



CHRISTMAS PLANNING

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It goes on all the year. The stores stock up with the latest gifts for kids. The bigger the better. The Myer windows have been planned long ago and gradually set up in secret. Stores offer payment schemes, and even interest put off till later. Better to buy now, pay later is the psychology the unsuspecting fall for, whether it could be afforded or not. “After all, it is Christmas” is the excuse. Children write out a wish list, post letters to Santa at the North Pole. Mothers and others think about Christmas dinner. Sometimes we are pulled into family strife. Will we invite so and so? Who will we upset, if so and so are invited? And of course, parties are planned and Christmas break ups.

And Churches are busy in the planning stages, Children’s Services, special rehearsals for choirs and carol singers, who do the rounds of aged care facilities and hospitals. Wow, what a kerfuffle! Is Christmas really worth it? I think we all need to take a step back and remind ourselves of the old saying THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. God had been planning for Christmas, the real Christmas, for a long time. The birth of a little child in a manger in Bethlehem. His only son, the saviour of a sinful world. Born in the fullness of time, when all was ready to be fulfilled, according to the scriptures. How to begin to put Christmas plans into perspective?

Reflection:

Let us all take a deep breath and go back to God’s plans. A good suggestion would be to start at the readings for Advent, making a special time in all your busyness and go on a biblical journey with prophets and gospel witnesses, and put the real story into central place. You will find helpful lectionary readings on the Uniting Church calendar for 2018.