

# The Westerly



PWV & PPW Newsletter No.23 – 20th Dec 2021



## We have waited...

Rev. Narelle Collas (PPW PM)



**Merry Christmas.** The story of Christmas is a story of good news of great joy for all people, not just those surrounded by family today, not just those who will celebrate by exchanging expensive gifts.

Christmas is exceedingly joyful good news because in coming to a couple who were themselves lost and left out, God turned the world upside down. In coming into the world humble and accessible God changed life for all people.

The Christmas story did not start with Mary and Joseph alone in that stable in Bethlehem. Nor did the Christmas story begin with the angel appearing to Mary, or even with the prophets who foretold of the event centuries earlier. The Christmas story began with God looking on creation, so lovingly made and so needlessly gone astray.

God's bold and daring plan was incarnation, the Word of God becoming human. In becoming human, in humbling God's self God sided with the oppressed and the outcasts, and showed it by coming first to poor, lowly, and even despised people.

Jesus, we have waited for these past 4 weeks through advent, we have waited with hope, peace, joy and love for you the Christ.

### ***We have waited for you to bring...***

|                       |                      |               |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Hope for the hopeless | Hope for the hopeful |               |
| Hope for all people   | Hope for healing     |               |
| Hope for meaning      | Hope for peace       |               |
| Hope for now          | Hope for the future  | Hope for ever |

### ***We have waited for you to bring ...***

|                             |                          |                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Peace for people            | Peace for all places     |                     |
| Peace for all times         | Peace for all situations |                     |
| Peace for all circumstances | Peace in our hearts      |                     |
| Peace in our minds          | Peace in our lives       | Peace in everything |

### ***We have waited for you to bring...***

|                    |                         |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Joy for the young  | Joy for the old         |                   |
| Joy for all people | Joy and happiness       |                   |
| Joy in sadness     | Joy in work             |                   |
| Joy in play        | Joy that overcomes fear | Joy in everything |

### ***We have waited for you to bring...***

|                                       |                                  |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Love for others, for self, for family | Love for friends, for neighbours |                            |
| Love for strangers                    | Love for enemies                 |                            |
| Love for the lonely, for the lost     | Love for those left out          |                            |
| Love for those sick                   | Love for the world               |                            |
| Love for life                         | Love in every place              | Love for you, loving Jesus |

### ***We now celebrate your coming as...***

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Christ who brings hope | The Christ who brings peace |
| The Christ who brings joy  | The Christ who brings love  |
| The Christ for world,      | The Christ in the world     |
| The Christ for all people, | The Christ in all people    |
| The Christ for our lives,  | The Christ in our lives     |

**Christ who is the Way. Christ, who is God incarnate. Christ who is with us Always. Amen** (Adapted from a prayer by [Jon Humphries #PrayerCollection](#))

Wishing you all a  
**Blessed Christmas**  
from the PPW & PWV  
Presbyteries  
Rev. Narelle Collas,  
Rev. Jeanne Beale  
Rev. Linley Liersch  
Heather Loader  
Rev. Paul Blacker  
Rev Trevor Bassett  
Rev David Carter  
Malcom Boadle  
Elaine Edwards

