

13th December, 2020



Brisbane City Temple



In the midst of the pandemic, hope is showing up in the most mundane and innocent of ways: in Christmas lights. Whether in low wattage hope flung across a window or in a dazzling display that illuminates an entire yard, Christmas lights say it all: death, disorientation, denial will not have the last word.

I write in praise of Christmas lights: echo of the star of Bethlehem, reminder of the light of the world, symbol of childlike joy. If the world ever needed these simple reminders of light, of family, of salvation, we need them now.

In fact, the pandemic has caused us to long for the normal, unassuming things we once took for granted: a hug, a handshake, a smile. How we miss the unselfconscious gathering of people and sharing the same air as others. Not to mention worship and song, even sporting events. We miss visiting the sick in the hospital, and bedside goodbyes when death is near. Oh, to sit close to someone, to snuggle a grandchild, to pass the peace! The sheer normalcy of going to work. Yes, all of these things have changed dramatically in 2020. Christmas lights remind us of enduring hope.

We want normal, but it's still a long way off. At least not until a vaccine becomes widespread, and maybe not even then. That means Christmas this year won't be easy or normal for many people. Loved ones will be missing around the tables. Festive celebrations will take on a decidedly different tone. Christmas Eve services will likely be on Zoom. Probably even Santa and the elves will be wearing masks.

Maybe that's why I found the Christmas lights in my neighbourhood strangely grounding. Twinkling reminders that someday it would all be okay again. And that in the meantime, it was okay to let out my breath, and to relax a little.

If ever we needed Christmas, 2020 is the year. So as Advent unfolds and gives way to Christmas proper, may your hearts be as bright and illumined as simple Christmas lights.

by Rebekah Simon-Peter



Our National Vision

Wherever there is hardship or injustice

Salvos will live, love and fight

Alongside others

To transform Australia one life at time

With the love of Jesus

COVID CLEANING

We have a new machine that will make COVID cleaning of our building much simpler. Thank you to those who have faithfully put on the gloves and wiped and sprayed down surfaces after every meeting and group. Cleaning is still something that needs to happen after each group/event but with the help of David Y. it will only require one person and it will be much quicker. It still means we will need to exit quickly after meetings as no one can be in the room as the cleaning happens.

Remember

- **Keep 1.5m distance in entry ways**
- **Contact tracing details**
- **Hand sanitizing**
- **Stay home if unwell**
- **COVID safe plan**

Each of us need to continue to do all we can to keep each other safe, respecting people's preference to maintain physical distancing as well as the guidelines set out by QLD health

NEW YEAR NEW YOU

During January we will be gathering in a more relaxed way each Sunday with **cafe style church**. New Year New You will be our theme - invite friends and family to join you here each **Sunday at 10am**



Praying for our congregation

Aaron, Nat, Cooper & Riley; Judith & Stephen; Stephanie; Jill; Greg; Don & Bernice; Kevin, Kylie, Angus & Samantha

Praying for our community

Receptive hearts to the message of Christmas

**This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will, he
hears us.**



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Have you thought about how you can continue to give your tithes and offerings during this time where you are not able to physically place them in the offering bag?

You can make a direct deposit into the Corps Account. Bank Account details are

NAME: The Salvation Army BCT

BSB Number: 034 004

Account Number: 810612



Family Carols @ BCT

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 December at
10:30am

[Follow this link](#) or go to the home page of our [website](#) to register which carol service you will be attending

Christmas Day

We will gather in person at **9:30am** on Christmas Day. There will be an online gathering also.

Carolling

The band has been busy playing Christmas carols at Central station and in other locations around Brisbane. Thank you to the members of the band who have been able to do this early in the morning or at night—we appreciate the way you bring a smile to people and put a song in their heart. Also thank you to those who have been able to collect and thank the community for their generous donations. The band will be out again next week.

Christmas Hampers

This year we are partnering with Streetlevel in providing Christmas hampers for people in our community.

You can be a part of this in a couple of ways

- Helping pack hampers at Streetlevel on Monday 21 December from 5:30pm
- Purchasing Christmas food items to go into the hampers

Longlife custard

Large packets of mixed lollies

Large packets of chips

1.25L / 2L bottles soft drink

Mince pies/ plum puddings

Boxes of chocolates

Shapes biscuits

We would need these items by Monday 21st December. It is great to have opportunity to join with Streetlevel in supporting people in need this Christmas



Christmas Day Offering

This year our offering on Christmas Day will go towards The Salvation Army international development ministries.

If you would like to donate online go to

www.selfdenial.info/give



You are invited to attend our online prayer meeting each Monday night at 7pm.
 Join Zoom Online Prayer Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86598885785>
 Meeting ID: 865 9888 5785



WEEKLY AT BCT

SUNDAY

9.30am Primary, Kids Connection & Junior Soldiers

10 am Morning Worship

MONDAY

7pm Online prayer meeting

TUESDAY

6pm Bible study @ BCT

8pm Women's online connect group

WEDNESDAY

10am-12pm Sal Connect

12pm Open House' Community Lunch'

7.30pm Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY

10am mainly music (Resuming 2021)

8pm Men's online connect group

FRIDAY

10am-12pm Sal Connect

7.00pm Youth group (resuming 2021)

SATURDAY

10am Women's online connect group

Parking stations

WICKHAM TERRACE CAR PARK

Located between Wickham Terrace and Turbot Street, Spring Hill

Cost \$5 for four hours on Sunday

POST OFFICE SQUARE CAR PARK

223-235 Adelaide Street, Brisbane

Discounted rate \$6 with ticket validation in our foyer

KING GEORGE SQUARE CAR PARK

Vehicle entry is via Roma or Adelaide Streets and exit is via Roma Street.

If you are more mobile would you consider parking offsite so that spaces can be made available downstairs for the less mobile so that they can avoid walking up the hill.