



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Year 'A' REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY 2019 – 2020

(Below in the right hand column : C = Colour; P = Purple; W = White; G = Green; R = Red; B = Black)

ADVENT

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the Church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ, past, present and future.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Dec 1 2019	Advent 1	Is 2:1-5	Ps 122	Rom 13:11-14	Mt 24:36-44	P
Dec 8 2019	Advent 2	Is 11:1-10	Ps 72:1-7, 18-19	Rom 15:4-13	Mt 3:1-12	P
Dec 15 2019	Advent 3	Is 35:1-10	Ps 146:5-10 or Lk 1:46b-55	Jas 5:7-10	Mt 11:2-11	P
Dec 22 2019	Advent 4	Is 7:10-16	Ps 80:1-7, 17-19	Rom 1:1-7	Mt 1:18-25	P

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas-Epiphany season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The Church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation; the season concludes with Epiphany. (Any of the Nativity selections may be used either for Christmas Day or Christmas Eve services.)

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Dec 24/25 2019	Nativity 1	Is 9:2-7	Ps 96	Tit 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)	W
	Nativity 2	Is 62:6-12	Ps 97	Tit 3:4-7	Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20	W
	Nativity 3	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1:1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1:1-14	W
Dec 29 2019	Christmas 1	Is 63:7-9	Ps 148	Heb 2:10-18	Mt 2:13-23	W
Jan 1 2020	New Year's Day	Eccl 3: 1-13	Ps 8	Rev 21: 1-6a	Matt 25: 31-46	W
Jan 1 2020	Naming of Jesus	Num 6: 22-27	Ps 8	Gal 4: 4-7 or Phil 2: 5-11	Luke 2:15-21	W
Jan 5 2020	Christmas 2	Jer 31:7-14	Ps 147:12-20	Eph 1:3-14	Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18	W
Jan 6 2020	Epiphany of the Lord	Is 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7, 10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	W

AFTER EPIPHANY

A period in which the Church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The Baptism of the Lord is the first Sunday of this period. On the last Sunday, we hear the readings for the Transfiguration of the Lord. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Jan 12 2020	Baptism of Jesus	Is 42:1-9	Ps 29	Acts 10:34-43	Mt 3:13-17	W
Jan 19 2020	Epiphany 2	Is 49:1-7	Ps 40:1-11	1 Cor 1:1-9	Jn 1:29-42	G
Jan 26 2020	Epiphany 3	Is 9:1-4	Ps 27:1, 4-9	1 Cor 1:10-18	Mt 4:12-23	G
Feb 2 2020	Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)	Mal 3: 1-4	Ps 84 or Ps 24: 7-10	Heb 2: 14-18	Luke 2: 22-40	G
Feb 2 2020	Epiphany 4	Mic 6:1-8	Ps 15	1 Cor 1:18-31	Mt 5:1-12	G
Feb 9 2020	Epiphany 5	Is 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Ps 112:1-9 (10)	1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16)	Mt 5:13-20	G
Feb 16 2020	Epiphany 6	Deut 30:15-20	Ps 119:1-8	1 Cor 3:1-9	Mt 5:21-37	G
Feb 23 2020	Transfiguration of Jesus	Ex 24:12-18	Ps 2 or Ps 99	2 Pt 1:16-21	Mt 17:1-9	W

