



DURBANVILLE  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

**Growing A Family Aflame,  
Sharing God's Love with All**

[www.durbanvillemethodist.co.za](http://www.durbanvillemethodist.co.za)

## PREACHER'S NOTE

**10 DECEMBER 2023**

### Unexpected Awe

For our Christmas Cantata at Westview Methodist in Centurion, Pretoria, as many as possible were roped in, had a few practices, stood self-consciously on the stage dressed in approximately similar gowns, and gave an enthusiastic, but slightly rough-edged rendition of Christmas favourites. But, it was joyous, and celebrated with plenty of cake and tea afterwards.

Nathan, a son of friends of ours, stood up to start O Holy Night, a beautiful but challenging song. He was an ordinary boy, from a struggling family, who often depended on church generosity to get by. A beautiful tenor note stilled us all, starting slow as the song does - "O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining". It swelled as he sang of the thrill of hope that the weary world felt at our dear Saviour's birth. By the time he got to "fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices", we all had tears in our eyes. And as he effortlessly soared through the famously difficult ranges of "O Night Divine", we were in awe. Where did that come from?

It's still the most beautiful rendition of my favourite Christmas song. Every year I trawl Youtube for Mariah Carey's, Josh Grobin's, even Celine Dion's versions, and none compares to that ordinary boy in a Christmas Cantata. Awe and amazement often creep up on us, as our Lord touches our hearts in a song, a sunrise, a look of love. We again glimpse His face, His heart, through the beauty of His world, even in among the difficulties, and often in unexpected places.

May you, as this year draws to its end, find awe again. Take some time, make some space, because you won't find it in busyness, deadlines or stress. May you glimpse, once more, in unexpected places, the beauty of His face and the wonder of His work in the world. Blessings, Andrew.



### LECTIONARY READINGS:

Luke 24b-26, Acts 2: 42-44

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH: 09h00 - 10h00.

Today is our last Children's Ministry session for 2023. We thank you for your support and encouragement through this last year and we wish all our friends and families a blessed Christmas and happy New Year. Our first session in the new year will be on 21 January 2024.

## DMC FAMILY NEWS - PRAYER

David Talbot-Bowe, Alan Masterson

Kindly inform the office of members who have been admitted to hospital.  
Please contact the office if you have any prayer request.  
Tel. 021 976 0598

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the church today are donated by Andries & Helga Kruger in celebration of the life of their daughter Nicole Kruger.

## LEAVE DATES for STAFF 2022/2023

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Yvonne Engelke    | 11 - 26 December         |
| Jeffrey Valentine | 18 December - 9 January  |
| Sandra Fairbairn  | 27 December - 14 January |
| Caroline Erens    | 27 December - 14 January |
| Vuyelwa Ntshinga  | 31 December - 14 January |

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed from 27 December 2023- 2 January 2024

**We wish all the members of our Congregation & visitors a Blessed Christmas & safety over the holidays.**

## BIRTHDAYS

**We wish you God's Richest blessings as you celebrate your special day**

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Louise Giffard      | 11 December |
| Rochelle Riehl      | 12 December |
| Claire Jackson      | 12 December |
| Vida Das Neves      | 13 December |
| John Conradie       | 13 December |
| Gert Kotze          | 14 December |
| Marie Bissett       | 14 December |
| Reece Julius        | 14 December |
| Norma Schalkwyk     | 14 December |
| Theunis Esterhuizen | 15 December |
| Roy Lureman         | 16 December |

## SUNDAY SERVICE 10 DECEMBER 2023

**PREACHER ANDREW BOAKE**

## UPCOMING SERVICES/EVENTS at DMC

**Sunday 17 Dec** - Carol & Fellowship Service at 9am.

Please bring your picnic basket and join us under the trees.

**Sunday 24 Dec** - Service at 9am & Christmas Eve Service at 11pm.

**Monday 25 Dec** - Christmas Day Service at 8am.

**Sunday 31 Dec** - Online Service only, at 9am.

**Sunday 7 Jan** - Holy Communion Service at 9am.

## CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY OFFERTORY

Will be in aid of The Methodist Homes for Children.

## SERVICE & GENEROSITY

**PANTRY CUPBOARD** - We are making an appeal for non-perishable food items for our pantry cupboard. If you can help please leave at the help desk or the office.

**MEN'S MINISTRY 2024** - We are looking at suggestions from our male members to start up this Ministry. Suggestions can be placed in the suggestion box at the help desk.

## Sacrificial giving can be done via EFT:

MCSA DURBANVILLE SOCIETY - Standard Bank, Tyger Manor, Branch Code 050410, Account Number 27 512 575 0. Thank you for your generosity. Through your giving we are able to continue our various ministries.

## CONTACT NUMBERS & OFFICE HOURS

**Minister: Vuyelwa Ntshinga** (w) 021 976 0598  
Vuyelwa's day off is Monday. [vuyelwa@durbmeth.org.za](mailto:vuyelwa@durbmeth.org.za)

**Worship Pastor: Charles Egan** (c) 082 582 5012  
[worship@durbmeth.org.za](mailto:worship@durbmeth.org.za)

**Secretary: Yvonne Engelke** (w) 021 976 0598  
[admin@durbmeth.org.za](mailto:admin@durbmeth.org.za)

**Receptionist: Sandra Fairbairn** (w) 021 976 0598  
[reception@durbmeth.org.za](mailto:reception@durbmeth.org.za)

**Monday - Thursday:** 08h00 - 15h00  
**Friday:** 08h00 - 13h00

**Office Tel:** 021 976 0598, 021 976 0858