



Advent 1 Yr C– 28th November 2021

Welcome:

Greeting:

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
(Isaiah 40:3)

As we prepare this Advent to enter the mystery of Christmas:
May the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's
presence within and all around us.

Advent Candle: *The first Advent Candle is lit for Hope*

We light this candle of HOPE
to recall the prophetic voices
which announced the Prince of Peace,
which foretold the age of gold,
which called for justice
and announced the song of joy.

May the light overcome the darkness.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.

Call to Worship

We come to prepare the way;
The way for Christ
the hope of Christ,
**the hope of Christ
to enter our world,
to enter our hearts.**

We cry out together in the wilderness:
The kingdom of heaven has come near.
We come to be part of the light–
the light that shines in the darkness.

As people of old followed a shining star to the manger
we too are drawn to the Christ
we look to the cross in our skies
And we long for your hope in the world.

Opening Prayer

In our watching and our waiting
Come Lord Jesus.

In our hopes and in our fears
Come Lord Jesus.

In our homes and in our world
Come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus.

Bless us and surprise us as we look forward to the day of your birth.

Amen

Song: Light a candle of hope (TIS 286)

1. Light one candle for hope,
one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to every heart.
He comes. He comes.
2. Light one candle for peace,
one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to every heart.
He comes. He comes.
3. Light one candle for joy,
one bright candle for joy,
Every nation will find salvation
in Beth-l'em's baby boy.
4. Light one candle for love,
one bright candle for love,
He brings love to every heart.
He comes. He comes.
He brings love to every heart.
He comes. He comes.

Prayer of confession:

Let us pray

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days.
But watch what God does during this time.
God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find new paths;
God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do,
so we might be forgiven and graced with new life.
Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.
There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we
would like to forget. (*silence*)
There are those we believe are impossible to love,
and so we don't try. (*silence*)
There are people who live on the edge of our society,

and we ignore their cries for help (*silence*)

Forgive us, God who comes near to us.
When we have lost our way, show us yours.
Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.
Teach us your truth,
so we might be able to keep your word,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Sung response: O come, O come the time is near

O come, O come the time is near;
we yearn to know your presence here.
Creation stirs: the time is full.
Be born to us, Emmanuel.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us,
a child shall be the sign.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
love stir within the womb of night
and death's own shadows put to flight:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us,
a child shall be the sign.

Words of assurance:

In God is our home
our refuge
our place of dwelling.

In God's **hope** we are reformed,
given welcome and benediction
beckoned to rest and rise again,
made ready and sent forth.

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us:
"Your sins are forgiven."

Thanks be to God

Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Song The power of your love

Lord I come to You,
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in You.
And the Lord I've come to know,
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away by the power of Your love.

Chorus:

Hold me close, let Your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with You,
Your spirit leads me on
in the power of Your love.

Lord unveil my eyes,
let me see You face to face,
the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord renew my mind,
as Your will unfolds in my life
in living every day by the power of Your love.

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be

saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection:

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come**

**your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Giving thanks and Signs of hope: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.
And we give in hope.
Hope for your coming reign;
Hope because of your presence with us now.
Receive our gifts,
And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world.
Amen.

Song: The Voice of God (TIS 282)

The voice of God goes out to all the world;
His glory speaks across the universe.
The great King's herald cries from star to star:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.

The Lord has said: 'Receive my messenger,
My promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,
A lamp to every nation, light from light':
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.

Anointed with the Spirit and with power,
He comes to crown with comfort all the weak,
To show the face of justice to the poor:

With power, with justice, he will walk his way.

His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,
The lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,
And prisoners laugh in light and liberty:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way

Benediction & Blessing:

Hold your light out to the world
and let people of all nations
feel the warmth of God's love
as they encounter the Word made Flesh
through Christ our Lord.

Follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads us.
Listen, as the Child of Peace cries for us.
Rejoice, as the Love of God embraces us.

And let us go with
Hope, Peace and Love in our hearts,
and the blessing of Creator, Christ and Spirit forever within us.

3-fold-amen