LENT

A season of preparation and discipline that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the Church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. The season is the traditional time to prepare for baptisms and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Feb 26 2020	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Is 58:1-12	Ps 51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b – 6:10	Mt 6:1-6, 16-21	P
March 1 2020	Lent 1	Gn 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5:12-19	Mt 4:1-11	P
March 8 2020	Lent 2	Gn 12:1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4:1-5, 13-17	Jn 3:1-17 or Mt 17: 1-9	P
March 15 2020	Lent 3	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	Jn 4:5-42	P
March 22 2020	Lent 4	1 Sm 16:1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5:8-14	Jn 9:1-41	P
March 25 2020	Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14	Ps 45 or Ps 40:5-10	Heb 10:4-10	Lk 1:26-38	W
March 29 2020	Lent 5	Ez 37:1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8:6-11	Jn 11:1-45	P
April 5 2020	Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 118:1-2,19-29	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 21:1-11	P
April 5 2020	Passion Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 26:14 – 27:66 or Mt 27:11-54	P
April 6 2020	Monday in Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11	P
April 7 2020	Tuesday in Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36	P
April 8 2020	Wednesday in Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32	P
April 9 2020	Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35	P
April 10 2020	Good Friday	Is 52:13 – 53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Jn 18:1 – 19:42	B/R
April 11 2020	Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-14 or Lam 3:1-9, 19-24	Ps 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Pt 4:1-8	Mt 27:57-66 or Jn 19:38-42	B

EASTER

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Apr 11/12 2020	Easter Vigil	Gen 1:1–2:4a Gen 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18;9:8-13 Gen 22:1-18 Ex 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Is 55:1-11 Prv 8:1-8,19-21; 9:4b-6 Ez 36:24-28 Ez 37:1-14 Zep 3:14-20	Ps 136:1-9,23-26 Ps 46 Ps 16 Ex 15:1b-13,17-18 (resp) Is 12:2-6 (resp) Ps 19 Pss 42 and 43 Ps 143 Ps 98 Ps 114	Rom 6:3-11	Matt 28:1-10	W
April 12 2020	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	Jn 20:1-18 or Mt 28:1-10	W
April 12 2020	Easter Evening	Is 25:6-9	Ps 114	1 Cor 5:6b-8	Lk 24:13-49	W
April 19 2020	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Pt 1:3-9	Jn 20:19-31	W
April 26 2020	Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Ps 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Pt 1:17-23	Lk 24:13-35	W
May 3 2020	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Pt 2:19-25	Jn 10:1-10	W
May 10 2020	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Pt 2:2-10	Jn 14:1-14	W
May 17 2020	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	Ps 66:8-20	1 Pt 3:13-22	Jn 14:15-21	W
May 21 2020	Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
May 24 2020	Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14	Ps 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Pt 4:12-14, 5:6-11	Jn 17:1-11	W
May 31 2020	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30	Ps 104:24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 7:37-39	R

