



25 November 2020

Important News About Christmas

Hello All

It is with great sadness I am writing to let you know that we will not be holding a Christmas Day service at Lake Joondalup this year. This has been an agonising decision to make and we have spent a couple of months trying to find alternative solutions. The basis of the decision is predicated by the numbers of people that attend services at Lake Joondalup and the size of our facilities. Churches with a different set of parameters may still be going ahead with their service but in our situation that is not possible.

We have waited as long as we are able before making the final decision while the circumstances have been changing, hoping for the possibility of new health advice and guidelines. We have surveyed most, if not all alternative options, and have not found a suitable alternative arrangement other than the one mentioned below.

This decision is ultimately about us as individuals, and as a church, making a sacrifice to keep our community and visitors safe. I have already had people communicate to me that they feel the decision is not honouring Jesus properly, I would gently like to disagree. Making a decision to sacrifice for the sake of others' health and their well-being, feels to me, like something Jesus would approve of deeply.

The leadership and staff are devastated by this decision but recognise our duty of care to those who attend and also our obligation to the wider community. As sad as this decision is we recognise that it is at the end of an unprecedented year and anticipate that this will be an isolated case where such a change will be required.

On a brighter note, we are planning a video service for Christmas (not the same as in person but certainly a consolation). We are looking for creative ideas and help to make that happen. We would like to encourage you to think of who you might invite (if you have space) to join you on Christmas Day to watch the service and celebrate together. We are aware that many of the families and individuals in the church don't have anyone to celebrate Christmas with and we would encourage you to be generous in who you invite to join with you and your family. If you would like suggestions of who you can invite or alternatively would like to nominate yourself to be invited, please let the office know and we will try to coordinate people gathering as best as we are able.

We will also be including Christmas Day elements in the services leading up to Christmas, including our normal 'remembrance Christmas tree', carols and advent series in December. Please let us know if there is anything particular that you have thought of that we could also include.

As hard as this decision has been, I am grateful to be part of a staff and leadership that are brave enough to make a difficult decision with a heart of honouring others. Please continue to pray for those who will be deeply affected by this decision.

Steve Ingram | *Senior Pastor*