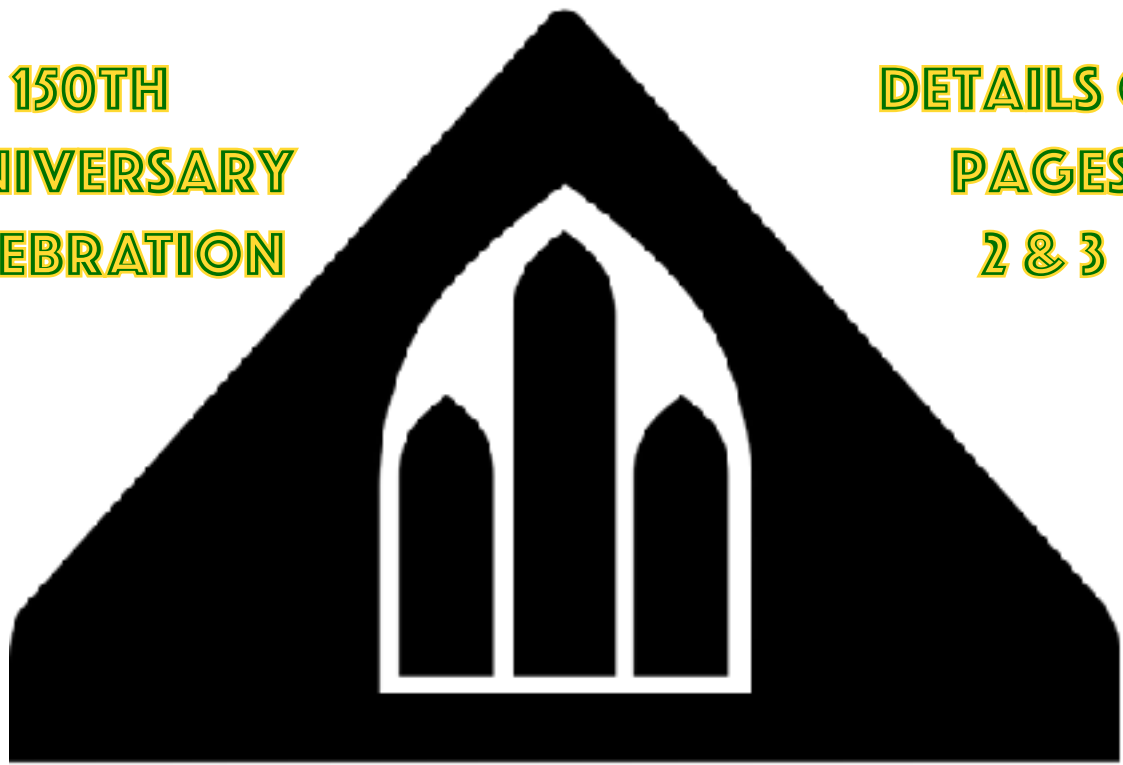


**150TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

**DETAILS ON
PAGES
2 & 3**



**ROSEVILLE
NEW CHURCH**

**SEPTEMBER
2025**

"Without change and variation, life would be monotonous and consequently lifeless. There would be no recognition or differentiation of goodness and truth, let alone any awareness of them."

(Secrets of Heaven 37)

Directory

Society Minister

Rev. Howard Thompson

Officers

Secretary

Graham Hall

Treasurer

Joel Duckworth

Church Officer

Debra Barratt Thompson

Sunday Service -

The Roseville New Church holds a **twice-monthly service** of worship the **1st and 3rd Sunday at 10:00am**. The first Sunday of each month includes an opportunity to partake of the Holy Supper.

Sunday Social Hour -

After every service we have tea and coffee, an opportunity to meet socially, sometimes more formally.

Calendar - *Included*

The Swedenborg Centre -

The Centre is generously supported by the Sydney Society of the New Church and provides an independent and relaxing place to meet and discuss a personal approach to finding spiritual meaning. The Centre has a wide range of study materials, Swedenborg's works, and books by supporting authors. The Centre and its director Joe Vandermeer can be reached on phone (02) 9416 2812 or email info@swedenborg.com.au Opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm. More events details at www.swedenborg.com.au The Centre can also be used to answer enquiries about the New Church, its literature and its teachings.

