



Christmas 2 & Epiphany Yr C– 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022  
Communion

**(Leader: *Alison* / Greeter: *Roger T*)**

***Welcome:***

***Greeting:***

As the Magi were filled with the glory of the Lord as they arrived at the place the star showed them,  
the place of the manger, the place of the Christ Child

May the glory of the Lord fill your heart and 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 candle to remind us that this baby,  
the Christ Child, who the Magi found,  
is with us today, here in this place.

***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**

Arise, shine, for the light has come.  
As we gather near to the Christ,  
**we are surrounded with rays of life  
which can transform the world.**

Here, in a humble place,  
lies a grand hope which we are called to carry forth,  
**so that others will see and believe that the Christ is with us,  
bringing love and peace.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Radiant God, light for all people and all places,  
by the guidance of a star  
you led the Magi to worship the Christ Child.  
By the light of faith, lead us to worship you in  
peace and love, and guide us in your way.  
We pray in the name of Christ, light of the world.  
**Amen**

### **Song: Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ his Son. *(repeat)*

And now,  
Let the weak say "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say "I am rich!"  
Because of what the Lord has done

for us. *(repeat)*  
Give thanks.

***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

Vulnerable Jesus, we confess that we are not always trustworthy  
in cherishing your life among us in the world.  
The Herods of our time are often subtle and clever  
in threatening your life of justice and truth.  
They appeal to our inner impulses and our fears,  
and we fail to take our stand and prefer to keep our life safe.

Forgive us, Holy Christ.  
We kneel before your life in hope and faith.

Stir us up with holy discontent over a world  
which gives its gifts to those who have plenty already,  
whose talents are obvious, whose power is recognised;  
Help us to share our resources with those who have little and to receive with  
humility the gifts they bring to us.

**Amen**

*Words of Assurance:*

You, beckoning God,  
who called the rich to travel toward poverty,  
the wise to embrace your folly,  
the powerful to know their own frailty;  
you who gave to strangers a sense of home-coming in an alien land.  
And to star-gazers, true light and vision as they bowed to earth,  
we lay ourselves open to your signs for us.

Rise within us, like a star,  
and make us restless

as we journey forth  
and seek our rest in you.

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

**Thanks be to God**

**Peace:**

The peace of the Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Let's share with each other the sign of Christ's peace

**Moment for the young at heart: Gretta Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**

**Bible Readings: Andrew**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations<sup>[a]</sup> I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

### **John 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own,<sup>[a]</sup> and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>[b]</sup> full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,<sup>[c]</sup> who is close to the Father's heart,<sup>[d]</sup> who has made him known.

In this is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: *Judith***

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: *Christo***

**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**

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

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

Though we fracture God's creation  
Though we stand so far apart  
Though we fail to love each other  
Comfort comfort  
Every wall will crack and crumble  
Every stranger will be friend  
Every one embrace another  
Comfort comfort

### **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper – Epiphany Liturgy: Brian**

Lift your eyes and look around.  
The light of the babe of Bethlehem  
shines from the face of each one here.  
Let us now greet that light,  
rejoice that we are here together,  
and pass the peace of Christ,  
our joy and our hope.

#### Invitation

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus.  
It is to be made ready for those who love him  
and those who want to love him more.  
So, come, you who are hungry for God's love.  
Come, you who are yearning the Christ's presence.  
Come, you who want community;  
know that you are welcome here.

Come, not because it is I who invite you: it is Jesus.  
It is his will that those who want him  
should meet him here in the place where the ordinary things  
like bread and wine and ourselves  
are made extraordinary by the Grace of God.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all blessings, we give you thanks and praise for Jesus the Light of the world, the light that no darkness can overpower;  
we thank you that you have called us from darkness to walk in the light; we thank you for the insight of the magi, who by their gifts showed us that all life is a gift;  
and with them, the angels and archangels and all who live in the light, we praise you, saying together:

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Accept our praises now, loving God, as we remember Jesus, who, on the night before he died, took bread and wine,

gave you thanks and offered them to his friends, saying:  
this is my body, this is by blood.  
Eat and drink to remember me.

Come freshly to us now, present God,  
as we offer you our lives, renew in us your gifts;  
the gold of our potential,  
the incense of our prayers and aspirations,  
the myrrh of healing for our pain;  
feed us and nourish us, that we may grow in the life of Christ;  
fill us with your Spirit that we may overflow with your love,  
and transform the world with your glory.

#### Prayer of consecration

For us you were born, for us you healed,  
preached, taught and showed the way to your kingdom;  
for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again.

As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room,  
send down your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may become for us your body,  
healing, forgiving and making us whole;  
and that we may become, for you, your body,



loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes.  
Amen.

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.

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table,  
and so we offer everyone, without exception,  
the bread and wine, which are Christ's body and blood.

Let us receive what we are;  
let us become what we receive.  
The body of Christ.

#### Distribution

#### Concluding prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours.  
Fed and nurtured at this table we continue to be your presence in this world.  
Touched by your love we take it to share with each person we encounter,  
until everyone knows they are loved by you, and in turn loves one another.

**Amen**

***Giving thanks: The congregation share good news***

***Community News:***

***Offering Prayer:***

O Holy Christ,  
to whom was given  
the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh;  
the gifts of power, prayer, and suffering.  
Help us to use our gifts today  
in your way and in your name

**Amen**

***Song: We Three Kings***

1: We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*Ch:* O star of wonder star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to Thy perfect light.

2: Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown Him again.  
King forever ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

3: Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship Him God on high.

4: Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone cold tomb.

5: Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice.  
Alleluia, alleluia  
peals through the earth and skies.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Go now and follow the way of the Christ,  
so that the world may be renewed in hope.

And may the night bring stars of holy light,  
the day lead us on the road to the Christ,  
and all that is good and true be held in brave and loving hands.

And the blessing of Creator, Christ and Spirit be with you

this day and evermore.

**3-fold-amen**

**Pastoral Prayers: Brian and Gretta**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Adoration of the Three Kings by Brian Whelan*