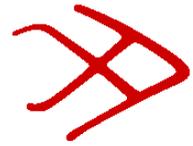


Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

# Life together in Christ



Christ Church  
HAWTHORN

*"When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you,  
they were afraid; the very depths trembled".  
(Psalm 77:16)*

## Welcome to Christ Church this morning!

We are delighted to have guest preacher Michael Theophilos with us in both of our services today. He will be preaching **Yahweh, Baal, and Aseph's Problem** from Psalm 77. Michael asks "What do ancient near eastern stories of cosmology have to do with the Psalms? And why does it matter to me?" We look forward to hearing more about this in our services. See separate hand out from Michael Theophilos, with preaching notes.

- 8:30am Holy Communion service in the bluestone church.
  - 10am service in the memorial hall. Including Kids Church & Teens.
- We'll share in morning tea at the conclusion of both services in the Memorial Hall.

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### Please share in praying ...

- thanks to God for all our wonderful church volunteers, especially for their extra contributions over the Christmas season;
- for the church wardens this month, considering child care centre proposals;
- for Arthur and Tamie Davis and their children after a very unsettling year, that God would bring them peace this Christmas;
- for people in our church community with health issues and unemployment;
- for the families that will be attending the Christmas Special next Sunday.

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## Andrew writes, “ordinary ... Christmas ... ?”

The Bible does not tell us what Mary had been doing just at the moment the angel arrived and announced to her that she would bear a child - a very special child (Luke 1:26). We can guess that she was doing something “ordinary” - some domestic duty, perhaps.



In the same way, as we approach Christmas, we are each of us caught up in “ordinary” lives. Let’s pray that we’ll see something of the wonder of God having become human, and that God will change our hearts with this.

The Gingerbread House evening Thursday night was the first of our Christmas events. On behalf of all of Christ Church, many thanks to all who helped towards it. The evening contributed to the sense that Christ Church is a community of people who share together in positive ways, and welcome others. Thanks to God. I look forward to sharing more Christmas activities with you in the weeks ahead. I encourage you to invite others to come with you to our Christmas events.

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### Dates for the Diary:

**Monday 11th December: Parish Council Meeting, 7:30pm.**

**Sunday 17th December: Christmas Special** at 10am in the Memorial Hall, welcoming families from our Mainly Music and Playgroup.

**Sunday 24th December: 9am Sunday morning, and 11pm carols**, candlelight & communion in the bluestone church.

**Monday 25th December: Christmas Day service** 9am in the bluestone church.

**Wednesday 17th - to Saturday 20th January 2018: CMS ‘Summer Under the Son’** annual Christian Conference at Burwood.

**Weekend 9th-12th March 2018: Christ Church Weekend Away** at Merrijig, with Michael Theophilos - leaflets available, and sign-up sheet, at church today.