



Advent 2 Yr C– 5th December 2021 - Communion

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 and the second is lit for Peace.*

We light this candle of peace
to recall the shepherds on the hills
and all through the ages
who in their place of work
have been ready to hear good news
and delighted to pass it on to others.

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 peace of Christ,
the peace 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 peace 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 **peace** 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 Holy One

We look to You Lord,
up to the heavens we sing.
Your presence we seek,
we give You all that we bring.
The faith that You give
grows as Your word is revealed.
The truth in our hearts,
the hope Your spirit sealed.

And You, oh Lord, are the Holy One,
Redeemer and Ancient of Days,
Creator of all the Universe,
Worthy of all of our Praise.

Holy One, *holy, holy,* Only One, *only One,*
Holy One, *holy, holy,* Only One, *only One.*

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.^[a] ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler^[a] of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler^[b] of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler^[c] of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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**

Song: Comfort Comfort all my people (TIS 647)

Chorus

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

Though your tears be rivers running
Though your tears be an ocean full
Though you cry with the hurt of living
Comfort comfort
Every valley shall be lifted
Every mountain shall be low
Every rough place will be smoother
Comfort comfort

Chorus

Though your eyes see only darkness
Though your eyes can see no light
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow
Comfort comfort
Every night will have its morning
Every pain will have an end
Every burden will be lightened
Comfort comfort

Chorus

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Advent liturgy

Invitation:

Come, follow the light that shines for you and leads you to a stable with a manger and child

Lord, we have followed the light

Come, listen for the voice that calls you to find new life in the broken corners of the world.

Lord, we have heard the voice

Come, rich and poor, neighbour and stranger, gather round and share a celebration with the Prince of Peace.

Lord, we have gathered to meet with you.

Come, like wealthy kings with priceless gifts and poor shepherds with only themselves to bring, for the Spirit has led you to this place where you are offered the promise of new life.

Lord, fill us with new life.

From being a child in a manger dependent on his mother's milk for food he grew to be the Living Word made Flesh offering everyone the bread of life. He travelled from the manger to the cross where his body was broken, his love poured out, but God held him like a mother and nursed him back to life.

May we see the guiding light.

May we find you in a stable.

May we follow you to the cross.

May we find new life through you as we gather round the table to celebrate the beginning of a journey from the manger to the cross and back to life again.

Jesus knew what was to come when, in that upper room, he took bread, broke it and blessed it, and asked his disciples to remember how his life was given for them and the generations to come.

In the same way, after eating, he took the cup, and asked them to remember how his love was poured out as a sign of a new relationship with God and for the forgiveness of sins.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

O Lord, open our minds to a new understanding of your wonderful Word which is such a mystery but is the root of our faith.

Open our eyes so we can see the Spirit guiding us and open our hearts to share the Christ within us as we continue the journey of faith, thanking you for all that has gone and the future to come:

For the faith of mothers and fathers through history and the sons and daughters who followed them,

For the visions of prophets and disciples who shared your Word and all who believed them.

For the obedience of Mary and Joseph called to serve you as parents of Jesus,

And for the shepherds and wise people who heard angels sing and saw a guiding light, so followed to a stable where they found new life in a manger.

It was the life of a child, born to be King of a Kingdom to come, who grew to be a man of the cross, who died for living your Word but walked from the tomb to give us the hope and mystery of faith.

So, we thank you Lord for the manger and the cross and the journey between that gives us new hope when we walk with you.

Blessing of Bread and Wine:

Holy Spirit of Christ, come among us and bless the bread which we take and break, remembering how Jesus gave his life for us.

Holy Spirit, gift of Christ, remain among us, and bless this cup as we remember how your love was poured out for us.

The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ

The cup that we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ

These are the gifts of God

for the people of God.

Sharing of Bread and Wine:

So, draw near with faith. Be strengthened by the life of our Lord Jesus Christ who was born in a stable and died on a cross.

Eat and drink. Take him into your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Concluding prayer

Thank you for the bread and wine through which we have remembered your life and love and all you taught.

Build a stable in our bodies.

Place a manger in our hearts.

Fill it with your love
As if it were a new born child.

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: Lo He comes with clouds descending (TIS 273)

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the sound of this refrain:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in awesome majesty;
those who have betrayed and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply shamed before him, deeply
shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him
shall the true Messiah see.

Sing amen! let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,

claim the kingdom for your own;
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly;
hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

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