AFTER PENTECOST

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Jun 7 2020	Trinity Sunday	Gn 1:1 – 2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13:11-13	Mt 28:16-20	W
Jun 14 2020	Pent 2 [11]	Gn 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	Rom 5:1-8	Mt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)	G
Jun 21 2020	Pent 3 [12]	Gn 21:8-21 or Ez 37:15-28	Ps 86: 1-10,16-17	Rom 6:1b-11	Mt 10:24-39	G
Jun 22 2020	UCA Anniversary	Ez 37:15-28	Ps 122	Heb 13:1-8	Jn 17:20-26	R
Jun 28 2020	Pent 4 [13]	Gn 22:1-14	Ps 13	Rom 6:12-23	Mt 10:40-42	G
Jul 5 2020	Pent 5 [14]	Gn 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13	Rom 7:15-25a	Mt 11:16-19, 25-30	G
Jul 12 2020	Pent 6 [15]	Gn 25:19-34	Ps 119:105-112	Rom 8:1-11	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23	G
Jul 19 2020	Pent 7 [16]	Gn 28:10-19a	Ps 139:1-12, 23-24	Rom 8:12-25	Mt 13:24-30, 36-43	G
Jul 26 2020	Pent 8 [17]	Gn 29:15-28	Ps 105:1-11, 45b or Ps 128	Rom 8:26-39	Mt 13:31-33, 44-52	G
Aug 2 2020	Pent 9 [18]	Gn 32:22-31	Ps 17:1-7, 15	Rom 9:1-5	Mt 14:13-21	G
Aug 9 2020	Pent 10 [19]	Gn 37:1-4,12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10:5-15	Mt 14:22-33	G
Aug 16 2020	Pent 11 [20]	Gn 45:1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28	G
Aug 23 2020	Pent 12 [21]	Ex 1:8 – 2:10	Ps 124	Rom 12:1-8	Mt 16:13-20	G
Aug 30 2020	Pent 13 [22]	Ex 3:1-15	Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Rom 12:9-21	Mt 16:21-28	G
Sept 6 2020	Pent 14 [23]	Ex 12:1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13:8-14	Mt 18:15-20	G
Sept 13 2020	Pent 15 [24]	Ex 14:19-31	Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21	Rom 14:1-12	Mt 18:21-35	G
Sept 20 2020	Pent 16 [25]	Ex 16:2-15	Ps 105:1-6, 37-45	Phil 1:21-30	Mt 20:1-16	G
Sept 27 2020	Pent 17 [26]	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 78:1-4, 12-16	Phil 2:1-13	Mt 21:23-32	G
Oct 4 2020	Pent 18 [27]	Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3:4b-14	Mt 21:33-46	G
Oct 11 2020	Pent 19 [28]	Ex 32:1-14	Ps 106:1-6, 19-23	Phil 4:1-9	Mt 22:1-14	G
Oct 18 2020	Pent 20 [29]	Ex 33:12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1:1-10	Mt 22:15-22	G
Oct 25 2020	Pent 21 [30]	Dt 34:1-12	Ps 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2:1-8	Mt 22:34-46	G
Nov 1 2020	All Saints Day	Rv 7:9-17	Ps 34:1-10, 22	1 Jn 3:1-3	Mt 5:1-12	W
Nov 1 2020	Pent 22 [31]	Jos 3:7-17	Ps 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2:9-13	Mt 23:1-12	G
Nov 8 2020	Pent 23 [32]	Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78:1-7	1 Thes 4:13-18	Mt 25:1-13	G
Nov 15 2020	Pent 24 [33]	Jgs 4:1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5:1-11	Mt 25:14-30	G
Nov 22 2020	Christ the King or the Reign of Christ	Ez 34:11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1:15-23	Mt 25:31-46	W

UCA Anniversary Readings may be substituted for June 21.

The beginnings or endings of some Psalms vary from those in *Uniting in Worship 2*. You may choose to use the verse selections in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

A Calendar of Other Commemorations is to be found in *Uniting in Worship 2* pages 566 to 571.

Keep up to date at

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/worship>

- Discover publications produced by the Assembly Resourcing Unit
- Liturgical resources to help with preaching and worship;
- Some recently produced Orders of Service;
- Background Papers on a wide range of subjects;
- Other Websites worth investigating for worship and preaching;
- The Lectionary and Liturgical dates;
- Music and the Arts.

ORTHODOX DATES

GREAT FRIDAY	17 April 2020
EASTER	19 April 2020
PENTECOST	7 June 2020

Rev Lindsay Cullen
National Consultant, Assembly Resourcing Unit

the Lord in fresh words and deed”
the unique revelation of God which we see in Jesus the Messiah, and which calls us all to “confess
the Year of Matthew brings an opportunity for us to delve deeply and appreciatively into the
Jewish heritage from which Jesus’ life and teaching sprang, while also celebrating with the evangelists,
the unique revelation of God which we see in Jesus the Messiah, and which calls us all to “confess

Some 2000 years later, a focus on Matthew’s gospel enables us to engage with the same questions
and issues. In 2009, the Uniting Church Assembly made the statement: “Jesus of Nazareth cannot
be understood apart from the Judaism of his time as he was born, lived and died a faithful Jew,
looking to the establishment of God’s kingdom as the fulfillment of God’s promises”. And further,
“The Uniting Church acknowledges with repentance a history of interpretation of New Testament
texts which has often failed to appreciate the context from which these texts emerged”.

Many commentators point out the fact that of all the gospels, Matthew seems the most interested
in addressing the Jewish tradition in which Jesus lived and taught, and in linking his life and death
with the writings of the Jewish scriptures. It is Matthew who records Jesus’ claim to be fulfilling
the law, rather than abolishing it. (Matt 5: 17) At the same time Matthew includes an extensive
critique of “the scribes and the Pharisees”, culminating in the chapter long oracle of woes in Matt
23. It seems likely that the author of Matthew is trying to walk the line between a concern that the
Jewish tradition should not be lost in a church wrestling with the increasing inclusion of gentiles,
while at the same time needing to defend the Christian understanding of Christ’s messiah-hood
and divinity against growing Jewish criticism.

