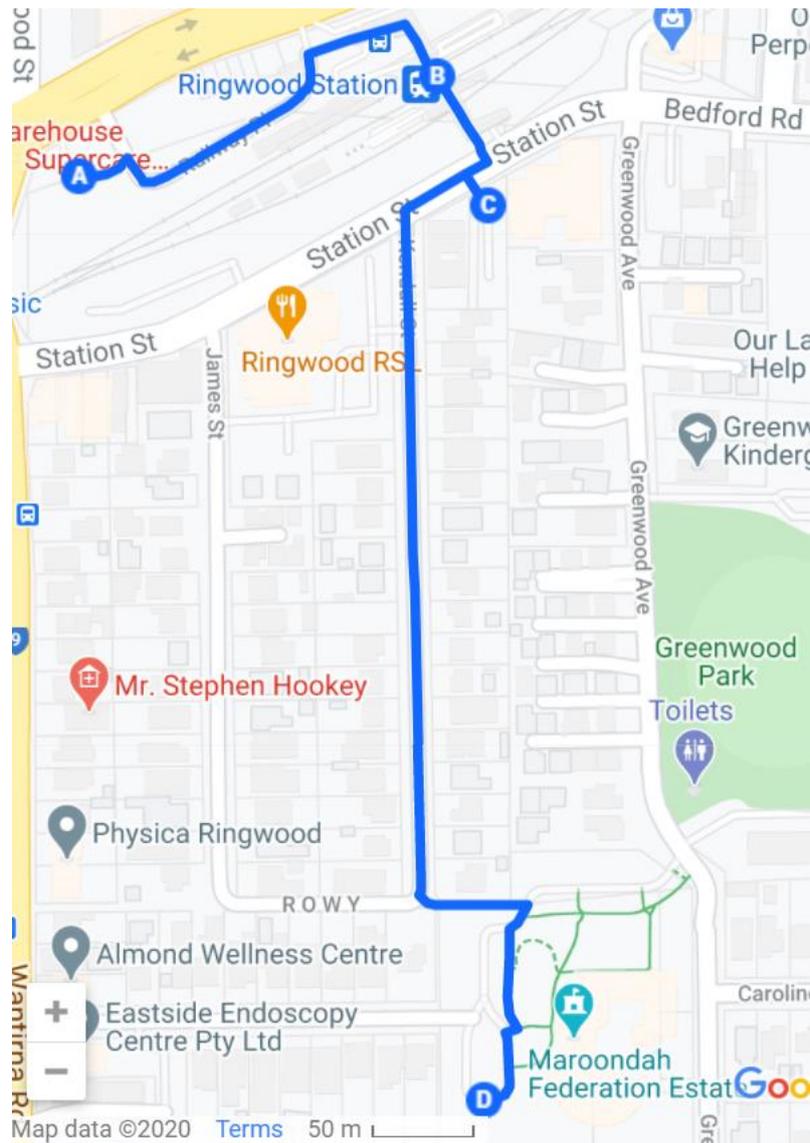




Ringwood Uniting Church 2020 Reflections for Advent - Walk

This short, guided walk is offered, in the lead up to Christmas, as a chance to pause and reflect.



Park your car or bike at Ringwood Uniting Church or the Ringwood Station carpark and bring your smartphone with you as there are YouTube videos to watch at stopping points along this walk. Make your way in a westerly direction down Station St then turn right at Wantirna Rd and continue under the Railway Bridge to the Ringwood Clocktower located on the southeast corner of the Maroondah Hwy and Wantirna Rd intersection. This is the start of the Advent Walk and the first reflection point.



(A) Clocktower

Conceived as a War Memorial after the Great War, the clock tower was built in 1928

Theme: Peace

Play: U2 [Peace on Earth Clip https://youtu.be/J74E6yanaO8](https://youtu.be/J74E6yanaO8)

Reading: He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)

Reflection: The cost of war is high and the effort to train for war is intense.... What does it take to train for peace?

Challenge: Find a way this year to actively promote peace.

From the Clocktower walk east along Railway Pl then across the Station forecourt. Walk the stairs or catch the escalator to the pedestrian concourse overpass. Stop somewhere along the concourse – this is the second reflection point.



(B) Train Station Bridge

Ringwood railway station is a 'premium' station on Melbourne's rail network and was recently upgraded to include a new bus interchange. Nearly 8,000 people catch a train from this station on weekdays

Theme: Loved

Play: Missy Higgins '[When The Machine Starts](https://youtu.be/uTNx8zcirnc)' <https://youtu.be/uTNx8zcirnc>

Reading: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)

Reflection: This year we have practiced looking at people as a contagious threat.

Look at the people coming and going.

All are loved by someone, all have issues and challenges to face, all are part of families, mums, dads, grand parents, children, siblings, friends, co-workers, partners, lovers, team-mates.... All are loved.

Challenge: How will kindness be your way in this new year?

Continue across the overpass, to cross Station St at the pedestrian traffic lights, then turn left and walk up the driveway to stop at the front doors of Ringwood Uniting Church -- this is the third reflection point.



(C) Ringwood UCA

(Ringwood Uniting Church is an open and inclusive worshipping community of faith.)

Theme: The nativity

Play: [Mary Did you know? https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE](https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE)

Read Mary's Song: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever. (Luke 1:46-55)

Reflection: The song Mary did you know is basically the Magnificat mansplained to Mary- who did know.

Look at the projected images of the installation in the church windows

Play: [Mary Responds to Mary Did you know? https://youtu.be/tqLz8nGdOn4](https://youtu.be/tqLz8nGdOn4)

Challenge: As Mary did know - how strong a role model of leadership is she and who is like her today?
How can you encourage leadership in new generations of Marys?

Bonus Action: Add strong leader of the faith, nativity character or yourself to the spoonville nativity outside Ringwood Uniting Church

Retrace your steps down the driveway and back onto Station Street. Head west then turn left into Kendall St. Walk in southerly direction to the end of Kendall Street where you will turn left onto a footpath into Maroondah Federation Estate. Follow the footpath briefly until you reach the carpark. Turn right following the footpaths until you reach the southern-most end of the carpark, where you will find the Heritage Tree Sculptures – this is the fourth reflection point.



(D) Heritage Trees

(Images carved directly into the trunks of a group of Cypress Pines feature historical elements of Ringwood, such as the history of the Ringwood Primary School and native fauna of significance to local Indigenous people.)

Theme: History Makers

Play: Midnight Oil 'First Nations' <https://youtu.be/djAGK3YL7co>

Reading: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Reflection: The history of this area involves colonisation and development. Truth telling is a clear path to healing. What voices are celebrated in our history and what voices are not?

Challenge: Take a gum leave home and commit to being part of the healing for Aboriginal people

This is the end of your Advent walk. Retrace your steps back to wherever you have parked your car or bike. We hope you have found this walk and time of reflection helpful as you prepare for Christmas.

Blessings to you at this Christmas time and a joyous New Year.