



One Day Closer to Christmas

"Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20

"I can't believe Christmas is over," my dejected daughter said.

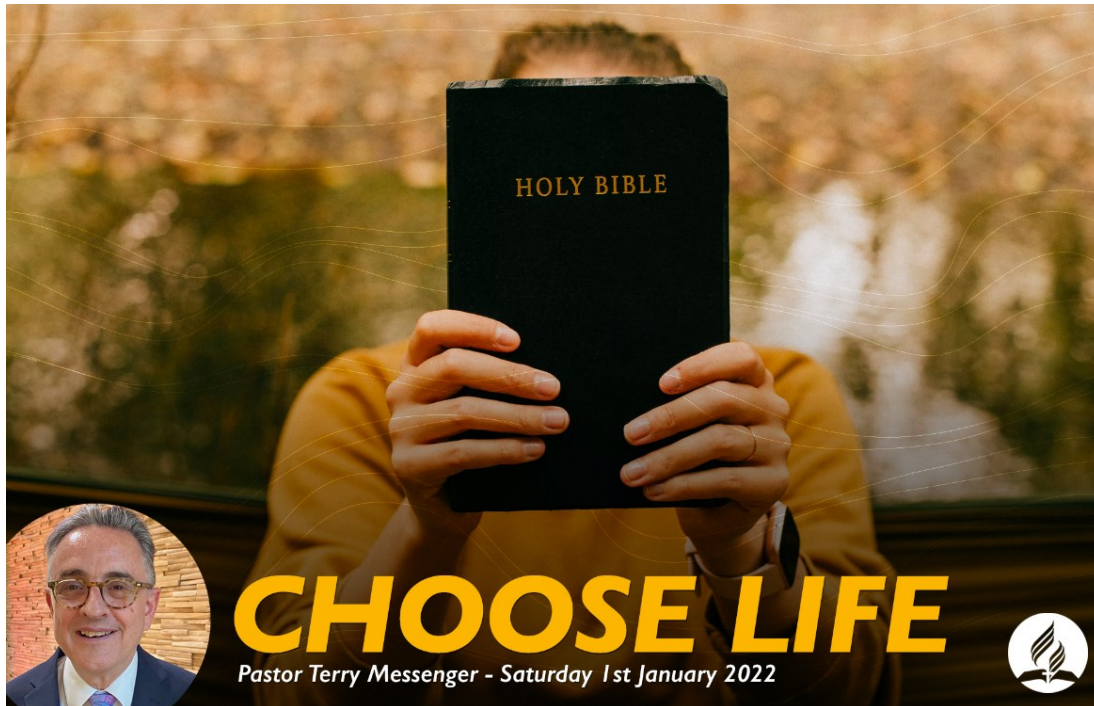
I know how she feels: The aftermath of Christmas can feel dreary. Presents have been opened. The tree and lights must come down. Listless January—and, for many, the need to shed holiday pounds—awaits. Christmas—and the breathless anticipation that comes with it—suddenly feels eons away.

A few years ago, as we were putting Christmas stuff away, I realized: no matter what the calendar says, we're always one day closer to the next Christmas. It's become something I say frequently.

But far more important than our temporal celebration of Christmas is the spiritual reality behind it: the salvation Jesus brought into our world and our hope for His return. Scripture talks repeatedly about watching, waiting, and longing for Christ's second coming. I love what Paul says in Philippians 3:15–21. He contrasts the world's way of living—with "mind[s] set on earthly things" (v. 19)—with a lifestyle shaped by hope in Jesus' return: "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 20).

The reality that our "citizenship is in heaven" changes everything, including what we hope for and how we live. That hope is fortified by the knowledge that with every passing day, we're indeed one day closer to Jesus' return.

By: Adam R. Holz - Taken from odb.org



Watch the [Traditional Service](#) online with **Pastor Terry Messenger**

Announcements / News

- **New Year's Concert 2021 next Saturday at 7.30 pm.** We all invite you, your friends and neighbours to start the new year with God's blessings. Come along to sing together. We look forward to seeing you then!

