



"And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt."

Deuteronomy 10:19

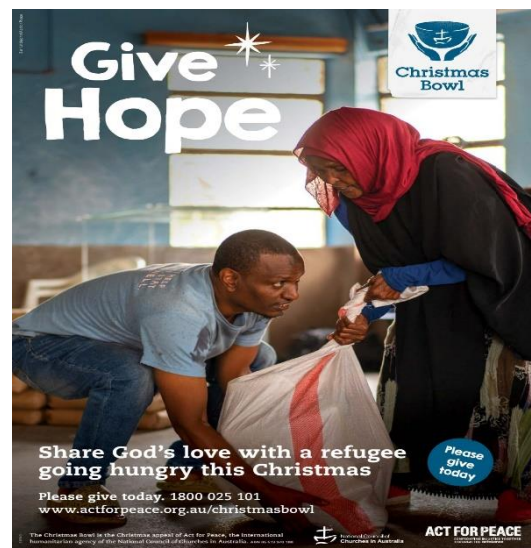
IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY WE SEE GOD CHOOSING TO BECOME OUR NEIGHBOUR BY TAKING ON HUMAN FLESH. THIS IS AN ACT OF LOVE FROM GOD THAT DRAWS US INTO THE STORY OF GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL CREATION AND INVITES US TO BE WITNESSES TO GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR LOVING ACTION IN THE WORLD.

REV. SHARON HOLLIS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Advent & Christmas Worship Resources 2022

For each week of advent, you can access worship resources, PowerPoint presentations and clip art to use with your congregation, either in person or online. This year there are seven videos you can access for seven Sundays until the First Sunday after Christmas:

1. [Reign of Christ Sunday](#) (Introduction)
2. [First Sunday of Advent](#) (Hope)
3. [Second Sunday of Advent](#) (Peace)
4. [Third Sunday of Advent](#) (Joy)
5. [Fourth Sunday of Advent](#) (Love)
6. [Christmas Day](#) (Christmas) and
7. [First Sunday after Christmas](#) (Thank you video).



You can also [download additional resources](#) to use at any time, including tree decorations, colouring sheets for children, posters and hymns.



Share God's love with a refugee through the Christmas Bowl

[The Christmas Bowl](#) is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Since 1949, compassionate Christians like you have followed Rev Frank Byatt's legacy, coming together each Christmas across Australia and the world to provide safety in exile for people forced from their homes by conflict and disaster. Your gift through the Christmas Bowl will support local partners to meet urgent needs and help create a world where uprooted people have a safe place to belong. Once again churches across Australia will be coming together this year to share God's love through the Christmas Bowl appeal.

[Sign up your church for the Christmas Bowl or find out more information](#)

Take a Letter-writing Action - Permanent Places for Refugees

Write to the Federal Government to remind them of their commitment to grant permanency to refugees on temporary visas. Transferring refugees from temporary to permanent visas will enable the option for family reunion, alleviating the mental distress they enduring and it also would help maximise the contribution they will be able to make to Australia. Download a four-page [letter-writing action guide](#) including a template.

Email Your MP to keep the pressure on our Federal Government to ensure they **implement their commitment to permanency and family reunion for refugees**. Go to <https://wanof.good.do/permanencyforrefugeesontemporaryvisas/wanof-email-mp/>

Sign the petition calling on the Federal Government to make sure all people seeking asylum have the **right to work, study and access mainstream social safety nets** when needed. [Go here to find out more and to sign the petition](#)

Take a Postcard Action - Compassion for Refugees

1.4 million refugees still need to be resettled, and of this number Australia has committed to taking in 27,000 per year with an additional 5,000 sponsored by community groups. Let's ensure this commitment is reached.



e-mail pgoh@sa.uca.org.au with a request for this postcard, your address and the number of postcards you would like.

Sender's Name.....
Sender's Address.....
Dear Minister,
I lament that at the end of 2021, of 1.4 million refugees identified by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as needing resettlement, only 57,500 were provided with resettlement places globally.
As a Christian, my faith teaches us to respond compassionately to people in need. Such compassion includes welcoming the stranger in need, a value shared by Australians of many religions and none.
I thank you that the Labor Government has committed to increasing the number of refugee places to 27,000 per year with an additional 5,000 if sponsored by community groups. I ask that your government commit to reaching these numbers as soon as possible.
Yours sincerely,
Signed.....

Printed on recycled card. To order more postcards, call (03) 9340 8807 or e-mail info@sa.uca.org.au

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Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

The Hon Andrew Giles MP
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship
and Multicultural Affairs
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Photo credit: Marmar Al Fayed / Shutterstock.com 202004

An awareness raising short video resource

produced by the **Synod Refugee Advocacy Group**

<https://vimeo.com/605416093>

For further information, please contact

Rev Paul Turley, Convenor of Synod Refugee Advocacy group: paulturley@icloud.com

Rev Dr Paul Goh, Synod Justice Officer pgoh@sa.uca.org.au Phone: 08 826 4244