

Announcements

December-January editions of ConneXions and Challenge are now available.

Today:

- 9.00-9.20am: Prayer meeting
- 9.30am: worship – Gary Ware
- 11.15am: All Age Sunday School
- 5.30pm: evening fellowship – Gary Ware. A light meal will follow.
- 8.15pm – Blue Lake Carols at Cave Gardens.

Tear Fund 2011: the Tear Shop concludes today. Take the opportunity to buy gifts today!

Monday: 9.30am – Womens' growth group at 53 Vivienne Ave.. 7.30pm – Board of Management meets at 14 Dalkeith Dr..

Thursday: 6.30pm – Growth group at 12 Tallarook Crt. (Peter & Sally Duffett P: 8724 9375).

Friday: 10.30am – Bible study at Allison St..

Next Lord's Day:

- 9.00-9.20am: Prayer meeting
- 9.30am: worship – Gary Ware
- 5.30pm: evening fellowship – Gary Ware.

All Age Sunday School resumes on 5th February.

Christmas services: 7.30pm – Christmas Eve (24th): service of readings and carols. 9.30am – Christmas Day (25th): worship.

ABC Christmas Eve service is coming from St Andrews Anglican Cathedral in Sydney. It'll be broadcast on ABC 1 at 6.00pm and is great evangelistic opportunity to share the gospel with our friends, colleagues and neighbours.

Holiday Muster 2012: January 16-20. Monday-Thursday: morning programme. Friday: evening programme. Volunteers need – contact Christine Ware – M: 0412 501 213.

Church Camp: Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th March at Karnkendi. Speaker: Darren Middleton, Pastor, North Geelong PC, on *Revelation: Heaven Opened - making sense of the seals, trumpets, dragon and whore!* Brochure available soon.

Church Contacts

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Gary Ware's online blog/journal: <http://mgpcpastor.wordpress.com>

www.mgpc.org.au



...growing God's family...

Lord's Day, December 11, 2011 AD

Be Prepared

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11

"Welcome", as you worship with us today

Order of Service

*Please speak to God before the service and to everyone else afterward.
Those who are able are invited to stand for the items marked **

9.20am Prelude to Worship

Gathering God's People

Humble Thyself/Our God Is An Awesome God

*Come now, Almighty King

Announcements: Jeroen Zwijnenburg

9.30am Worship

Call to worship:

Responding To God's Presence

***Prayer of Confession:**

Song of Assurance: Give thanks

/over...

***Assurance:** Romans 5: 1
Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

***Affirming our Faith:** The Apostles' Creed

***Praise:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Experiencing God's Word

Bible Reading: Isaiah 30:18-33

Though judgment is coming, yet the LORD will bind up the brokenness of His people and heal their wounds.

***Praise:** Blessed is the man (Psalm 1)

Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Sermon: *Be Prepared* – Gary Ware

Be prepared:

1. for the day of the Lord;
2. by focusing on 'what', not 'when'; and
3. Christ-likeness, not escape.

Responding To God's Grace

How does God want me to respond to His word?

*** Praise:** O come, O come, Emmanuel

The Lord's Supper

Visitors or guests who are members of any Christian church are invited to share in the supper. If you are uncertain about your situation don't feel under compulsion to participate. Talk to one of our elders or pastors after the service.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer: Jeroen Zwijnenburg

Tithes & free will offerings

Visitors are not obligated to give an offering. Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

Blessing

*** Praise:** Glory and power (See Him coming)

Next Lord's Day:

- Continuous reading plan: Isaiah 30:18-33
- Passage for preaching: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
- Songs: We are his children (Go forth); Father, we come to You now (Revive us); Consider Christ; O little town of Bethlehem; O sing a new son to the Lord (Psalm 98); O LORD, our Lord (Psalm 8).

Words Worth Thinking About

"The amount which you understand the gospel is measured by your ability to be joyful in all circumstances. If you grasp what a treasure the presence and acceptance of God are, then even when life goes really wrong you will have a joy that sustains you, because you'll recognize the value of what you have in Him. When life punches you in the face, you'll say, 'But I still have the love and acceptance of God, a treasure I don't deserve.' And the joy you find in that treasure can make you rejoice even when you have a bloody nose. You have a joy that death and deprivation cannot touch.

— J. D. Greear

Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary
(Nashville, Tn.: B & H Publishing, 2011), 81.

<http://itsabeautifulgospel.com/2011/10/24/have-you-ever-been-punched-in-the-face/>