



Advent 4 Yr C – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

**Greeter:** **Betty**

**Meditation Song: He became poor (TIS 721)**  
*(please remain seated)*

He became poor that we may be rich,  
loving the world and leaving his throne.  
King of all kings and Lord of all lords,  
flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone.  
(Repeat)

**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 3 Advent Candles are lit and the fourth 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 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: Born in the night (TIS 323)**

(vs 1 solo)

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;  
Savior of all, Mary's Child,  
walk in our streets again.

### **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)

Love before us  
Love behind us  
Love under our feet  
Love within us  
Love over us  
Let all around us be love

**Peace:**

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

**Hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus (TIS 272)**

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

2. You our strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a King,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By Thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Moment for the young at heart: Tonia**

## Bible Readings: **Marian**

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

The people to whom Micah's words were directed had no chance to match the warring might of their neighbours. Micah insisted that the only hope for them was to trust in YHWH's power by remaining faithful. Micah's prophecy rails against the social and moral abuse rampant in the land and proclaims that out of the devastation, the day will come when righteousness and peace will be restored.

### **Malachi 5:2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

### **Luke 1:39-55**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be<sup>[e]</sup> a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary<sup>[f]</sup> said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
50 His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Hear the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Clabon**

**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: Nativity**

##### **Song: Away in a Manger (TIS 318)**

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee 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: Brian**

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*Blessing: adapted Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid*