

Opening verse on screen:

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. John 1:14

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Ian

Bell rings...

In this new year, may the grace and peace of the newborn Christ,
be with you all.

And also with you.

Breathe...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in
the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing
came into being.

We gather on Wurundjeri country to worship the creator who became flesh and lived among us.

Let us worship God and sing of his birth.

Song of praise – The first nowell, TiS 301, verses 1, 2 & 6

1. *The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the king of Israel.*

2. *When they looked up they saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night.*

6. *Now let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth from naught,
and with his blood salvation brought.*

SONG: [The first nowell](#), Anonymous, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Acknowledgement of Country

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.

Welcome and Introduction

Ian

Christmas Prayer

Ian

Let us pray...

Breathe...

Christmas God, with all creation,
our hearts are filled with love,
as Christ is born and we hold you
in your vulnerability.

Breathe...

Our hearts are filled with amazement,
as Christ grows through childhood
and we see your wisdom.

Breathe...

Our hearts are filled with awe,
as Christ continues obedient
to your saving will in adulthood.

Breathe...

We are aware, dear God,
that while you are close to us
in love, wisdom and grace,
we are not always close to you.
We confess who we are
and ask that you would help us to grow
and to know you as Christ knew you.

Amen

Word of Grace

God is wise and God is merciful,
God knows our hearts and God hears our cry.
God comes to search for us in the birth of Christ.
And God leads us home.

Hear Christ's word of grace:
Your sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Candle Lighting – With the Children

Ian

Light first candle

In the beginning God said, Let there be light
a light for the Source of all light.

Light second candle

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'
a light for the Christ Child.

Light third candle

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit rested on Christ's people with tongues of fire.
a light for the Holy Spirit within.

Light fourth candle

Jesus said, 'Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'
a light for the children of light.

Light Christ candle.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Let us sing of the Christmas light:

Song: Flame of Love

1. *Flame of love come
Holy Spirit
Make in us your
Cradle home
For the Christ child
Who will meet and
Walk with us til
We are grown*

*Flame of love
Holy Spirit
Make in us
Your cradle home*

2. *Light of laughter
Balm in sorrow
You have been our
Cradle home
Called our names in
to the Silence
Flame of love by
You we're known*

*Flame of love
Holy Spirit
Make in us
Your cradle home*

SONG: Flame of Love, Words: Julie Perrin,
Music: Helen Burnham & Julie Perrin, Arranged: Julia Potter & Elaine Potter

Baptism Bible Readings – Romans 6:3-4 and Galatians 3:27-28

Ralph

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes:

Do you not know that all of us
who have been baptised into Christ Jesus
were baptised into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Paul also wrote to the Galatians saying:
As many of you who were baptised into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.
There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Song

During the singing of this song, the congregation makes their way to the gathering space around the font.

We are marching in the light of God TiS666

1. Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos'

2. We are marching in the light of God

3. We are living in the love of God

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Baptism – Natalie Hakimi, Arian Hakimi, Yosef Arnold

Ian: Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs (Matthew 19:14). Truly I tell you ... whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:5)

Presentation

Dave presents the families

Dave: Friends, the church council of this congregation has received a request for baptism from Nili and Hamid for their children Natalie and Arian, and from Luke and Leli for their son Yosef. This important decision has been prayerfully and carefully considered. The families have met with our minister Ian and pastor Dave to reflect and prepare. The council was delighted to approve this request, and I am glad to welcome them here today and present them to you.

Dave's words of intro for:

Natalie: Natalie Hakimi was born on 22 January, 2020 to Nili and Hamid. We are delighted that a number of Nili's family are here this morning, and through the communion of saints we remember Hamid's parents.

Natalie loves playing with other children. Very friendly, Her mum Nili attests that she's very good with communication, especially trying to talk on the phone, a bit cheeky, a bit naughty, loves shopping. Nili and Hamid pray for her ongoing health and happiness.

Then 9 months ago, they welcomed Arian Hakimi in to the world – on 3 April 2021. Nili and Hamid are very glad they can now both be baptised – after covid. Arian is a quiet boy, and in Nili's words he likes to eat everything, is very funny, likes to play with water (you're in luck today Arian), and is very handsome – yes, we can agree there, Nili.

Gwen (*Yosef's grandmother*): Yosef Nelson Arnold is the youngest son of Luke Arnold and Leli Setiono. He has an older Brother Thiamhien (Theo) who turned 10 yesterday (Jan 1st).

