



Christmas 1 Yr C – 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Greeter:** **Wendy**

**Leader:** **Roger A**

***Meditation Song: Come Holy Spirit*** (TIS 710)

*(please remain seated)*

Come Holy Spirit,  
gracious heavenly dove;  
come fire of love  
(x 3)

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

As we celebrate the arrival of the Christ-child this Christmas:

May the Lord be with you

**And also with you**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Christ Candle:**

We light this light to remind us that the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

## **Acknowledgement First Peoples:**

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**

We give thanks to God that hope was born!  
**God's light, whose sign was a star,  
was poured out for all people.**

All the fears and pain of this world cannot diminish God's light.  
**That light is the life of Jesus Christ,  
who breaks through the darkness.**

Thanks be to God, for the most precious gift of Light.  
**Let us live as people of new Light and Hope.**

## **Opening Prayer**

God of promise and mysterious Light,  
be with us this day as we journey to meet your Gift.  
Give us courage and hope along our way,  
as your light continues to glow brightly in our path,  
leading us to love and follow you.  
In Jesus' Name.

**Amen**

## **Hymn: As with gladness (TIS 314)**

1. As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright:

so, most gracious Lord, may we  
ever more your glory see.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
one whom heaven and earth adore:  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare  
at your cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

4. In the heavenly country bright,  
need they no created light;  
you its light, its joy, its crown,  
you its sun, which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
hallelujahs to our King.

*Prayer of confession:*

We come to God  
knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus  
to love God and one another with our whole hearts;  
but we come also to a God who reaches out to us  
with healing and reconciliation.

In this knowledge, let us pray

God of Light,  
We are sorry when we let the comfort of Christmas  
stop us from seeing those who don't live in comfort;  
those who are hungry, those in pain, those in need of your love.  
Break those bonds of comfort and strengthen us to take on the risk of  
following you. Help us to follow your light.  
Shine brightly in us and through us.

Forgive the blindness we so often offer to you.  
Give us your vision of the people you would have us be  
and what you would have us do in the light of your love.  
Amen

**Words of assurance:**

The Light has come. The Light has come and has put out the darkness.  
Now we can walk in the light.  
You are loved by God and called to walk with God in the light.

We are loved and forgiven

**Thanks be to God**

***Peace:***

Lift your eyes and look around.  
The light of the babe of Bethlehem  
shines from the face of each one here.  
Let us now greet that light,  
rejoice that we are here together,  
and pass the peace of Christ,  
our joy and our hope.

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

**Hymn: Love came down at Christmas (TIS 317)**

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

2. Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus:  
but wherewith for sacred sign.

3. Love shall be our token,  
love be yours and love be mine,  
love to God and neighbours,

love for plea and gift and sign.

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

**Bible Readings: Milton**

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

Psalm 148 is classified, as a Creation Psalm. While the Creation Psalms in general reflect on and celebrate God's sovereignty over the created world and the special place of human beings in the world, Psalm 148 is an unbridled cry to ALL creation to "Praise the Lord!

### **Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

    praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;

    praise him, all his host!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;

    praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens,

    and you waters above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,

    for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> He established them forever and ever;

    he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,

    you sea monsters and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and frost,

    stormy wind fulfilling his command!

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,

    fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle,

    creeping things and flying birds!

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,

    princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> Young men and women alike,

    old and young together!

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,

    for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!

## **Luke 2:41-52**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents<sup>[a]</sup> saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,<sup>[c]</sup> and in divine and human favour.

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

**Reflection: Brian Lenehen**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Andrew T**

**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:**

O Christ, today we join those who first  
offered you their gifts  
as we bring our own to you.  
Use these gifts and us to be your light in the world.  
**Amen.**

**Song: The North Wind (TIS 322)**

1.The north wind is tossing the leaves.  
The red dust is over the town;  
The sparrows are under the eaves,  
And the grass in the paddock is brown;  
As we lift up our voices and sing,  
To the Christ-child the heavenly King.

2.The tree ferns in green gullies sway;  
The cool stream flows silently by;  
The joy bells are greeting the day,  
And the chimes are adrift in the sky,  
As we lift up our voices and sing,  
To the Christ-child the heavenly King.

3.Cicada song throbs from the trees,  
The waves dance their way to the sand,  
The gulls wildly swoop o'er the sea

And the heat shimmers low on the land.  
As we lift up our voices and sing  
To the Christ-child the heavenly King!

4. The sunset is painting the sky,  
The roos venture out from the shade,  
Cocka-toos fill the air with their cry;  
Join the chorus of thanks for the day!  
As we lift up our voices and sing  
To the Christ-child the heavenly King!

### ***Benediction & Blessing:***

Go into God's world,  
bearing the light of hope and peace.  
Bring the Good News of the love of God  
through Jesus Christ to all people.  
Go in peace.

And the blessing God;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit be with you  
this day and evermore.

**3-fold-amen**

**Pastoral prayers: Heather**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: The boy Jesus in the temple-Gouache*

*Call to worship, opening prayer, prayer of confession, assurance and benediction: adapted from –  
ministrymatters.com*