



Advent 2 Yr A– 4th December 2021 - Communion

Meditation Hymn: TIS 723 - Holy Holy

Holy Holy Holy
My heart my heart adores you
My heart knows how to say to you
Holy are you, Lord

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:

Advent Candle: *The first Advent Candle is lit and the second is lit for Peace.*
Roger A & Chris L

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:

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 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: Jude Doxology

And now all glory to Him,
Who alone is God,
Who saves us through his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
For he is able to keep
us from falling away.
He brings us into his presence
with love and joy.

Chorus:

All power, authority,
All splendour and majesty
Are Yours from the beginning
And ever more and ever more.

And now all glory to You,
You alone are God.
You've saved us through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
For You are able to keep
us from falling away.
You bring us into your presence
with love and joy.

Chorus:

All power, authority,
All splendour and majesty
Are Yours from the beginning
And ever more and ever more.

Forever more (x4)

Moment for the young at heart: Song of the Stars *Graham*

Bible Readings: *John*

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow^[a] out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed^[b] together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[a] ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his^[b] baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with^[c] water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: *Judith Townsend*

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: *Alison*

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.

Distribution

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

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: On Jordan's banks (TIS 270)

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 For you are our salvation Lord,
our refuge and our great reward:
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out your hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let your light restore
earth's won true loveliness once more.

5 To him who left the throne of heaven
to free us all, let praise be given;
and praise be to the Father done,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One.

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