

## WELCOME/PRAY

**G'Day everyone** – and **welcome to our Christmas Carols service** here at Toukley Presbyterian Church!

My **name** is **Paul** and I'm the **minister** here at St. David's

We're to **celebrate Christmas** – and the **birth of our Lord Jesus – our Saviour!**

Tonight, we have **plenty of Christmas carols to sing** - and a **puppet show** – and some **Good News to share**.

You should have received a **run sheet** for tonight – so just **sit back** and **relax** and enjoy the evening

Before we begin though - I'm going to commit our time together to God in prayer – so, **let's pray**

*Heavenly Father, we humbly ask that you bless this gathering of your people – as we celebrate and remember the birth of our Lord and King and Saviour – Jesus Christ. Help us to keep our eyes fully focused on Jesus as we enter this busy period of the year – especially when there are so many ways to be distracted from the true meaning of Christmas – and we pray this in Jesus precious name.  
Amen*

Our **musical director** – **Chris** - is ready!

The **Choir's ready** – **You're ready** – so **let the Carols Begin!**

## A Message from Isaiah – Christmas 2024

Shalom Havrim

[which means - hello friends]

Sh-mi yesh-shy-yow-oooh

[which means - My name is Isaiah]

I come to tell you what happened in the year 739BC

I know that's a long time ago – but I think I've aged well – it's amazing what makeup and moisturiser can do!

I still remember that day – like it was yesterday

When I saw God seated on His throne

God's robe was so big – the train of His robe filled the whole temple!

Clearly not the sort of clothes you would get at K-Mart.

Then these heavenly beings showed up - called seraphim- they were like angels on steroids.

They had six wings - two wings covered their face - two wings covered their feet and two wings were used to fly.

I'm not sure how they could fly with the wings covering their faces but maybe they picked up something from Specsavers!

They started calling out to one another and it was sooooo loud - that the door posts and door frames shook. And they called out: "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory*" (Isaiah 6:3)

I have to admit I was super afraid! *I was more scared than a chicken in the drive through queue at KFC!* (pause)

I **felt** like I was **falling apart** – here I was in the **presence of the Holy God** – who is so holy – that these **seraphim creatures said it three times** – and then the **sight of these seraphim** as well – **it was just too much for me!**

Especially when I started to **compare myself to the holy holy holy God** – who is **perfect in every way** – I realized just how sinful I was – I was a **man of unclean lips** – and I realized too just how sinful my people in Israel were!

To be honest – I **thought I was done for** – this was **the end for me!**

But out of nowhere – one of the **seraphim flew** at me with a **hot coal** from the altar – and **touched my mouth with it.**

I **thought** it would **burn my lips** – but it didn't – somehow **God made it possible** for me not to **feel the pain** – and the seraphim said, ***“this coal has touched your lips, Isaiah, your sins are forgiven and you're not guilty!”***

I realized the **hot coal** was a **God's fire of judgment on my sin** – and **God cleansed me.**

Then I heard **God say: “Who shall I send? Who will go for us?”**

I don't know what was in the burning coal that touched my lips – but before I knew it – I **blurted out “Here I am. Send me!”**

What was I thinking!

Then **God gave me a job** to do.

I was to **talk to my people Israel** and **tell them to turn back to God** and say **sorry** for their sin and disobedience

But **God made it clear to me** – that when I did tell my people – they would listen to me but never understand me – and they would look with their eyes at all God's wonders but would never see them!”

You see, **my people Israel** – had been so **disobedience to God** for so long – they'd **lost the habit of listening to God and following His commands!**

And that's why I'm **here tonight** – to **talk to you people** – you **Toukleyites!**

I **hope** you're not **like my people Israel!**

I **hope** that you won't **put your fingers in your ears** – when I speak

And I **hope** that you won't **put blindfolds on and miss the signs!**

Because a while later – **God gave me a massive sign** that points people to **why we need Christmas and why we celebrate Christmas!**

[Turn back to Bible reading]

It was in the first short **Bible reading** that young **Molly – the Toukleyite** read.

From my book – **Isaiah chapter 7 – verse 14**

God told me of a **sign** that would come way beyond 735BC – in fact **735 years later.**

The **sign** was that – ***a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him, Immanuel!***

I was thinking – how can a virgin **conceive and give birth?**

It's **impossible!**

But then I remembered – **nothing is impossible for God!**

And the **name the boy** was to be **given** – kind of **helped me to understand.**

His name was to be ***Immanuel*** – more of a **title** than a name – and it **means God is with us!**

I realized what was to happen – **God Himself would place the baby in the virgin's womb** – and the **baby boy would actually be God's Son** – and the **baby**

**boy would actually be fully human and fully God – and that is why the baby was to be called Immanuel – God with us!**

But why did God give this sign?

Well – because God saw that me and my people Israel were sinful and no matter how hard we tried we couldn't stop sinning – we could never fully keep God's rules – and so our relationship with God was broken badly – and we couldn't fix it. We were **destined to be punished for our sins – and to die and be separated from God forever!**

And I'm sorry to say Toukleyites – you're the same – you might not realize it – but you can't stop sinning either!

But I have some Good News for you!

This baby that God promised – was born 2000 years ago – and it's His birth we celebrate at Christmas.

