NEWSLETTER

23 - 29 November 2026

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am



Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of hope we have through Jesus Christ. From the beginning, Your Word revealed Your plan to redeem us and restore our relationship with You. Through the birth of Jesus, we see the depth of Your love for us.

Help us remember that You are always with us and that nothing is too difficult or messy for Your grace. Thank You for sending Jesus to offer us forgiveness, salvation, and the promise of eternal life.

That first Christmas, You gave us the greatest gift of all—hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank You for Your immeasurable love and grace.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

The Weekly Word

with Rev Dr Rod Benson, Sunday 29 November 2026

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new lectionary year, calling us to wait in hope for the arrival of the Incarnate Son of God who comes for us and for our salvation. The lectionary Psalm for today, Psalm 80:1-7, reminds us of the power and authority of God, accompanied by God's vocation as Shepherd and Saviour. It emphasises purposeful divine action: God listens, leads, sits enthroned, shines, rallies his power, and restores. But the Psalm is also a cry for help from the mouths and hearts of people who feel the palpable absence of a shepherd and a saviour. It is an expression of yearning for a world only faintly glimpsed – if at all – amid the trials, disappointments and horrors of this present life.

We too seek salvation and yearn for a better world. We too need God's grace, restoration, and shepherd care. We can't do it on our own. And God hears our cries, sees our tears and fills our brokenness not least because of the incarnation of God's Son, the great cosmic miracle whereby infinite consciousness took on human flesh and frailty to save us from sin and death through his own birth and death. Of all the experiences that our Lord Jesus encountered when "God so loved the world" (Jn 3:16), perhaps the hardest of all was for him to enter our finite world and "empty himself" for us (Php 2:9-16).

As Episcopal priest Cynthia Bourgeault writes, “With nothing to gain from the human adventure – nothing to prove, nothing to achieve, and a dangerously unbounded heart that left him defenceless against the hard edges of this world – Jesus came anyway.” He came to restore us and, in the words of the ancient psalmist, to make God’s face “shine on us, so that we may be saved” (Ps 80:7).

Thanks be to God.

This Sunday Yvonne will be sharing her reflection on Isaiah 64:1–9 & 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 - “O Lord, Come Down!” — Hope in Our Waiting

Christmas Services

We are looking for people who would like to help organise the special Christmas services for 24 Dec (6.30-7.30pm, possibly preceded by a community barbecue), and 25 Dec (9.00-10.00am). If you have creative ideas, or would like to help on the night, and would like to join the team please talk to Rod.

Would you like to meet with Rod?

Rod is available to meet with people for a pastoral conversation or prayer, either at the church or at a cafe. If it is easier he can come to you. Please phone him to work out a time.

Previous Sermons

If you have missed any of our previous sermons you can listen to them on our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/@nrcc6214 or read them on Rod's blog at https://rodbenson.com/

Dates for your Diary

November	
28	Community Garden
29	First Sunday of Advent
December	
1	Church Council Meeting
5	Fair Trade Market
12	Community Garden
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day

Wednesday Morning Prayers - Rod will be leading early morning prayers on Wednesdays at the church from 7am. The session will last about 30 minutes. All are welcome

Community News and Notices



Different ways you can help those in need this Christmas

If you are looking for ways to help those in need please click on the images below for charities to donate to, or presents to give your friends and family that will make a difference to someone in need.





Christmas Bowl



Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

Uniting Church Assembly: https://uniting.church/news/
NSW & ACT Synod: https://nswact.uca.org.au/
Parramatta Nepean Presbytery: https://pnp.uca.org.au/

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray for our congregation as we discern God's plan for our church.
- Pray for those involved with planning our Advent and Christmas services.
- Pray for the JNC, for wisdom in discernment, unity, patience and guidance, to bring clarity to the process of calling a minister to our church.
- Pray for Rod, for wisdom in his leadership and discernment in his decisions.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for the churches and other organisations and missions of the newly formed Central Presbytery.
- We pray for protection, strength, and comfort to be with those around the world who suffer for their faith.

- Pray for those in mission as they reach out to those who do not yet know you. We pray especially for the missionaries we support - Mike & Jacky Hammond, Richard & Lindsey Parker, and Bill & Sandra Callister.

For Australia

- Pray for those who are struggling with the cost of living.
- Pray for reconciliation between all who call Australia home.
- Pray for wisdom for leaders to make decisions for the good of all Australians.

For the World

- Pray for the people of Nepal following the flash floods.
- Pray for peace for those living in areas of increased conflict. May they know the hope that can only be found in God.
- Pray for East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

***E* - give** (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)
Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Ministry Leaders

Transitional Supply Minister: Rev Dr Rod Benson / 0412421678 / rod@northrocks.org.au

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Jenny Keyte Treasurer: Mike Hammond
Samson Leung Quentin Napier, Sue Vasilevska