



Advent 3 Yr A– 11th December 2022

Meditation Hymn: Come holy spirit (TIS 710)

Come, Holy Spirit,
gracious heavenly dove;
come, fire of love.

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 2 Advent Candles are lit and the third candle is lit for joy*
Christo & Paula

We light this candle of joy
to recall Simeon and Anna
and all those who are the Quiet in the Land

who have awaited in every generation
for the glory of the Lord to be revealed
and have patiently accepted God's will and timing.

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 joy of Christ,
**the joy 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 joy 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 **joy** 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: O Holy Night

1. O holy night the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees,
O hear the angel voices,
O night divine,
O night when Christ was born,
O night O holy night,
O night divine.

2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
in all our trials born to be our Friend.

He knows our need,
to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King;
before Him lowly bend.
Behold your King;
before Him lowly bend.

3. Truly He taught us to love one another.
His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,
and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord,
O praise His name forever.
His power and glory,
evermore proclaim.
His power and glory,
evermore proclaim.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Bible Readings: Marie

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.]]^[a]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;^[b]
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,^[c]
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,^[d]
but it shall be for God's people;^[e]
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Luke 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his^[b] disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone^[c] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet?^[d] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: **Rev Clabon Allen**

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: **Heather**

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

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.

Hymn: 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.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars.

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