And because this baby is from God – **He is perfect and doesn't sin like we all do – and He keeps all of God's commands perfectly.** And so, He was **able to grow up to be a man and be the ultimate sacrifice for sin – and to die on a cruel cross – to take the punishment of sin away from people and onto Himself – and to give people forgiveness.**

And **this man also rose from the dead, 3 days after His death, to show that even death can't hold Him down.** And because He rose from the dead – **He lives forever in Heaven – and offers people the chance to live forever in Heaven too!** His **name** – of course is **Jesus** – and His name means Saviour – **He saves people from sin and death! He saves people for Heaven.**

The only thing we have to do is – take our fingers out of our ears – open our eyes - and **believe that this baby Jesus that God promised – died and rose for us!**

(pause)

In my visit to Earth this week, I noticed you are celebrating Jesus' birth – you call it Christmas – the word Christ meaning Jesus' title as God's chosen anointed one – the one God chose to send to save people for Heaven.

But what I've also noticed is that there are a lot of distractions in your celebrations – things like Santa, food, parties, presents, shopping – and I've also noticed you **don't all** celebrate the coming of Jesus – and you **don't all** come and worship Him and thank Him for saving people for Heaven – and you **don't all** really know Him that well because you **don't all** read about Him in the Bible – or even talk to Him in prayers. And so, Jesus, is kind of left out in the cold at Christmas in most homes!

(pause)

That's what God felt like with me, Isaiah, and my people Israel – we'd forgotten all about God – and left Him out of our lives too!

So – I'm here to tell you tonight - to put Christ – back in Christmas – and to tell you – not to leave this Earth until you believe in Jesus!

Because if **you don't believe in Jesus – you won't be going to Heaven.**

(pause)

But there's one more message, I, Isaiah, have for you.

And that is - you can enjoy Jesus in your life here on Earth now!

Because in the **2<sup>nd</sup> short Bible Reading** that Molly, the Toukleyite, read for us – from my book – **Isaiah chapter 9 verses 6 and 7** – God gave me, Isaiah, a **description of what the child Jesus would be like!**

It's like God gave me a **job description of Jesus** – 700 years before He was actually born.

That **job description** says:

Jesus is a **Son** – no ordinary Son – but **God's only Son!**

Jesus has the **government on His shoulders** – not the government of Israel – not the government of Australia – but the **government of the whole of Heaven and Earth** – Jesus is King of all Heaven and Earth

Jesus is a **Wonderful Counsellor** – it literally means a **supernatural counsellor**.

**Jesus has God's perfect wisdom.** Jesus, as a human being, has been **tempted, mistreated, persecuted and suffered**. So, He **understands what we go through** – so He's the **perfect person to come to - for help and guidance**. And His Word the **Bible** – has all the answers to all of our questions about life. The **Bible** is the **best book to read**. If you don't have a Bible, ask Reverend Paul, he'll give you a Bible tonight!

Jesus is **Mighty God** – Being God's Son, Jesus **has all the power and authority that God, the Father has**. If you read about Jesus' life – **you will see His power** – power over nature, over sickness and even over death and the power to **forgive sins!** And we also know from the Bible that **Jesus was there at the time of the creation of the World** – and He created everything – and He holds everything together! (Colossians 1:16-17)

Jesus is **Everlasting Father** – Jesus, as a father figure – **cares for His children** – that's us! **He even laid down His life for His children**. And because Jesus is God

as well as God's son – He is **part of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit** – who existed before Creation – and so Jesus is also **eternal** or **everlasting** – **He's always existed.**

Jesus is **"the Prince of Peace"** – Jesus is **royalty** and the **King's Son and heir** – and He also brings peace.

The word for peace – in my Hebrew language – is **"Shalom!"** - It means – **completeness, wholeness, healthiness, well-being and contentment**

Jesus – brings **peace** between humans and God – by calling people to come out of the darkness of their sin and into His light – and by people believing that His death on the cross – takes away their sins.

Jesus also brings **inner peace** to all who believe in Him. A peace that means people can be **content in every situation they face knowing that Jesus is with them all the time** - and it's a **peace that surpasses all human understanding!**

God also told me that **"The greatness of Jesus' government and peace will never end"**

And that's because **Jesus is the king of a forever Kingdom in Heaven** - where there won't be any more wars, no suffering, no terrorism, no problems, no covid, no cancer, no death, no grieving (Rev 21:4) – just everlasting peace and joy with the Prince of Peace.

My message, Toukleyites, is simple – what's stopping you from coming to Jesus - the Prince of Peace!

Shalom Havrim [[Peace be with you, friends](#)]



## Auld Lang Syne

Just before we sing Auld Lang Syne – I'd like you all to stand and join hands.

## Thank You's and Blessing

Thank you all for being here this evening!

A special thank you to:

- Our musical director – Chris Smillie
- Our sound technicians – Rob and Malcolm
- Our wonderful Choir
- Lina who helped Sonny Jim
- Also thank you to Sonny Jim and Isaiah for popping by
- And of course, the BBQ guys – Malcolm, Carl and Ian
- And our fabulous ladies in the kitchen!
- Please join us for Christmas cake and tea/coffee

## **Let me just finish with a Blessing**

This Christmas - may you be filled with the wonder of Mary; the obedience of Joseph; the joy of the angels; the eagerness of the shepherds; the determination of the wise men; and the peace of the Christ child. May Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever more. Amen!