**Each detail of the Word has the marriage of
goodness and truth within it...each detail of the
Word has heaven within it...each detail of the
Word has the Lord within it, because the Lord is
the All in all of heaven.**

—Secrets of Heaven #7022

Roseville New Church Newsletter

Issued by the Sydney Society of the New Church Established in 1875

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On Facebook – Roseville New Church

September 2025

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- Swedenborg Centre News - IMPORTANT Schedule Changes
- “Our Father”: A Fathers Day Reflection
- Implanted by the Lord: A Reflection on Repentance
- **Kathryn Baker’s Guided Meditation**

Spiritual Shorts

Our minister, Rev. Howard Thompson, shares weekly videos on his YouTube channel, Spiritual Shorts. The channel has recently completed its third evolution and is reaching a growing audience well beyond our local community. Each week features a 5-minute Sunday message summary, a 1-minute inspirational reflection, and a deeper exploration of Heaven and Hell. If you haven’t already, take a look!



Spiritual Shorts YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsrICJGeGmrnXVawn_Y7UQA



You Are Invited

**150TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

**Visioning Day
Saturday, 18 October
10:00am–1:00pm - Sanctuary**

**Special Service
Sunday, 19 October
10:00am- Sanctuary
12:00pm - Lunch - Church Hall**

RSVP BY EMAIL:

REVVHATHOMPSON+SSNC150TH@GMAIL.COM

**(Please indicate attendance for any or all - Visioning Day,
Special Service and Luncheon)**

!! 150th ANNIVERSARY !!

As noted in previous editions, **2025 marks the Sesquicentenary of the Roseville New Church!**

For 150 years, the Sydney Society of the New Church has gathered to worship the Lord in the light of His Second Coming. That is worth celebrating—and we have a special weekend planned to do just that. **You are warmly invited!**

Saturday 18 October 2025 Visioning Session - Looking to the Future

While 150 years is certainly something to celebrate, it is also a moment to reflect. The world around us has changed significantly—especially in recent decades—and so has the nature of church life.

To help us navigate the path ahead, the Church Committee has engaged **Spark Strategy**, a consulting group that specialises in supporting mission-driven and purpose-led organisations across



Australia. After conducting a series of interviews with members of our community, the Spark team will facilitate a **Visioning Session** for the entire congregation and extended church family.

If you care about the future of this church—its vitality, its mission, and its next 150 years—we hope you'll come and contribute your voice. Together we will imagine how our church can not only survive but flourish in the years ahead.

Sunday 19 October 2025

Anniversary Service & Catered Lunch

We'll conclude our anniversary weekend with a **Special Worship Service** giving thanks for 150 years of faith, community and spiritual growth. This will be a time to honour the past, celebrate the present and dedicate ourselves to the future of the Lord's Church.



Following the service, we'll gather for a **catered lunch in the church hall**—a time to share memories, reconnect with old friends and express hopes for what's to come.

❤️ **RSVP Requested:**

As this is a special occasion, we kindly ask you to RSVP by email to: revhathompson+ssnc150th@gmail.com

- Please indicate which events you'll attend; Visioning Session (Saturday)
- Special Service (Sunday)
- Sunday Lunch

We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating together!

With gratitude,

Howard

* * * * *

Swedenborg Centre News

August 2025

With Joe taking a much needed rest and the Centre being closed for all of August, do bear with us as we return to our regular schedule of events this September. For details of all upcoming events and Zoom links please visit the website at swedenborg.com.au.



You might like to note on your calendar that the **SAA's AGM will be held at 7pm on Friday, 26th September**. This is an important message and we encourage all to attend (it doesn't matter where you live as things can be done online too).

If you're planning to visit the Centre, it's always good to send an email beforehand to joe@swedenborg.com.au as there may be occasional events which are run remotely, which makes it hard to offer you that free coffee.

Of course, when you visit be certain to ask Joe to tell you of his recent visit to the Island of Patmos.

Wishing you all the very best.

Howard



“Our Father”: A Fathers Day Reflection

This Father’s Day offers us an opportunity to pause and reflect on what it means to call God “Father.”



Scripture uses many titles for God—Creator, Redeemer, Shepherd, Almighty—each revealing a genuine facet of His infinite nature. Yet, the Heavenly Doctrines for the New Christian Church (Writings for the New Church) teach us that the name “the Lord” holds a special fullness: It is the name that

includes all aspects of the Divine—Divine Love (the Father), Divine Wisdom (the Son), and the Divine Proceeding (the Holy Spirit)—united in the one visible God, the Lord Jesus Christ (see The Doctrine of the Lord 55).

Yet, throughout the Word, God is called by the tender name Father.

Jesus teaches, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name” (Matthew 6:9).

Paul writes, “‘I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18).

Isaiah prophesies the Messiah as “Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Why “Father”? What does this name reveal?

