

Announcements

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

Today:

- 9.00-9.20am: Prayer meeting
- 9.30am: worship – Gary Ware
- 5.30pm: evening fellowship – Gary Ware.
- 9.30am (Victorian time) – Roger Bannister.

ABC Christmas Eve service is coming from St Andrews Anglican Cathedral in Sydney. It'll be broadcast on ABC1 at 6.00pm and is great evangelistic opportunity to share the gospel with our friends, colleagues and neighbours.

Saturday (Christmas Eve): 7.30pm – service of readings and carols.

Next Lord's Day (Christmas Day):

- 9.00-9.20am: Prayer meeting
- 9.30am: worship – Gary Ware
- No evening fellowship on Christmas Day only.

Ian Touzel and family are on holidays from this Thursday (22nd) until 14th January. They thank everyone for their prayers, support and encouragement during 2011 and wish you the Lord's blessing for Christmas and 2012.

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

All Age Sunday School resumes on 5th February.

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 now available.

Church Contacts

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www.mgpc.org.au



...growing God's family...

Lord's Day, December 18, 2011 AD

A Caring Community

1 Thessalonians 5: 12 – 28

"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

○ LORD, our Lord

Consider Christ

*○ sing a new song to the Lord

Announcements: Ian Touzel

9.30am Worship

Call to worship:

Responding To God's Presence

*Prayer of Confession:

Song of Assurance: ○ little town of Bethlehem

/over...

***Assurance:** Ephesians 2: 8-9
For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

***Affirming our Faith:** Luke 1: 46 - 55

***Praise:** Worship, Honour, Glory, Blessing

Experiencing God's Word

Bible Reading: Isaiah 31:1-9
An oracle of woe against those who trust in warriors
and weapons instead of God.

***Praise:** Father, we come to You now (Revive us, O Lord)

Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Sermon: *A Caring Community* – Gary Ware

The local church, set apart by God;

1. Caring of leadership.
2. Caring in fellowship.
3. Caring for self.

Responding To God's Grace

How does God want me to respond to His word?

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer: Ian Touzel

Tithes & free will offerings

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

Blessing

*** Praise:** We are His children (Go forth)

Next Lord's Day:

- Continuous reading plan: Isaiah 32:1-20
- Passage for preaching: wait and see...
- Songs: Joy has dawned; Away in a manger; From the squalor; Christians, awake, salute the happy morn; Silent night, holy night; Come, sing praises to the Lord above.

Words Worth Thinking About

"It cannot be too often, or too loudly, or too solemnly repeated, that the Bible, which ranges over a period of four thousand years, records but one instance of a death-bed conversion - one that none may despair, and but one that none may presume."

- Thomas Guthrie (1803-1873, a Scottish preacher),
in chapter 1 of *Early Piety*.

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2011/12/16/why-there-is-only-one-deathbed-conversion-in-the-bible/>