

Order of Service – 25/12/2021 Christmas Day

1. Opening verse on screen

Luke 2:11 ‘...to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’

2. Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Kirsty

Good morning, Merry Christmas!

Please come and find a place as we listen to the bell calling us to worship.

Pause

Come, let us adore the Christ Child, the newborn King.

Please stand as we sing and welcome the Word.

3. Song: O come all ye faithful verses 1, 6&7, TiS 304

1 *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angels:
O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

6 *Sing choirs of angels, sing in exaltation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
‘Glory to God, glory in the highest’:
O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

7 *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

SONG: [O Come all ye faithful](#), from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

4. Acknowledgement of Country

Clare

We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,
the traditional custodians of this land
since time immemorial.

We are learning that the land
is not ours to own, but to look after;
and that if we listen, we may hear in it
the calling of the eternal Spirit.

***Responding to this call,
we commit ourselves
to work for justice, reconciliation,
and care of the earth.***

5. Song: The North Wind is Tossing the Leaves, TiS 322

Kirsty

For the Kulin people, Christmas falls in the Kangaroo-apple season, with its changeable thundery weather and long days. Let's sing of Christ's birth in this season.

*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.*

*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.*

SONG: The North Wind, by John Wheeler, © copyright Chappell Music Limited, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, Copyright uncertain

6. Welcome and introduction

Kirsty

During Advent we have listened to the voices of Creation, to Elizabeth and Mary, to John the Baptist and Zechariah, and we have sought to find our voices.

Today we will hear the angels and the shepherds. We will be amazed and will ponder these things and treasure them in our hearts with Mary.

Now, let us take a moment and pause, breathe, listen. Let us pray:

7. Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Kirsty

8. Word of Grace

Kirsty

Christ is born!
This tiny child,
Who comes to us,
Full of truth and grace,
A light to the world.
And so we can say with confidence:
Our sin is forgiven
Thanks be to God.

9. Song: Away in a manger

(with new words by Jennie Gordon)

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

*An innocent stranger, this boy-child so near
brings blessing to those who are living in fear
brings hope to the weary and love's burning light
to all who are lost or afraid in the night.*

*From here at the manger, we ask you to stay
close by us as we try to walk in your way;
confronting the powers and growing in grace
as those who most need you, come bearing your face.*

*Let us who have plenty, give those who have less;
an offer of shelter, a friendship to bless,
asylum for refugees, food for the poor,
shared tables of comfort and wide open doors.*

*From manger to marketplace, Jesus come near
and whisper your wonder to our waiting ears.
Bring healing and freedom, bring hope and release
so all of creation can breathe in your peace.*

SONG: [Away in a manger](#), alternate words by Rev. Jenny Gordon,
Yarra Ranges Parish, Uniting Church in Australia. Used with permission.

10. With the Children

Dave

11. Candle Lighting

Ian and Dave

We re-light the Advent candles for hope, peace, joy and love.

...

We light this candle, the Christ Candle for Jesus
a precious baby laid in a manger
whose voice we hear calling us to follow him
as he turns the world upside down.

12. Song: Born in the Night, TiS 323

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:
king of the earth, Mary's child,
walk in our streets again.*

SONG: [Born in the night](#), by Geoffrey Ainger, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502; ALSO Reproduced with permission by CCLI license no. 247623

13. Bible Readings Isaiah 9:2-7

Gwen: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

Geoff: For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

14. Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20

Gwen: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Geoff: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Gwen: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Geoff: When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gwen and Geoff: For these words of witness and for Christ the Word: ***Thanks be to God***

15. Reflection

Ian

16. Song: What Child is this? AoV1-165

Ian

*1. What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

SONG: [What child is this](#), by William C. Dix. 1827-1898,
from As One Voice 1, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd. PUBLIC Domain

17. Prayers of the People

Kirsty

18. Blessing and Sending

Ian

19. Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory, TiS 309

*1. Angels, from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Heralds of creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

*Come and worship Christ the newborn King.
Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching over flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:*

*3. Wise men, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
You have seen His natal star.*

*4. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:*

SONG: [Angels from the realms of glory](#), by James Montgomery,
from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

20. Closing verse on screen

Luke 2:19 '...Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart'

21. Thank you

Liturgist:
Kirsty Bennett

Acknowledgement of
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