



Advent 4 Yr A – 18th December 2022 - Baptism

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: *Heather & Alison*

The first 3 Advent Candles are lit and the third candle is lit for love

We light this candle of love

to recall Mary and Joseph

who saw their visions and dreamed their dreams,

who heard angelic announcements

and were obedient to your word and their calling,

giving a home and care to the child.

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 love of Christ,
**the love 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 love 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 **love** 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.

Baptism Song: Family Song

Here we are,
gathered together,
as a family.
Bound as one,
lifting up our voices
to the King of Kings.
We cry, Abba, Father,
worthy is Your name. *(repeat)*

Here we are,
singing together,
as a family.
Bound as one,
lifting up our voices
to the King of Kings.
We sing, Abba, Father,
Holy is Your name. *(repeat)*

Baptism of Mark

Congregational Responses:

The minister says to the congregation:

In unity with the whole Church, let us stand and affirm the faith into which we were baptised.

The people stand.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The people sit.

The Baptism

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The minister addresses the congregation:

Friends in Christ, will you promise to maintain a life of worship and teaching, witness and service so we may all grow to maturity in Christ?
With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service, until Christ comes.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Bible Readings: Marian

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah^[a] said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.^[b] ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to

refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son,^[b] and he named him Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Carolyn Thornley

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Hector

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**

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: Spirit Song

Oh let the Son of God enfold you,
with His spirit and His love.
Let Him fill your heart,
and satisfy your soul.
Oh let Him have those things that hold you,
and His spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life
and make you whole.

Chorus:

Jesus, oh Jesus,
come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, oh Jesus,
come and fill Your lambs.

Oh come and sing this song with gladness,
as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
Oh give Him all your tears of sadness,

give Him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

Chorus

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