



Christmas 1 Yr C – 26th December 2020

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we celebrate the arrival of the Christ-child this 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.

Christ Candle:

We light this light to remind us that the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

As we gather to worship God, 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 give thanks to God that hope was born!
**God's light, whose sign was a star,
was poured out for all people.**

All the fears and pain of this world cannot diminish God's light.
**That light is the life of Jesus Christ,
who breaks through the darkness.**

Thanks be to God, for the most precious gift of Light.
Let us live as people of new Light and Hope.

Opening Prayer

God of promise and mysterious Light,
be with us this day as we journey to meet your Gift.
Give us courage and hope along our way,
as your light continues to glow brightly in our path,
leading us to love and follow you.
In Jesus' Name.
AMEN.

Song: Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer of confession:

We come to God
knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus
to love God and one another with our whole hearts;
but we come also to a God who reaches out to us
with healing and reconciliation.

In this knowledge, let us pray

We are sorry when we let the comfort of Christmas
stop us from seeing those who don't live in comfort;
those who are hungry, those in pain, those in need of your love.
Break those bonds of comfort and strengthen us to take on the risk of
following you. Help us to follow your light.
Shine brightly in us and through us.
Forgive the blindness we so often offer to you.
Give us vision of what you would have us be and do in the light of your love.
AMEN.

Words of assurance:

The Light has come. The Light has come and has put out the darkness.
Now we can walk in the light.
You are loved by God and called to walk with God in the light.

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

Thanks be to God

Peace:

The peace of Christ be always with you

And also with you.

Song: The North Wind

The north wind is tossing the leaves.
The red dust is over the town;
The sparrows are under the eaves,
And the grass in the paddock is brown;
As we lift up our voices and sing,
To the Christ-child the heavenly King.

The tree ferns in green gullies sway;
The cool stream flows silently by;
The joy bells are greeting the day,
And the chimes are adrift in the sky,
As we lift up our voices and sing,
To the Christ-child the heavenly King.

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his host!
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!
⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them forever and ever;
 he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]
⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents^[a] saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"^[b] ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,^[c] and in divine and human favour.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Brian

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: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

O Christ, today we join those who first
offered you their gifts
as we bring our own to you.
Use these gifts and us to be your light in the world.
Amen.

Song: Angels from the realms of glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;

heralds of creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching over flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light: [Refrain]

Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him:
every knee shall then bow down: [Refrain]

Benediction & Blessing:

Go into God's world, bearing the light of hope and peace.
Bring the Good News of the love of God through Jesus Christ to all people.
Go in peace.
And the blessing of Creator, Christ and Spirit be with you
this day and evermore.

3-fold-amen

Acknowledgements:

Image: The boy Jesus in the temple-Gouache

*Call to worship, opening prayer, prayer of confession, assurance and benediction: adapted from –
ministrymatters.com*