



Advent 3 Yr C – 15th December 2024

Greeter: Mehry

Meditation Song: O come, O come Emmanuel (TIS 265)
(please remain seated)

O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
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:

Advent Candle: *The first 2 Advent Candles are lit and the third candle is lit for joy*
Brian

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 of Country: Christo

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: Star Child (Shirley Murray)

1. Star-Child, earth-Child,
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,

Chorus:

This year, this year,
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

2. Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child
no one wants to know,

Chorus

3. Grown child, old child,
mem'ry full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears,

Chorus

4. Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine,

Chorus

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)

Joy before us
Joy behind us
Joy under our feet
Joy within us
Joy over us
Let all around us be joy

Peace:

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

Hymn: Not the powerful (TIS 288)

1. Not the powerful, not the privileged, not the famous in the land,
but the no-ones and the needy
were the first to hold God's hand.

2. Not a well-established family
with an heirloom christening shawl,
but a homeless, wandering couple parented
the Lord of All.

3. Not, at first, to little children,
nor to those whose faith burned bright,
but to adults, stalled in darkness,
angels brought God's love and light.

4. God, determined to be different
from the standards we think best,
in God's choice of friends and family,
lets forgotten folk be blessed.

5. Not obsessed by our achievements, worldly
wealth or family tree,
may we, in and with God's chosen,
find our fondest pedigree.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Children's Activity: Carolyn

Bible Readings: Rick

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

These words were spoken by the prophet Isaiah to the people of Judah and Jerusalem, when the Assyrian Empire was the dominant power, and Judah lived in the shadow of its might. Isaiah calls on the people to lift their voices in praise to God: "Give thanks...sing praises...shout aloud and sing for joy!" This is a communal song if a whole choir has joined voices with the soloist who sang in the first two verses.

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,^[d] ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[e] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the ruler,^[1] who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Alison

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: God gives us a future (TIS 687)

1. God gives us a future,
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for new life starts now.

2. We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight,
and the strength we lack.

3. Holy Spirit, teach us
how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge
of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life, and
find our future there.

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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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