

20th December, 2020



Brisbane City Temple



The spirit of Christmas is upon us! It's a common sentiment given the time of the year. You see it on Christmas cards and hear it on television. What is the spirit or mood of Christmas? What do people mean when they say that? The answer varies from person to person. The most common opinion is that the spirit of Christmas is a "spirit of giving." The idea of giving is something that consumes us this season. What is the spirit of Christmas, if these things are not the true answers? The spirit of Christmas can be summarized by Mary's song as an expression of worship.

The first verse of the so-called "Magnificent," Mary's hymn of praise to God, says "And Mary said: My soul glorifies the Lord" (1:46). In response to the Angel's announcement about her miraculous conception, Mary left her home (vv. 36-37). Luke tells us that as soon as the angel Gabriel left Mary, she hurried down to the home of her older relative, Elizabeth, to share the good news. The meeting demonstrates Mary's obedience, since it reflects her response to the sign given by the angel.

This meeting was not a casual event, where you pop in your relative's house. It was a three-day journey covering 160 km. Mary believed that the elder Elizabeth would also, by God's grace, give birth to a special son. As New Testament scholar, R. T. France poignantly says, "**One is old and has no children; the other is young and has no husband. But both are pregnant.**" And both are ready to announce the good news to the world. The moment Mary enters Elizabeth's home, the formerly barren wife bursts into a blessing for Mary (vv. 41-45). The text never tells us how Elizabeth knew Mary was expecting this child. But it is clear that she felt honoured just to be in the presence of the child. Alongside Elizabeth's amazement is the lesson of Mary's blessing (v. 45). The great theme is that God does what he says. Blessed are those who share in and believe in that truth.

- Orchard Rd, Presbyterian church

Luke 1: 39– 56



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

David & Anne; Scott & Sharon; Kingsley; Tim & Bev; Richard & Kerry; Joan; Chris, Crystal, Caitlyn & Laura

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.**

1 John 5:14

NEW YEAR NEW YOU

Cafe Church
January 2021
Sunday 10am

167 Ann Street, Brisbane City

THE SALVATION ARMY

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



Christmas Day

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

Final newsletter 2020

This will be the last newsletter for 2020.

It will recommence in February 2021

Sunday December 27

There will be a meeting here next Sunday at 10am



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

Thank you!

Christmas 2020 has been full of different activities for BCT. Many people have been involved in either caroling, collecting, family carols, hampers. Thank you to everyone for being a part of sharing Christmas around our community this year. You have played a big part in giving people hope and sharing the message of a God who loves them and is with them.



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.