



Advent 1 Yr B – 3rd December 2023
Communion

Greeter: Wendy

Meditation Song: 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.

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we prepare this Advent to enter the mystery of Christmas:
May the light of Christ 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*

Chris L & Roger A

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 of Country: **Roger A**

This is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here.
We acknowledge and give thanks for the Gadigal and Wangal people who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual relationship of the First Nations Peoples to this Country.

We commit to walking with and learning from the elders of this land, and to the ongoing journey of justice and reconciliation.

Call to Worship:

Holy God, in this quiet season, the season of waiting,

We rest in the shelter of your love.

In this season of waiting, we seek your light to guide us.

We trust in the light of your promise.

In this season of solitude, when we listen for the rhythm of your breath.

We find hope in the signs of your presence.

In this season, it is a time to make room and to make ready.

For we shall join in the angel's chorus.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all people.

We cry out for peace on earth, goodwill to all.

Opening Prayer:

God of all time

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

Hymn: 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:

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!

In this knowledge, let us pray:

God of Stable, stars and surprises,
of light and hope and new life:
open our eyes and hearts to your presence in the world;
forgive our obsession with property and possessions;
forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision;
forgive us when we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
Open us to your grace,
that we might hear again the song of the angels,
and respond with your song in our hearts, and in our lives.

Amen

Words of assurance:

Love has come into the world,
a free gift of grace for ordinary people,
a nurturing of hope,
and a promise of new things!

I invite you to respond with me:
**We are loved. We belong. We are
forgiven. Thanks be to God.**
Amen.

Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Readings: Paula

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

We may find the language in this reading from Isaiah confronting. These verses are part of a larger psalm of communal lament. Laments are poetic protests against pain and appeals for intervention. In this passage from Isaiah, the people appeal for God's intervention — to heal the alienation and to halt the damage of their sins.

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² ^[a]as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed. ^[b]

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered ^[c] us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels and gather the^[a] elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[b] is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert,^[c] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Ron

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**

Communion Hymn: 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 Super- 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**

Offering Prayer:

As we faithfully give for the life and mission of God's church in this place and in the world (either online or in the plate), let's pray our 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: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine,
yet not I but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
for by my side the Saviour he will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome,
Yet not I but through Christ in me.
3. No fate I dread I know I am forgiven.
The future sure the price it has been paid,
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,

and he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing I am free,
yet not I but through Christ in me.

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat,
yet not I but through Christ in me. (repeat)

Benediction & Blessing:

Hold your light out to the world.
Follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads you.
Listen, as the Child of Peace cries for you.
Rejoice, as the Love of God embraces you.

And may Almighty God bless you;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain forever within you.

3-fold-amen

Pastoral Prayers: Chris W

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Prayer of confession: adapted G. Nodwell - Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid

Assurance: adapted Dorothy McRae-McMahon – Prayers for Life's Particular Moments

Communion Liturgy: Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid

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