Fatherhood, as depicted in the Word, points most truly to the originating source of life and love. In the inner, spiritual sense, “Father” signifies the Divine Love that is within the Lord from eternity—out of which all things arise (Secrets of

Heaven 3704). Only the genuine, steadfast love of the Lord can be the real source of all fatherly goodness.

Remembering Our Fathers

On this day, we remember our earthly fathers.

For some, the memories are warm—of a father who provided guidance and love through every stage of life. For others, the memories may carry loss; a father who died too soon, yet whose example lives on. For some, Father’s Day may even carry pain—perhaps of absence or harm. Yet, the Lord’s providence is constant. Swedenborg reveals that the Lord stores up “remains”—deep seeds of goodness and truth within each person regardless of outward



circumstances (Secrets of Heaven 561, 530-531). These are spiritual resources planted by the Lord that enable us to receive and give love, no matter what our earthly experience of fatherhood might have been.

God as Father

When the Word calls God our Father, it is not just a metaphor or a distant formality. It conveys the truth that the Lord Jesus Christ is the very source of life, the one who sees us, provides for us, and guards us at every turn.

In the New Church, we understand more deeply that in Jesus, the hidden Father is now revealed. “He who has seen

Me has seen the Father” (John 4:19). Swedenborg explains: the “Father” is the Divine Itself—the soul within the Lord; the “Son” is the Divine Human, the visible form that comes to us; the “Holy Spirit” is the outgoing activity of Divine love and wisdom (The Doctrine of the Lord 19, 46). When “the Father sends the Son,” it signifies Divine Love sending Divine Truth into the world—so we may know, follow and be saved by Him.

The Lord is our Father when His love takes root within us—when He grants us spiritual life through His Word.

A Pattern for Earthly Fathers

This Divine image of fatherhood becomes our model. Fathers are called not only to authority or provision, but foremost to love—a love that is steady, forgiving, and self-giving. Fathers are invited to nurture life not just physically,



but also spiritually—leading children toward conscience, integrity and higher service. The true calling of fatherhood is to gently guide, protect, provide and always to point beyond oneself—to the Lord, the ultimate Father and Source of all good (Secrets of Heaven 218, 3704).

A Striking Confirmation

Studies, such as a Swiss survey of church attendance, illustrate the impact of fathers’ spiritual example:

When both parents attended,

about a third of children remained active in faith. If only the father attended, nearly 40% of children continued in faith as adults, but if only the mother attended, very few did. While this does not diminish the immense spiritual power of mothers, it highlights the vital role that a father's faith plays in the spiritual life of children. Children look to fathers to discern what truly matters. If Dad welcomes worship, prayer and the Word into daily life, faith becomes a tangible, shared reality.

For All of Us

Yet, Father's Day speaks to everyone—fathers, mothers, mentors, friends and community. We are all called to reflect something of the Lord's fatherly love: to nurture, to guide, to protect, and to point others toward what is higher and eternal.

Above all, we remember that we are never abandoned, never without a Father. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Divine Father—our protector, provider, and guide. He is perfect love, eager to awaken His own life and love within each of us.

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1).

Happy Father's Day.

Howard

“Your Father knows exactly what you need
even before you ask him!”

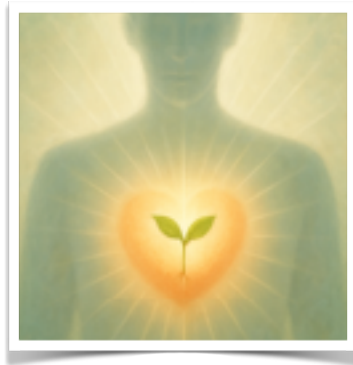
(Matthew 6:8)

Implanted by the Lord

(A Reflection on Repentance)

There's a passage in *Conjugal Love* that I come back to often. It's not long or dramatic, but it holds so much in it. It simply says:

“Implanted by the Lord is an ability and the power in people to mend their habits, under the direction of parents and teachers, and afterward by themselves when they come into their own right and judgment.” (CL 202)



It might not sound radical, but to me, it is. That phrase — implanted by the Lord — has shaped the way I think about spiritual growth, about repentance, and honestly, about ministry itself.

People sometimes tell me that one thing they appreciate about my ministry is that I wasn't always a minister. I spent over two decades in Risk Management before I ever considered seminary. I worked in boardrooms, sat with clients, looked at numbers, talked through real-world problems — everything from catastrophic loss to human error.

And while that career might seem unrelated to spiritual life, it's given me a unique lens — one that helps me see how much of our spiritual work is already happening in the spaces people live every day.

That's why this passage means so much to me. It doesn't say, "God demands that you fix yourself." It doesn't thunder, "REPENT!" from on high. It quietly affirms something far more profound: the Lord has already given

you the power to change. The ability to mend your habits is not some special gift for saints. It's part of being human.