The three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary focusses on a different one of the
three synoptic gospels each year, with passages from John’s gospel used throughout all three
years, especially during some of the special seasons of the year. Within this cycle Year A gives
an opportunity for preachers to focus on the very first book of the New Testament — the gospel
of Matthew. Most scholars believe that despite its position in the usual order of books within the
Christian New Testament, that Matthew, along with Luke are written later than and draw material
from the gospel of Mark, as well as from another hypothetical source, shared with Luke and often
of the gospel has their own take on the Jesus story that is important for their audience - a unique
perspective on the meaning of Jesus’ life, teaching, death and resurrection. This particular approach
is seen both in the way in which Matthew edits his sources, as well as in the unique material
Matthew’s gospel includes.

Lectionary Notes — Preaching in the Year of Matthew

Calendar and Lectionary

of the UNITING CHURCH Year A 2019 - 2020

‘The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which it hears the Word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated...’

The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these...’

Basis of Union (1992 Edition), paragraph 5



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
ASSEMBLY RESOURCING UNIT

Commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew in Korean

* Available from MediaCom Education Inc. Phone toll free 1800 811 311 or visit www.mediacom.org.au

*Wright, Tom, *Twelve Months of Sundays: Reflections on Bible Readings Year A*, SPCK.

*Wright, N.T., *Matthew for Everyone, Part 1 and Part 2*, Westminster John Knox.

*Wright, N.T., *Advent for Everyone, Matthew*, Abingdon Press.

**Words for Worship*, annual subscription, MediaCom Education Inc.

Witherington III, Ben, *Matthew*, Smyth & Helwys.

*Williamson, William H., *Will Williamson’s Lectionary Sermon Resource Year A, Part 1 and Part 2*, Abingdon Press.

*Tunbull, Ellen, *Prayers for all Seasons Year A*, Wood Lake Books.

**Together in Worship and Prayer Year A*, MediaCom Education Inc.

*Swanson, Richard J., *Provoking the Gospel of Matthew*, Pilgrim Press.

*Sparks, David, *Responsive Prayers Year A*, Wood Lake Books.

*Sparks, David, *Prayers to Share Year A*, Wood Lake Books.

*Sparks, David, *Pastoral Prayers to Share Year A*, Wood Lake Books.

*Senior, Donald, *Matthew (Abingdon New Testament Commentaries)*, Abingdon Press.

**Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum (subscription), MediaCom Education Inc.

*Squires, Mary J. and B.J. Beu, eds *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*, Abingdon Press.

*Saunders, Stanley P., *Preaching the Gospel of Matthew*, Westminster John Knox.

**Resources for Preaching and Worship Year A, Westminster John Knox*

**Pulpit Resource*, by William H Williamson, annual subscription, MediaCom Education Inc.

*Otoni-Wilhelm, Dawn, et al, *Preaching God’s Transforming Justice Year A*, Westminster John Knox.

*Lifton, Ralph, *Lectionary Story Bible Year A*, Wood Lake Books.

*Long, Thomas G., *Matthew*, Westminster John Knox Press.

*Lepard, James, *Dragon Talks (Year A)*, Wood Lake Books.

*Lenton, Sarah, *Creative Ideas for Children’s Worship Year A*, Canterbury Press.

*Hostette, David, *Prayers for the Seasons of God’s People Year A*, Abingdon Press.

**Hey Kids Altogether*, MediaCom Education Inc.

Hauenwas, Stanley, *Matthew*, Baker.

Harrington, David J., *The Gospel of Matthew*, Liturgical Press.

*Hare, Douglas R.A., *Matthew Interpretation Series*, Westminster John Knox.

