



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

# Year 'A' REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY 2016 – 2017

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

## 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
Nov 27 2016	Advent 1	Is 2:1-5	Ps 122	Rom 13:11-14	Mt 24:36-44	P
Dec 4 2016	Advent 2	Is 11:1-10	Ps 72:1-7, 18-19	Rom 15:4-13	Mt 3:1-12	P
Dec 11 2016	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 18 2016	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.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Dec 24 2016	Christmas Eve	Is 9:2-7	Ps 96	Tit 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)	W
Dec 25 2016	Christmas Day 1	Is 62:6-12	Ps 97	Tit 3:4-7	Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20	W
	Christmas Day 2	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1:1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1:1-14	W
Jan 1 2017	Christmas 1	Is 63:7-9	Ps 148	Heb 2:10-18	Mt 2:13-23	W
Jan 6 2017	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 8 2017	Baptism of Jesus	Is 42:1-9	Ps 29	Acts 10:34-43	Mt 3:13-17	W
Jan 15 2017	Epiphany 2	Is 49:1-7	Ps 40:1-11	1 Cor 1:1-9	Jn 1:29-42	G
Jan 22 2017	Epiphany 3	Is 9:1-4	Ps 27:1, 4-9	1 Cor 1:10-18	Mt 4:12-23	G
Jan 29 2017	Epiphany 4	Mic 6:1-8	Ps 15	1 Cor 1:18-31	Mt 5:1-12	G
Feb 5 2017	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 12 2017	Epiphany 6	Deut 30:15-20	Ps 119:1-8	1 Cor 3:1-9	Mt 5:21-37	G
Feb 19 2017	Epiphany 7	Lev 19:1-2, 9-18	Ps 119:33-40	1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23	Mt 5:38-48	G
Feb 26 2017	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
March 1 2017	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 5 2017	Lent 1	Gn 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5:12-19	Mt 4:1-11	P
March 12 2017	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 19 2017	Lent 3	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	Jn 4:5-42	P
March 25 2017	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 26 2017	Lent 4	1 Sm 16:1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5:8-14	Jn 9:1-41	P
April 2 2017	Lent 5	Ez 37:1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8:6-11	Jn 11:1-45	P
April 9 2017	Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms		Ps 118:1-2, 19-29		Mt 21:1-11	P
April 9 2017	Passion Sunday Liturgy of the Passion	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 26:14 – 27:66 or Mt 27:11-54	P
April 10 2017	Monday in Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11	P
April 11 2017	Tuesday in Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36	P
April 12 2017	Wednesday in Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32	P
April 13 2017	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 14 2017	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	W
April 15 2017	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	W

## 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 16 2017	Easter Vigil	See Notes Page 11 in 'The Three Year Revised Common Lectionary' for Readings, or on the RCL.doc on the Uniting in Worship 2 CD-Rom				W
April 16 2017	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 16 2017	Easter Evening	Is 25:6-9	Ps 114	1 Cor 5:6b-8	Lk 24:13-49	W
April 23 2017	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Pt 1:3-9	Jn 20:19-31	W
April 30 2017	Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Ps 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Pt 1:17-23	Lk 24:13-35	W
May 7 2017	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Pt 2:19-25	Jn 10:1-10	W
May 14 2017	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Pt 2:2-10	Jn 14:1-14	W
May 21 2017	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	Ps 66:8-20	1 Pt 3:13-22	Jn 14:15-21	W
May 25 2017	Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
May 28 2017	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
Jun 4 2017	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 11 2017	Trinity Sunday	Gn 1:1 – 2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13:11-13	Mt 28:16-20	W
Jun 18 2017	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 22 2017	UCA Anniversary	Ez 37:15-28	Ps 122	Heb 13:1-8	Jn 17:20-26	R
Jun 25 2017	Pent 3 [12]	Gn 21:8-21 or Gn 22:1-14	Ps 86:1-10, 16-17	Rom 6:1b-11	Mt 10:24-39	G
Jul 2 2017	Pent 4 [13]	Gn 22:1-14	Ps 13	Rom 6:12-23	Mt 10:40-42	G
Jul 9 2017	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 16 2017	Pent 6 [15]	Gn 25:19-34	Ps 119:105-112	Rom 8:1-11	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23	G
Jul 23 2017	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 30 2017	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 6 2017	Pent 9 [18]	Gn 32:22-31	Ps 17:1-7, 15	Rom 9:1-5	Mt 14:13-21	G
Aug 13 2017	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 20 2017	Pent 11 [20]	Gn 45:1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28	G
Aug 27 2017	Pent 12 [21]	Ex 1:8 – 2:10	Ps 124	Rom 12:1-8	Mt 16:13-20	G
Sept 3 2017	Pent 13 [22]	Ex 3:1-15	Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Rom 12:9-21	Mt 16:21-28	G
Sept 10 2017	Pent 14 [23]	Ex 12:1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13:8-14	Mt 18:15-20	G
Sept 17 2017	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 24 2017	Pent 16 [25]	Ex 16:2-15	Ps 105:1-6, 37-45	Phil 1:21-30	Mt 20:1-16	G
Oct 1 2017	Pent 17 [26]	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 78:1-4, 12-16	Phil 2:1-13	Mt 21:23-32	G
Oct 8 2017	Pent 18 [27]	Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3:4b-14	Mt 21:33-46	G
Oct 15 2017	Pent 19 [28]	Ex 32:1-14	Ps 106:1-6, 19-23	Phil 4:1-9	Mt 22:1-14	G
Oct 22 2017	Pent 20 [29]	Ex 33:12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1:1-10	Mt 22:15-22	G
Oct 29 2017	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 2017	All Saints Day	Rv 7:9-17	Ps 34:1-10, 22	1 Jn 3:1-3	Mt 5:1-12	W
Nov 5 2017	Pent 22 [31]	Jos 3:7-17	Ps 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2:9-13	Mt 23:1-12	G
Nov 12 2017	Pent 23 [32]	Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78:1-7	1 Thes 4:13-18	Mt 25:1-13	G
Nov 19 2017	Pent 24 [33]	Jgs 4:1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5:1-11	Mt 25:14-30	G
Nov 26 2017	Pent 25 [34] 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

