

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

The Eucharist 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m..

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn TIS 282. tune Woodlands 411

- 1. The voice of God goes out to all the world;  
his glory speaks across the universe.  
The great King's herald cries from star to star:  
'With power, with justice, he will walk his way.'**
- 2. The Lord has said, 'Receive my messenger,  
my promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,  
a lamp to every nation, light from light':  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
- 3. The broken reed he will not trample down,  
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.  
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
- 4. Anointed with the Spirit and with power,  
he comes to crown with comfort all the weak,  
to show the face of justice to the poor:  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
- 5. His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,  
the lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,  
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**

Luke Connaughton 1917-79

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### *Welcome & Greeting*

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

**and also with you.**

Blessed are those who will come  
from east and west, from north and south,

**to feast in the kingdom of God.**

*Prayer of Preparation*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of  
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Advent Wreath — Advent 4 – Love**

*Fourth Candle is lit*

The poet, George Herbert, wrote:

“Love bade me welcome,  
but my soul drew back.”

It's hard to take in the enormity of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

The psalmist knew it long before Jesus:

“For with The Lord, there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.”

God became one of us, out of love for all of us, then and now and forever.

When we light the candle of Love,  
we stop in awe of God's unending love.

**Whatever we face in life,  
God's steadfast love surrounds us.**

*Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

*The Collect is said or sung*

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son.

As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your Word,  
and move us by your Spirit  
to bless your wonderful works.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near:  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

#### **A Reading from the prophet Micah [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 labour 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **The Song of Mary (*Magnificat*)**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;**

**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
from this day all generations will call me blessed;**

**The Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.**

**God has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.**

**The Lord has shown strength with his arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

**God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
to remember his promise of mercy,  
The promise made to our forebear,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

### **A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews [10. 5-10]**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

### **Gradual Hymn: TiS 283. tune, Theodoric**

- 1. Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new, bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.**  
*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 Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.**

**Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*

*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*

*Jesus comes, Jesus comes:*

*we will make him welcome.*

Frederick Pratt Green 1903-

Words by permission Stainer & Bell, London

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [1. 39-45].

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

'Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Sermon will be followed by a time of silence for reflection*

*Affirmation of Faith (APBA p. 37)*

**We believe in one God, who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**The priest says**

*Loving God, you have promised to hear us when we pray in the name of your Son Jesus, receive the prayers we offer for the world and the church.*

Mary, the mother of Christ, is a sign to the church of faithful obedience to the will of God. As we come to the commemoration of the birth of Christ, let us pray that we, like Mary, hear God's word and respond in obedient faith to the coming of Christ, saying:

O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation, this week praying especially for Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, that leaders may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good.

O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the church, that every baptized member may manifest Christ in the world. Prayers today are offered for Uniting Church in Australia, The Anglican Diocese of Sydney, Archbishop Kanishka Raffel (*Cailey*) Regional Bishops, the Archdeacon for Women, the Sisters of the Church and the Clergy and People.

For Clarence our Bishop and Michelle, for Church Lay Leaders especially Wardens and Parish Councillors.

For the Parochial District of Corryong Locum Deacon in Charge, Peter Pocock and Priest Assisting, Elwyn Enos (*Riya*).

For all who are preparing for Christmas worship.

O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, especially . . . , that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God's love.

O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those with whom we share our daily lives, our families, friends and neighbours, and those with whom we work and play, that we may all be strengthened and sustained by God's presence with us.

O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray that all who travel at this Christmas and holiday time may do so with due care and preparation. May all arrive their destinations safely and enjoy time with family, friends or strangers. Be close to those Loving God who will be absent from loved ones this Christmas and protect those who care for our community at this time.

O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died especially remembering . . . . , that they may rest in peace, **and rise in glory.**

May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them.

O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

*The priest says*

Hasten, O God, the coming of your dominion.

**Come to us in Christ,  
that we who in this world live by faith,  
may see our faith confirmed in the world to come,  
through our risen Christ. Amen.**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

cf John 1.23

*Silence may be kept*

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

*The Absolution. Standing, the priest says*

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

### Offertory Hymn

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
who mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God draws near:  
*Rejoice, rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*
2. O come, true Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all to mind and eye:  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to grow.  
*Rejoice, rejoice! . . .*
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might  
who long ago on Sinai's height  
gave all your tribes the ancient law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe:  
*Rejoice, rejoice! . . . .*
4. O come, true Branch of Jesse, free  
your children from this tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save  
to rise victorious from the grave:  
*Rejoice, rejoice! . . .*
5. O come, strong Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
upon our journey give relief,  
and close the path to pain and grief.  
*Rejoice, rejoice! . . . .*
6. O come, bright Daystar, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
dispel the long night's lingering gloom  
and pierce the shadows of the tomb:  
*Rejoice, rejoice! . . .*



7. **King of the Nations, come, embrace  
and unify the human race;  
command our sad division cease  
and be for us the Prince of Peace.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! . . .***

Jubilate Hymns version of Veni, veni, Emmanuel John Mason Neale (1818 - 1866)

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## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God,  
through your beloved servant Jesus Christ,  
through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit Christ was born of Mary,  
and shared our human nature.

With loving arms outstretched upon the cross for us,  
Jesus broke the chains of evil and destruction.

By the resurrection your will was fulfilled  
and you gathered a holy people to offer you praise.

Now with all creation we raise our voices  
to proclaim your glory, as we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

To you indeed be glory, almighty God,  
because on the night before he died,  
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
when he had given you thanks, he broke it,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this to remember me. ✠

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you;  
do this as often as you drink it to remember me. ✠

God of hope and joy, we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
With this bread and this cup we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Therefore, loving God,  
recalling now Christ's death and resurrection,  
we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration,  
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son  
and be filled with your life and goodness. ✠

Strengthen us to do your work,  
and to be your body in the world.  
Unite us in Christ and give us your peace.

May we praise you and give you glory  
through your First-born, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us.

**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 from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD  
AND THE COMMUNION

*The Priest breaks the Bread*

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**Happy are those who share the banquet.**

*The Agnus Dei is sung during the breaking of the Bread*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
Grant us, grant us peace.**

*The priest gives the Invitation.*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

AFTER COMMUNION

God of new beginnings,  
you draw near to us in word and sacrament  
to strengthen and renew us;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,  
may your light so shine through us  
that all may welcome your Son at his coming.

**Generous God, you have fed us at your heavenly table.  
Set us on fire with your Spirit  
that when Christ comes again  
we may shine like lights before his face,  
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever. Amen.**

*Notices*

## Concluding Hymn TiS 275. tune, Cruger

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to let the captive free,  
and take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with help and mercy to those who suffer wrong,  
to raise the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls condemned and dying were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth;  
before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
4. Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
5. O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever, that name to us is love.

James Montgomery 1771–1854 alt.

### *The Blessing*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### *The Dismissal*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**