation Treasurer

Kerry Jordan 4784 3051

Upcoming events...

December continued

Sun 22, 5pm—Christmas Carol Service commencing with a BBQ

Wed 25, 8.30am—Christmas Service



Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 22 December

5pm to 7.30pm

All welcome to join a relaxed family-time carol service commencing with a BBQ.



A Pastoral Statement from President of the Uniting Church in Australia Rev Charissa Suli (04-12-2024) (excerpt only)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Uniting Church in Australia has been deeply concerned by news emerging from South Korea overnight as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol announced he was imposing martial law. The declaration plunged the nation into chaos as the military was deployed and prompted shock, anger and protests. The South Korean National Assembly later voted unanimously to withdraw the martial law, and the decision was passed. As of now (4/12/24), martial law has been officially lifted.

In these troubling times, we lift up our Korean brothers and sisters in prayer and solidarity. These events weigh heavily on our hearts. The Uniting Church holds a deep and enduring relationship with Korea, rooted in the courageous mission of Australian Christians in our tradition who first journeyed to Korea with the Gospel. This connection continues today, especially through the vibrant Korean communities within the Uniting Church, who enrich us with their faith and witness.

Complete statement: <https://uniting.church/pastoral-statement-on-south-korea/>

THANK YOU to **Robyn Parsons** and **Peter Whalan** who have been editing this Bulletin for the last two (or more) years! If you have an event or news that you would like to share with the Church via the Bulletin, you may now contact Karen Bassant by email karenbassant@optusnet.com.au or by telephone 0425 273 604.



The **Last 2024 Bulletin is 22 December**. As the bulletin will be taking a break in January 2025 please let Karen know of any events in January that you would like included in December’s remaining bulletins. The first Bulletin in 2025 will be 2 February (deadline 8pm 29 January 2025).