France, R.T., *The Gospel of Matthew*, Eerdmans.

**Fasting on the Word Year A, 4 volumes*, Westminster John Knox.

**Fasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A, Vol 1 and Vol 2*, Westminster John Knox.

**Fasting on the Word Children’s Sermons for Year A*, Westminster John Knox.

**Fasting on the Word Advent Companion and Lenten Companion*, Westminster John Knox.

**Fasting on the Gospels Matthew, Vol 1 and Vol 2*, Westminster John Knox.

**Connections Year A (Lectionary Commentary Series), Vol 1, Vol 2 and Vol 3*, Westminster John Knox.

*Collis, Andrew & McKae McMahon, Dorothy, *Bringing the Word to Life Year A*, MediaCom Education Inc.

*Brueggemann, Walter, *Texts for Preaching Year A*, Westminster John Knox.

*Brown, Carolyn C., *Forbid them not Year A*, Abingdon Press.

*Bennett, Tanya Linn, ed., *The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2020*, Abingdon Press.

*Barclay, William, *The Gospel of Matthew Vol 1 and Vol 2*, Westminster John Knox.

**Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary Year A*, Abingdon Press.

Commentaries and Resources on the Gospel of Matthew

Websites with Lectionary Listing and Links

The Revised Common Lectionary: A Vanderbilt Divinity Library Online Resource <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu> (includes links to relevant Christian art)

The Text This Week: Lectionary, Scripture Study and Worship Links and Resources <http://textweek.com> (extensive links to a range of resources)

Websites with Commentary on Lectionary Passages

Anna Grant-Henderson’s Home Page <http://www.oldtestamentlectionary.unitingchurch.org.au>

Bill Loader’s Home Page <http://wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader>

Howard Wallace’s Home Page <http://hwallace.unitingchurch.org.au>

With Love to the World, a quarterly Uniting Church publication, provides daily commentary on all lectionary readings, along with other associated texts. WLW brings good scholarship to readers to help make faith meaningful in daily life. Hymn suggestions and other resources are included. To subscribe go to <http://www.withlovetotheworld.org.au> (*Paid Print Subscription*)

Websites with Lectionary based liturgies, sermons and worship activities

Bruce Prewer’s Home Page <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources (Nathan Nettleton) <http://www.laughingbird.net>

Liturgies Online (Moira Laidlaw) <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au>

Mustard Seeds (Ann Scull) <http://www.seedstuff.blogspot.com/>

The Billabong (Rev Jeff Shrowder) <http://thebillabong.info>

Together to Celebrate: Contemporary Christian Music Resources for Worship (Rev David MacGregor) <http://www.togethertocelebrate.com.au>

Sermons, Liturgies, Prayers, and Articles, from a post-liberal, progressive perspective. Rex A. E. Hunt, a retired UCA minister, is a leader in the progressive religion movements in Australia and New Zealand. <https://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com>

Roots - Worship and Learning Resources for the Whole Church. Ecumenical resources for worship from UK groups including Methodist, Church of England and United Reformed Churches. To subscribe go to <https://www.rootsontheweb.com> (*Paid Print and Digital Subscriptions*)

How are Sundays identified in this table?

Sundays and other days which are special “Feast Days” are simply identified by their name (eg. Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Christ the King). Otherwise, Sundays are identified by the number of Sundays after the start of a Season (Epiphany 2, Easter 3, Pentecost 16). It is important to note that sometimes one of the Sundays after a Season starts has its own name but it is still counted for the purposes of counting Sundays in that season (eg. Pentecost 1 is named Trinity Sunday, but it is also the first Sunday after Pentecost, so the next Sunday is Pentecost 2). A long standing practice in some Christian traditions counts all the Sundays which are not in a special season (ie. those after Epiphany and after Pentecost). This count of Sundays in “Ordinary Time” (from the same root word as “ordinal” thus meaning “counted time”) varies depending on when Easter lands in the year. We indicate this number in brackets in case it is useful in reading lectionary resources from traditions who identify Sundays in Ordinary Time.