



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR?

REV DAVID RIETVELD

Hope is a key theme of Christmas. But it's also a complex and elusive feeling. What does it mean, or feel like, to be filled with hope? How exactly do you put your hope in something or someone? And why is hope a key theme in advent?

A good part of our dilemma comes from the way we use the word hope in everyday English. In common parlance 'hope' means a desire that something will happen. Hope is wishful, and without certainty. I may hope for a particular gift under the Christmas tree.

Beyond that, hope can also mean an orientation. We can live in hope, believing that in general terms that things will move in a better direction. We hope that 2021 will be a better year than 2020. Hope then, is a conviction felt in the present, which motivates us to press on through our present struggles, to what we trust will be a more fulfilling future.

This is closer to the biblical idea of hope. Closer, but not the same. This approach to hope is partially grounded in beliefs about the inevitability of human progress. That we are all generally becoming more enlightened, better people, building a better society. The experience of 2020 challenges that. Selfish panic buying and hoarding. Global unequal access to health care. The behaviour of world leaders, on both sides of the Pacific.

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Christian hope is not simply the idea that Jesus will help me through the pandemic, and make next year better (though it is possible he may!). Rather, Christian hope is a confidence of two things. First, Jesus is with me in whatever circumstances I am experiencing, whether they are getting better or worse. I know his presence, I have assurance that my circumstances are not outside his control, and God is using all circumstances to bring about his purposes.

Second, Christian hope is the knowledge that in Jesus, evil is defeated. Defeated in the present, though we still experience some of its consequences. Defeated and fully banished in the future. In Christ, in some sense, we already exist in that reality. In that kingdom, we live and belong. That is where our citizenship is.

In the everyday English sense of the word, I am hoping for a better 2021. In the Christian sense of the word, my hope is in Christ, his Lordship, and his imminent return to make all things right. Whether next year gets a little bit better or worse fades by comparison.

CAROLS THIS SUNDAY

The Christmas Carols Services are this Sunday. In a year that has been full of restriction and isolation, this is going to be a great opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus as a community. We have 4 services: 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm and 6 pm. Each service will be the same with traditional carols, dramas and prayer.

After the 10 am service and before the 4 pm service (from 3 pm), we'll have Christmas activities, jumping castles and food available for purchase from the Cafe. Invite your friends, neighbours and families and join us in a COVID Safe celebration of Jesus.



CONGRATULATIONS

Our best wishes go to Joshua Robinson and Anne Smallman on their engagement! We'll be praying for you as you prepare for marriage.



RISE CHRISTMAS

RISE has concluded for 2020 and celebrated with a beautiful Christmas dinner. Our RISE families and team had a lovely time together socialising whilst enjoying a delicious meal catered by The Café, some videos performances from our members and some Christmas gifts. We are incredibly grateful to end 2020 in such an uplifting, positive way.

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported RISE over 2020 through your prayers, time, energy and finances.

A special thanks to our volunteers who have helped us organise food, music and craft throughout the year. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas celebrating the greatest gift of all; Jesus.



SAFE MINISTRY



Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices. If you have a question or concern, we are here to help. Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty God, we know that the course of this world is ordered by you and we pray that your church may joyfully serve you in all situations and circumstances; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

THOSE MOURNING

Pray for John and Liz W as they mourn the death of their son David. Pray for David's wife Sara, son Eduardo, along with David's siblings as they grieve.

PREGNANT WOMEN

Amy M (10am), Loren A (7pm), Katie C (7pm) and Kasey D (10am).

HOSPITAL

Sylvia M (10am) - hip replacement. Pray for healing. Sharon S (10am) - has had a stroke. Pray for healing.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Helen S, Bruce M, Diana M, Kath H, Ella H, Jean D, Lorna B-W, Glenys N, Barbara B, Barbara L. Reg B moved into St Luke's Village Care Home, pray he will settle well.

8AM/2PM

Shirley S - struggling with health issues and has fractured ribs. Pat W and son, Antony and Antony's fiance - all struggling with health issues. They are grateful for our prayers and well wishes. Colleen Y - having rehab twice per week, grateful for our prayers. Shirley S - struggling with health issues. Maureen (Op Shop customer) - terminal cancer, pray for pain management. Daphne C's daughter Joanna has a rare condition and needs urgent surgery, pray for the right surgeon and swift action. Daphne C's neighbour has leukemia - undergoing treatment.

9:30AM

Robin B - pray for freedom from pain and discomfort.

10AM

Ruth D and Alexis L - home and recovering. Carol A - recovering at home; Paul B - dialysis; Phillippa S - chemo treatment; Wendy E, Elizabeth L, RonnieVK, Micheal E, Janelle S, Michele S - all ongoing conditions and treatments.

7PM

Shaina J son, Roman - results in, with more tests in 6 months, pray for more answers and good health while monitoring and waiting. Pray for good results Billy H - chemo treatment. Gary M - ongoing health problems. David G - pain whilst recovering from surgery.

