

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Advent 1 Yr A– 27th November 2022

Processional TIS 723 - Holy Holy

Welcome:

Welcome to the first Sunday in Advent. This season of light is symbolized by these five candles, they represent Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the final candle is the Christ Candle.

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: **Betty & Wendy***

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:

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We
acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people, traditional custodians
of this land under God.

**We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation
in this land.**

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: I could sing of your love forever

Over the mountains and the sea,
Your river runs with love for me.
And I will open up my heart,
And let the Healer set me free.
I'm happy to be in the truth,
and I will daily lift my hands,
for I will always sing
of when your love came down.

Chorus: I could sing of your love forever,
I could sing of your love forever,
I could sing of your love forever,
I could sing of your love forever.

Bridge: Oh I feel like dancing, it's
foolishness I know!
But when the world has seen the Light,
they will dance with joy, like we're dancing
now

Moment for the young at heart: Dr Phil McCrea

Bible Readings: Rick Legge

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plow shares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day^[b] your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy Steele-Perkins

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Rev Clabon Allen

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

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 goes out to all the world;

1.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.

2.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.

3.The broken reed he will not trample down,
Nor set his heel upon the dying flame.
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.

4.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.

5.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

