

## 4 January 2026 Christmas 2

Welcome: I welcome you all to Worship this morning;  
those present with us and those on line.  
May the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Christ Candle:

We light this candle to acknowledge the presence of Christ among us.

Moment of Stillness:

Take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Acknowledgement of Land

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.**

Song: Come fill our hearts with your love

Call to worship

In the beginning was the Word, God's Word,  
Which is life today for all who believe.

**In Christ, we see life as God intends it to be.**

**In Christ, we are equipped to live as God's children.**

Sing aloud and be radiant over God's goodness.

**We praise God for grace freely given.**

Opening prayer:

O God, we give thanks for fresh winds of the Spirit, for refreshment in the midst of toil.  
Shine on us now with the light of your presence and the power of your truth.  
Meet us here with a fresh revelation of life's possibilities in your service. Amen.

### Prayer of confession:

Lord God, we gather at the precipice of a new year with an unfounded confidence in our own goodness. Forgive, we pray, our unmerited pride in our accomplishments. We confess before you in our silence our errors, failures and misdeeds of this past year. (Pause for silence.) Open our eyes again to see by the light of your grace upon grace. Open our hearts again to love through your greater love. Guide us this new year to live by the light of your revelation in Christ Jesus. Have mercy upon us and grant us your blessing. This we pray in the name God who reveals Godself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness

### Words of affirmation

Receive again God's mercy and love.  
The Lord God lives among us!  
Enter this new year of our Lord as recipients of  
God's overflowing grace and love! Amen.

### Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Young People's Time:

### Readings:

#### **John 1:10-18**

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

#### **Ephesians 3:14-20** Contemporary English version

<sup>14</sup> I kneel in prayer to the Father. <sup>15</sup> All beings in heaven and on earth receive their life from God <sup>16</sup> God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that God's Spirit will make you become strong followers <sup>17</sup> and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in this love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you and all God's people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>19</sup> I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

<sup>20-21</sup> I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

Reflection: Rev CarolynThornley

Prayers of the People:

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**

Communion Hymn: Come to the banquet (Fay White)

**1. Come to the banquet there's a place for you**

**Though you maybe have no money,  
though you maybe feel unworthy  
in your strength or in your weakness  
you are welcome, come.**

**2. Come to the banquet there's a place for you**

**See, you are an honoured guest,**

*from constant serving you may rest  
so sit you down, be fed & blessed for  
you are welcome, come.*

**3.Come to the banquet there's a place for you**  
*Here is one who runs to meet you,  
loving arms stretched out to greet you,  
do not let your fear defeat you,  
you are welcome, come*

**4.Come to the banquet there's a place for you**  
*Willing hands have made this bread ,  
with salt and yeast and labour shared,  
let all the hungry ones be fed;  
it's time for feasting, come.*

**5.Come to the banquet there's a place for you**  
*Abundant wine, enough for all,  
our generous loving host has called,  
the cup of blessing now is poured,  
for sweet communion, come.*

***Come to the banquet there's a place for you.***

#### Communion

May the God of new beginnings be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who makes all things, including us, new.**

Children of God, sing praises to the One who gives you new life.

**We praise the One who continues to surprise us with hope and grace.**

Before there was time,  
You took a moment to bring creation out of chaos.  
You created mountains, and carved deep canyons;  
You filled the oceans and planted food for all creatures;  
You plowed rivers to water a Garden, and shaped us in Your image.  
But we did not have time for You,  
preferring to spend our days chasing sin,  
and our nights seeking death.

You always made time for us,  
speaking of Your hopes through the prophets,  
sharing Your dreams through the angels.  
Then, one day You decided  
to do a new thing, becoming one of us  
as Jesus became human to bring hope and grace to us.

So we join with the saints in heaven,  
and our sisters and brothers on earth, who sing of Your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of every time and space.  
All creation sings of Your majesty and glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who gives us the water of life.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are You, Keeper of our days,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ,  
who is with us in every season of life.  
He comes, not to judge us, but to forgive us;  
He comes, not to cast us out,  
    but to gather us into the new Jerusalem;  
He comes, not to watch us suffer,  
    but to die on the cross, that we might live with You.

As we give thanks for his life,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
we would talk of that mystery which is our faith:

**Christ died, so sin would have no more power over us;  
Christ rose, destroying death's grip on us;  
when the new heaven and new earth come,  
    Christ will make all things, including us, new.**

In these sacred moments,  
send Your Spirit to sanctify the bread and the cup,  
and to open the hearts of those who approach the Table.  
As the Bread of life touches our lips,  
    may we be strengthened to serve

those whom the world has forgotten.  
As the Cup of salvation quenches our thirst for You,  
may we be enabled to bring relief  
to those who wander  
the desert wastes of our society.

And when all time ends, and all people are gathered  
around Your Table in Heaven, we will rejoice in Your presence,  
and sing your praises forever:  
One God, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Christ is the bread of joy,  
**who shares food with sinners.**

Christ is the cup of life,  
**who revives the faint-hearted.**

Let us receive what we are; let us become what we receive.  
**The body of Christ.**

Jesus Lamb of God **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world, **grant us your peace.**

Receive this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ,  
and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

Christ's body broken for you.  
The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

#### Prayer

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life.  
May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**Amen.**

#### Offering Prayer:

God, we thank you for your goodness to us year after year.  
Out of the riches of your grace, we return to you resources  
Of time and talents and treasure.  
Use all we have and all we are in the service of your will. Amen.

Notices:

- 26th January 2025 - Australia Day
- 4th February 2026 - Wednesday Prayer/Communion resumes
- 16th February 2026 - Women's Spirituality Group resumes

Song: Give Thanks

*Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ his Son. (repeat)*

*And now,  
Let the weak say "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say "I am rich!"  
Because of what the Lord has done  
for us. (repeat)*

*Give thanks.*

Benediction & Blessing

May God grant you wisdom and gladness everyday.  
May the grace and truth of Jesus Christ empower you.  
May the fresh winds of the Spirit inspire you in singing, serving and sharing God's Word.  
Amen.

Acknowledgements:

Resources from Lavon Bayler *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2*, Thom M. Shuman, *Great Prayer of Thanksgiving*, Image