- The Annunciation of the Lord may be celebrated on March 26
- All Saints Readings may be substituted for November 5
- A Calendar of Other Commemorations (acknowledging people whose lives have modelled faithful witness in its many forms) is to be found in *Uniting in Worship2*, pages 566-571
- A version of the Calendar with biographical notes is available on the Assembly Worship Resources website.

Keep up to date with our Website at -

<http://assembly.uca.org.au/cudw/worship-resources-and-publications>

- Discover publications produced by the Working Group;
- 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

February 27	Clean Monday (first day of Lent)
April 14	Good Friday
April 16	Easter Day
June 4	Pentecost

The Assembly Working Group on Worship offers the Lectionary to the Church as a resource for personal and community reflection, with the prayer that as we gather for worship and for study, we will continue to grow closer to Christ who calls us to the ministry of discipleship, through the Spirit who takes our frail offences and multiplies them into divine gifts, for the glory of God who created, sustains and renews us for eternity.

As leaders of worship and preachers we are charged with the responsibility to call people both to personal faith in the saving grace known through Jesus and into effective communities of faith which encourage and comfort the members in their growth for shared ministry in Christ.

At the same time, Matthew's Gospel was written to affirm and assert the importance of community. So it is significant that Matthew's Gospel, alone of the canonical Gospels, uses the word *ekklesia* (=church) to describe the community of faith in which the followers of Jesus share fellowship. The issue then, as now, was about identifying how growth in faith is best enacted. While a personal relationship with Jesus is known to be necessary, the sharing with others of insights into the ways Jesus connects with and teaches us, heads and guides us, are also vitally important. And this sharing is now, as then, made possible when people meet together regularly – for praise and celebration, for prayer and study.

Matthew's repeated comment, "This was done to fulfil Scripture", assumed that his readers were well acquainted with the heritage of Israel or scattered across the Mediterranean world). Today's audiences, not able to make those connections, will need guidance into the heritage of Hebrew faith and worship.

For those who share worship with us, a fuller awareness of the breadth of God's salvation-history. In this, the Lectionary's offerings of Old Testament readings are important, providing either background information to the Gospel reading or an insight into Jesus' re-orientation of ancient discernment.

As leaders of worship and preachers, our preparation must include as deep an engagement with the Hebrew scriptures as with the scriptures of the New Testament, to enhance our own understanding and so provide guidance for people who gather to hear and reflect on the stories of Jesus and the ways in which his ministry continues in our place and time. We are, as much as they were, the recipients of his teaching and healing, his guidance and comfort, his grace and peace.

As leaders of worship and preachers, it is our responsibility regularly and consistently to provide opportunities for people who gather in worship to hear and reflect on the stories of Jesus and the ways in which his ministry continues in our place and time. We are, as much as they were, the recipients of his teaching and healing, his guidance and comfort, his grace and peace.

By the sixth and seventh decades of the first century some people were realizing that the stories which had been shared of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection, needed to be shared in new ways – no longer simply shared memories by word of mouth, but provided in a written form for communities of faith who lived far from the places where Jesus had lived and taught and worked.

The Gospels are the source of our awareness of the ways in which Jesus connected with people in ordinary circumstances. While it is certain that significant cultural and societal differences have grown between the first and the twenty first centuries, between the ancient Middle Eastern world and modern Australia, it cannot be argued that the needs of human life have changed very much at all. The stories of Jesus which the Gospels provide for us are important in our understanding that Jesus continues to connect with us in our daily living.

## Lectionary Notes – Year of Matthew

# Calendar and Lectionary

of the  
UNITING CHURCH

# Year A 2016 - 2017

**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, paragraph 5*



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**NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WORSHIP**



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\*Hare, Douglas R.A., *Matthew Interpretation Series*, A commentary for teaching and preaching. Westminster John Knox, 2009  
\*Saunders, Stanley P., *Preaching the Gospel of Matthew*, Westminster John Knox, 2010.

