

SOUL FOOD

November/December 2019



*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and
the government shall be upon His shoulder*

The Word Made Flesh

(excerpt by Rev Brian W. Keith)

One of the wonders of Christmas is the fact that the Lord is born with light in the midst of confused and dark states of life. When we see little but gloom and hopelessness, He comes to us. He holds us in His hands, nourishing an inner sense of hope that we might endure and overcome. Then His full presence with us is in the light of the morning, enabling us to recognize who He is and how we might walk in His ways. This is why the morning with its light and warmth corresponds to the Lord's coming. (see Arcana Coelestia 22, 4240e; Doctrine Concerning the Sacred Scripture 99) For the Lord came as the light of the world. This is His glory. We can see it shining upon us in the truth His advent brought. For until the Lord took on a physical form as a tender infant, all the earlier concepts of Him were vague at best. (see Doctrine Concerning the Sacred Scripture 99)

By His birth the Lord acquired a natural degree of life. As He put it on and gradually made it Divine, the warmth of His love and the light of His wisdom became immediately present with all. This is the light of the new day the Lord's coming heralded for mankind, a light shining in the darkness, leading to the brilliance of day. We can sense this when we reflect upon our awakening states not those which come after too little sleep, or when we are rudely awakened by alarms and the bustle of hurriedly preparing to rush off to work. But we feel it in the quiet mornings when we awake refreshed and revived when we listen to the singing of the birds and know the dazzling sunlight portends the warming of the earth. The light has a special quality then. With clarity we see beauty in even the simplest things around us. And we can sense the closeness of heaven, the closeness of the Lord's Advent as our spirits are lifted up to the new day. (see Arcana Coelestia 7844:2)

As the Word made flesh, the glory of the Lord can bring us a peacefulness unlike any other. Not a peace like the quiet of evening when we are preparing to rest. Rather it is a peace of contentment and confidence. As the Heavenly Doctrines note, this peace is "the very Divine truth in heaven from the Lord which universally affects all who are there and makes heaven to be heaven; for peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He directs all things and provides all things, and that He leads to a good end. When a person is in this state, he is in peace, for he then fears nothing, and no worry about things to come disturbs him." (Arcana Coelestia 8455) The glory of the Lord's Word shines upon us

when we have such assurance that He is in charge, carefully guiding every one of our steps.

This is the state of the angels. Their unpleasant memories of this earth have been set aside. They have no desire to leap into the future. Rather they fully enjoy the present, sensing all the goodness that the Lord is giving them now. For they trust in Him, knowing that He is leading and caring for them no matter what happens. We may taste some of this angelic peace as we celebrate the Lord's advent or awaken in the morning. But we enter into it more and more as we set aside the things of this world: worry about the future, too great a focus on natural toys and conveniences, our selfish drives and desires. To the extent that we can enjoy earthly delights without making them all important, that we can serve others without always thinking about what we will get out of it, so far peace can enter our lives. It is then that we become convinced that the Lord's light is the true light and most of the problems and troubles we experience can fall away. It is then that we can glimpse the Lord and experience His peace, His Advent into our lives.

Cynthia McPherson passed into the spiritual word on 28 September. She was an active member of our circle for many years, participating in worship services, classes and retreats.

Kindness, helpfulness and an abundance of energy were her hallmarks. She never tired of being useful and seeing possibilities. Thanks to her initiative two of her grandchildren participated in a Christmas tableaux one year. She was baptised into the New Church during a pastoral visit. We miss you Cynthia: and know that you are sorely missed by your beloved friend John Caine and your large loving family. Well done, thou good and faithful servant.



Rev Todd Beiswenger is visiting Perth from 6th to 9th December
 As this becomes a busy time of year please diarise these dates.

JODI EDMUNDS, cousin to Smuts family from the Westville Society, is also
 visiting from 1st to 9th december .

Calendar for September and October

<i>Sun 3 Nov</i>	<i>10:30am Worship</i> Godly Play	<i>McDougall House</i> <i>Clydesdale Road Como</i>
<i>Sun 10 Nov</i>	<i>Playtime at the park</i> <i>10:30am(no booking</i> <i>available for house)</i>	<i>McDougall Park</i>
<i>Sun 17 Nov</i>	<i>10:30am Worship</i>	<i>Environmental Centre,</i> <i>end of Groat St, N Beach</i>
<i>Sun 24 Nov</i>	<i>10:30 am Worship</i> Godly Play	<i>McDougall House</i> <i>Clydesdale Road Como</i>
<i>Sun 1 Dec</i>	<i>Playtime at the park</i> <i>10:30am(no booking</i> <i>available for house)</i>	<i>McDougall Park</i>
<i>Sat 7th Dec</i>	10:30am Class with Todd followed by lunch	<i>Belmont DOME</i> <i>237 Knutsford Ave</i>
<i>Sun 8 Dec</i>	<i>10:30 am Worship and</i> Holy Supper with Rev Todd Beiswenger <i>followed by shared lunch</i>	<i>McDougall House</i> <i>Clydesdale Road Como</i>
<i>Sun 15 Dec</i>	<i>Carol Singing at Araluen</i> <i>4:30pm entry</i>	<i>Araluen Amphitheatre</i> <i>Carols start at 7pm</i>
<i>Sat 21 Dec</i>	<i>Children's service (dress</i> <i>them up as shepherds or</i> <i>wise men) 2pm – 3pm</i>	<i>St George's Cathedral</i> <i>Perth</i>
<i>Sun 22 Dec</i>	<i>10:30 am Carol Service</i>	<i>McDougall House</i> <i>Clydesdale Road Como</i>
<i>Sun 22 Dec</i>	<i>Christmas service and</i> <i>shared lunch 10:30am</i>	<i>Environmental Centre,</i> <i>end of Groat St, N Beach</i>

***We are all created to become angels of Heaven
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

Worship: 10:30am usually on the **Second and Fourth** Sundays with **Godly Play** for children (please confirm on 0407448405)

Venue: Mc Dougall House Clydesdale Road
Como

www.newchurch.org

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