The pastoral team would like to thank those who have served the church in the past 2 years. It has been a difficult time with Coronavirus ever present but everyone adapted brilliantly to keep our services going whether live or internet. May God continue to bless us as we move into the new year.

The wearing of masks is now mandatory in public places – including places of worship. We would encourage everyone to wear masks, unless you have a medical condition that forbids this, for the safety of yourselves and others. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

The Parallel team welcomes you to join the traditional service for both the Christmas and New Year service. Parallel will resume on the 8th January 2022 in the Cedar Sycamore room. We take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed festive season.

- **Young Adults Sabbath School** is meeting every Sabbath in the Pine Room with Jackson and Tiwa leading the lesson. It is also possible to connect via Zoom. Please join us in person or virtually. Topic: Young Adults Sabbath School **Meeting ID:** 519 552 6863 - **Passcode:** Sabbath
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- **Adult Sabbath School** has started meeting in person at church with two classes currently in the Maple Room and Oak Room from 10am to 11am. The lessons will also be accessible via Zoom with the following links:
Oak Room class: [LINK](#) 840 3254 7305 - **Passcode:** P4AsEv
Maple Class: [LINK](#) Meeting ID: 757 070 1887 || **Passcode:** 111000
(Or by phone: +44 203 481 5240)
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Sister Lola Gordon, whose treatment has been delayed.
- Terry Menkens, whose surgery is due on the 19th January 2022.
- Simeon Vontzalidis, who is recovering but needs complete healing.
- Donna Wray, for complete healing.
- Ruth Read, for complete recovery and help.
- Richard Gayle, recovering from surgery.
- Everyone who is experiencing recent bereavement
- All the families who are struggling with the effects of COVID especially Long COVID.

The Prayer Box: If you have private Prayer Requests, please place them in the Prayer Box or you can email Florence Allen at lizalf@hotmail.com.

Family Service - 1st January

Welcome and Announcements - Bernell Bussue

Introit

T&O and Invocation - Bernell Bussue

Opening Hymn: NAH 551 - Standing at the Portal of the Opening Year

Children's Story

Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:14,15 - Bernell Bussue

Family Prayer - John Dupuis

Reflection in Music: "God Will Take Care of You" - Gabriella Pedditzi

Sermon: "Choose Life" - Pastor Terry Messenger

Closing Hymn: NAH 587 - I Thank Thee Lord for Glorious Life

Benediction - Pastor Terry Messenger
Postlude

Sabbath School from 9:45am

Welcome & Opening Prayer - Massimo Molteni

Opening Hymn: NAH 722 What a friend we have in Jesus

Facilitator: Bheki T. Moyo

Panel: Wallacia Scott, Erna Herteliu, Ioan Herteliu, 4th panelist TBC

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Stanborough Park Church
Even when we can't be together, your giving matters.

"You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty. For God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you ever ask for or think you need. It always has, and you need for your future and mine. Thank you for every good deed!" 2 Cor 9:7-11

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Account Type: Business
Reference: Name and Gift Aid No

If using Gift Aid or funds other than church budget offering or you need a receipt please email the treasury department with the details including: treasury@stanboroughhpc.org

Have you thought about setting up a Standing Order?
Your offerings would be transferred regularly without you having to remember.

One email to treasury@stanboroughhpc.org would be required to tell us the details. If applicable, please use your Gift Aid number as the reference.

Please remember that all payments must be made in full. If you are unable to pay your offering in full please contact the treasurer for the amount that you can pay. Thank you!



Family Service



Cradle Roll Sabbath School -
January 2022

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Stanborough Park Church

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Treasury Department treasury@stanboroughchurch.org

Safeguarding - Donna Fletcher Bryan dalexbryan@googlemail.com

Bulletin Deadline Wednesday 6pm jef@stanboroughpark.org

www.stanboroughchurch.org

Stanborough Park Church is part of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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