\*Squires, Mary J. and B.J. Ben, eds *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*, Abingdon Press, 2016. Comprehensive worship planning resources for use with RCL.

\*Squire, D., *Matthew (Abingdon New Testament Commentaries)*, Abingdon Press, 1998.  
\*Bueggemann, W., *Texts for Preaching Year A*, based on NRSV. Westminster John Knox, 1995.

\**Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary Year A*, Abingdon Press, 2013.  
\**Preaching God's Transforming Justice Year A*, a lectionary commentary, Westminster John Knox, 2013.  
\**Prayers for all Seasons, Year A*, Wood Lake Books, 2016.

\*Squires, David, *Pastoral Prayers to Share Year A*, Responsive Pastoral prayers for each Sunday of the Church Year (A), Wood Lake Books, 2013.

\*Wright, N.T., *Matthew for Everyone, Vol 1 & 2*, Westminster John Knox, 2004.  
\*Collis, Andrew & McKee McMahon, Dorothy, *Bringing the Word to Life Year A*, MediaCom Education Inc, 2010.

\*Swanson, Richard J., *Provoking the Gospel of Matthew*, storytelling commentary series, Pilgrim Press, 2007.  
\*Long, Thomas, *Matthew*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

\**Feasting on the Word Year A*, a lectionary commentary series from Westminster John Knox  
\**Seasons/FUSION* – lectionary resources for weekly worship – see [www.seasonsonline.org.au](http://www.seasonsonline.org.au)  
Topical sermons, Worship planning aids.

\*Hoezee, S., ed *The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2017*, Abingdon Press, 2016. Includes: Sermon helps and commentary; want to share their faith at home.

\*Milton, Ralph, *Lectionary Story Bible (Year A)*, Wood Lake Books, 2007. A lectionary based story for each Sunday of the church year making it a complete lectionary resource for Christian educators, camp leaders, worship leaders, and families who communicate, all selected and honed to the RCL text and theme.

\**Pulpit Resource*, by William H. Willimon, has become the serious preachers' best homiletical aid for crafting sermons that communicate, all selected and honed to the RCL text and theme.  
\**Words for Worship*, published by MediaCom Education Inc, contains contemporary, scriptural and relevant prayers based on the RCL especially written for Australian congregations.

\*Squires, David, *Prayers to Share – Year A*, Responsive Prayers for each Sunday of the Church Year. An entire year's worth of responsive prayers, written in inclusive, contemporary language, 2004.

\*Wright, N.T., *12 Months of Sundays: Reflections on Bible Readings—Year A*, London: SPCK, 2002.

## Resources to use with the Lectionary

Jang, Heung Khil, *Commentary on Matthew's Gospel* (for preachers), Korea Institute of Biblical Studies, 2008

Park, Su-Ahm, *Commentary on Matthew's Gospel*, Christian Literature Society of Korea, 2004

Chun, Kyungyun, *The Theology of Matthew*, Hanokk Sungsoo Haknu: Seoul, Korea, 2003

## Commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew (Korean)

Witherington III, Ben, *Matthew* (Marcon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2006)

Hare, Douglas R. A., *Matthew* (Louisville: John Knox, 1993)

Graves, Mike & May, David M., *Preaching Matthew: Interpretation and Proclamation* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2007)

Hamington, David J., *The Gospel of Matthew* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1991)

## Commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew

## Lectionary Related Websites (Free Resources)—Australian

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

Bill Loader's Home Page <http://www.staff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader>

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

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

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

Liturgies Online (Maira 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.togethercelebrate.com.au>

Singing the Lectionary (Natalie Sims) <http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com.au>

## Lectionary Related Websites (Free Resources)—Other

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

The Text This Week: Lectionary, Scripture Study and Worship Links and Resources <http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/> (extensive links to a range of resources)

## Lectionary Related Websites (Subscription Based)

Midnight Oil Productions <http://www.midnightoilproductions.com>

Roots on the Web (Churches Together in Britain & Ireland) <http://www.rootsontheweb.com>

The Work of the People: Visual Media for Ministry <http://www.theworkofthepeople.com>

With Love to the World <http://www.wlw.uca.org.au>

## Additional notes regarding the way in which Sundays are identified and numbered in the Lectionary

Firstly, the Lectionary numbers the Sundays after Pentecost. The Sunday after Trinity will always be Pentecost 2.

The numbers in brackets for the Sundays after Epiphany and after Pentecost refer to what is known as "Ordinary Time". This is not because these Sundays are "ordinary" in the way we usually understand the term. In the Lectionary, "ordinary" comes from the word "ordinal" and refers to the order in which the numbers come...first, second, third etc. The Sundays in "Ordinary Time" include all the Sundays outside of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

It is important to understand that during Epiphany these numbers count forward from the Sunday marking the baptism of Jesus. However, after Pentecost they are counted backwards from the last Sunday of the Church Year (Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday). The actual numbering will vary from year to year depending on how early or late Easter falls.