



Advent 2 Yr C – 8th December 2024

Greeter: Roger T

Leader: Alison

Meditation Song: Love came down at Christmas (TIS 317)

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine; Love
was born at Christmas, star
angels gave 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.*

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:

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 time beyond measure.

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: The angel Gabriel from heaven came (TIS 302)

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary, "most highly favoured maiden." Gloria!

2 "I come from heaven to tell the Lord's decree: a blessed virgin mother you shall be. Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favoured maiden." Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleases God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favoured maiden, Gloria!

4 Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favoured maiden." Gloria!

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!

Sung response: Prayer for peace (David Haas)

Peace before us
Peace behind us
Peace under our feet
Peace within us
Peace over us
Let all around us be peace

Peace:

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

Hymn: Community of Christ (TIS 473)

1. Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own, live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong, whose children are of every race and every song.

2. Community of Christ, look past the Church's door and see the

refugee, the hungry, and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street, take towel and water, that you wash your neighbour's feet.

3. Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round: disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy, turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

4. When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done, the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun; our currency be love and kindness our law, our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Readings: Milton

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

Familiar to many from its use in Handel's Messiah, this passage from Malachi speaks of purification and judgment, themes not associated in the popular imagination with Christmas. Nevertheless, Advent is preparation not only for a remembrance of Christ's first coming as a baby, but also for Christ's second coming, in power and glory.

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and

refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.^[a] ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight. ⁵

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight, and
the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

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

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.

Children's time:

Song: Long ago prophets knew (TIS 283)

1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, holy, true.
Come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he
comes, who will make him
welcome?

2 God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan: He
will come, as a man, born
himself of woman, God divinely
human. [Refrain]

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
till the time expected
nurtured and protected. [Refrain]
4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar. Unborn
Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! sing,
choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

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: David

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Call to worship: adapted Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid

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

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

adapted Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid

