



Advent 2 Yr B – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Greeter:** Betty

**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 and the second is lit for Peace.*

**Children and parents**

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 of Country:** *Will and the children*

*(written by 1E – Dobroyd Point Public School)*

**Thank you to the Gadigal and Wangal people  
of the Eora Nation for letting us use your land.  
We promise to look after it; the people and the animals too.**

**Hello land**

**Hello sky**

**Hello me**

**Hello friends**

**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: 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.

### **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!

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 a 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.**

## **Hymn: Where wide sky rolls down (TIS 188)**

1. Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,  
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,  
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell  
their joy in the One who made everything well.

2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,  
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,  
let every sea-creature and tropical bird  
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,  
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,  
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days  
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

4. Now, people of faith, come gather around  
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!  
Australians, whatever your culture or race,  
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

**Moment for the young at heart: Wombat Divine - Brian**

**Nativity: Children**

**Bible Readings: Andrew T**

## **Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:**

Our reading from Isaiah can be described in one word: "Comfort". This text is a word of tenderness after a very long and dark night of judgment. It is a prophetic response of promise into outcries of pain into the void of despair.

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;<sup>[a]</sup>  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,<sup>[b]</sup>  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

### **Mark 1:1-8**

1 The beginning of the good news<sup>[a]</sup> of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[b]</sup>

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,<sup>[c]</sup>

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,<sup>[d]</sup>  
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

4 John the baptiser appeared<sup>[e]</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptised you with<sup>[f]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with<sup>[g]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Chris Longfoot**

**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**

### **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: Born in the night (Mary's Child)**

1. Born in the night, Mary's child,  
a long way from Your home.  
Coming in need, Mary's child,  
born in a borrowed room.
2. Clear shining light, Mary's child,  
your face lights up our way.  
Light of the world, Mary's child,  
dawn on our darkened day.
3. Truth of our life, Mary's child,  
You tell us God is good.  
Prove it is true, Mary's child,  
go to Your cross of wood.
4. Hope of the world, Mary's child,  
you're coming soon to reign.  
King of the earth, Mary's child,



walk in our streets again.

***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: Alison**

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