And more than that — it's something the Lord implants in us. From childhood, we are guided by parents and teachers, by mentors and mistakes. And eventually, we come into our own spiritual judgment. We begin to recognise when something in our life isn't working — not just practically, but spiritually. And if we're listening, we feel the nudge to turn toward something better.

That turning? That's repentance.

Now, I know the word "repent" can carry a lot of baggage. It's been shouted from street corners, wielded like a threat and used to shame or condemn. But repentance isn't about fear. It's not even about guilt, really. It's about growth. It's about recognising something in yourself that no longer serves love — and choosing to move in a new direction.



And here's the thing: most people are already doing it. Not with trumpets or testimonies, but in the quiet places of their lives. When someone apologises for lashing out... when a person decides to break a cycle in their family... when a friend finally lets go of a grudge they've carried too long — that's repentance.

They may not call it that. They may not think of it as spiritual. But I believe the Lord does.

In my old career, we had a process for managing risk. It started with identifying what could go wrong. You'd look at your systems, your behaviours, your blind spots. Then you'd assess the harm, ask what needs to change, and make

adjustments to prevent future damage. And it was never “one and done.” You kept reviewing, adapting, trying again. When I first started reading Swedenborg’s writings on repentance — particularly in True Christianity — I realised I already knew the process. I’d been walking people through it for years, just in a different context.

And maybe that’s the deeper point here: the spiritual life isn’t separate from the rest of life. The Lord doesn’t implant our capacity for repentance only in sacred moments. It’s built into the daily practice of being human.

Sometimes, when we talk about spiritual growth, we make it sound like a staircase to heaven — clear steps, obvious progress. But I think it’s more like gardening. You prepare the soil, you pull weeds when they show up, and you wait for growth — most of which happens quietly, underground.

That’s why I don’t feel the need to stand on a street corner and yell “REPENT!” I trust that the Lord is already moving in people’s hearts — often in ways they don’t yet recognise. I trust that the seed has already been planted. My role, as a pastor, is more like a gardener’s — to water, to tend, to make space.

And maybe your role — in your own life — is simply to notice when something inside you is starting to turn. Not with judgment, but with curiosity. Maybe it’s a nudge toward healing a relationship; or the quiet conviction to step away from a destructive habit. Maybe it’s a whisper to forgive. Or to try again.



Whatever it is, that impulse is holy. It's the implanted work of the Lord — not to condemn you, but to grow you into more love, more wisdom, more joy.

So if you're growing, even just a little — if you're turning toward something better — know this:

Repentance is already in motion.

Not because someone shouted it at you,
but because the Lord planted it in you.

And that... is good news.

Howard



Minister's Contact Information and Office Hours

Rev. Howard A. Thompson

Office Hours: 11:00 am - 4.00 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Email: revhathompson@gmail.com

Phone: 0432 357 475

Meditation

Monday's Meditation **with Kathryn Baker**

Just a reminder that Kathryn Baker has been guiding members of our community in meditation for many years. Recently there has been an upsurge in activity and Kathryn has returned to a regular Monday morning meditation held in the quiet of the church sanctuary.

In today's ever-changing, fast-paced and sometimes overwhelming life, meditation offers a gentle respite—an opportunity to re-centre, quiet the mind and become more aware of the comforting presence of the Divine. Even a short time of stillness can soften anxiety, renew focus, and deepen our capacity to love and serve.

If interested, feel free to join the group any Monday at 10:00am. If you'd like to speak with Kathryn before coming along, feel free to contact her at ph. 0410 166 482.

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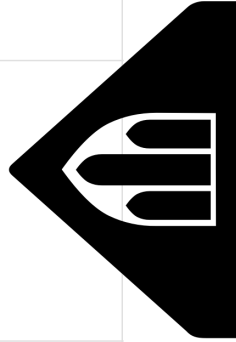
The more closely we are united to the Lord,
the happier we become. This happiness is rarely
evident in the world [because] things on the earthly
level do not communicate directly with things on
the spiritual level; they communicate only
by correspondence. This kind of communication
is felt only as a kind of quiet peace of spirit.

September

2025

August							October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1					1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>"Father's Day"</i> 10.00am Service of Worship Including Holy Supper Rev. Howard A. Thompson	Church Committee 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Bible Study 11.00				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						Swedenborg Saturday 10.00 - 12.00
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10.00am Service of Worship Rev. Howard A. Thompson		Bible Study 11.00			SAA - AGM 7:00 pm	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



ROSEVILLE NEW CHURCH