The name “Yosef” is the original name of the Biblical figure who saved Egypt from famine and forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery. The figure of Yosef is central to all the Abrahamic faiths – which also know him as “Yusuf” and “Joseph”.

Yosef is 8. He was born here in Melbourne and Canberra is his home, he but has lived overseas in Indonesia and Cambodia for 5 of his 8 years and is about to head to another country to live for 3 years

Yosef loves reading and is currently reading Harry Potter book 4. As a young child one of his favourite books was “Stuck”. He also loves cricket and has managed to get 10 balls “stuck” on the roof of his grandparents’ home in the last 10 days!!!

Just as his brother Thiamhien was named after a famous Indonesian human rights activist, Yosef too bears the middle name “Nelson” named after Nelson Mandela who was ill at the time of Yosef’s birth and died 2 weeks later. It’s fitting that Yosef is now being baptised shortly after the passing of Mandela’s spiritual guide, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Dave to have the book Cradled in the Arms of Love near the font and refer to that – this is what we are doing now. Cradling these children in the arms of God’s love.

Introduction

Ian: Nili and Hamid, Luke and Leli what do you ask of God’s church for your children?

We ask that s/he/they be baptised into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

Ian: Your children have been brought for baptism
that they may be grafted into Christ
as a member of his body the Church,
to grow up into the faith of Jesus Christ
and become his faithful witness and servant.

Ian gestures towards Natalie and Arian and Yosef’s ears and mouth saying:

Natalie, Arian, and Yosef,
may the Lord open your ears to hear his word
and your mouth to proclaim his praise.

Meaning of Baptism

Ian: Baptism is Christ’s gift.
It is the sign by which the Spirit of God
joins people to Jesus Christ
and incorporates them into his body, the Church.

In his own baptism in the Jordan by John,
Jesus identified himself with humanity
in its brokenness and sin;
that baptism was completed in his death and resurrection.
By God’s grace,
baptism plunges us into the faith of Jesus Christ,
so that whatever is his may be called ours.
By water and the Spirit we are claimed as God’s own
and set free from the power of sin and death.

Thus, claimed by God
we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit
that we may live as witnesses to Jesus Christ,
Share his ministry in the world and grow to maturity,
awaiting with hope the day of our Lord Jesus.

In baptism today, Natalie and Arian, and Yosef are assured of the love that God has for them.

Affirmation

Ian: The Uniting Church, in baptising children, takes responsibility for their instruction and nourishment in the faith. Nili and Hamid, Luke and Leli that we may know that you hold the Christian faith and claim your membership in Christ's Church, we ask you:

Do you turn from darkness to the Light of Christ? ***I do.***

Do you believe in God, trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit as God's power and presence along the way? ***I do.***

Apostles Creed

Ian: (addresses whole congregation)
In unity with the whole Church, let us affirm the faith into which we are baptised.

Just as we acknowledged the ancient people of this land earlier, now we acknowledge the ancient people of our faith. The Apostle's Creed contains ancient words said at baptisms for millennia which give expression to some of the symbols of our faith. The Creed doesn't say it all, nor does it say it in words that all of us may be comfortable with. But in expressing ourselves in this way we unite with all Christians who have come before us, as we continue to find new words to say about God.

Do you believe in God?
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Blessing the water and oil

Ian explains that the oil was made from the olives on our trees.

Dave pours water into the font, Ian hold oil.

Ian: Let us pray:

Dear God, send your Spirit like a dove
upon this water and oil
to bless it for the holy purpose
to which we put it.
May Natalie and Arian, and Yosef,
being buried with Christ in baptism,
rise with him to newness of life;
and being born anew of water
and the Holy Spirit
remain forever in the number
of your faithful children.

Through Jesus Christ our source of living water. Amen.

The Baptism

Ian addresses Natalie and Arian, and Yosef:

Natalie and Arian, Yosef,
for you Jesus Christ has come,
has lived, has suffered;
for you, he has endured the agony of Gethsemane
and the darkness of Calvary;
for you, he has uttered the cry,
"It is accomplished!"
For you, he has triumphed over death;
for you, he prays at God's right hand.
All for you, little Child,
even before you were born.
In baptism, the word of the apostle is fulfilled:
"We love, because God first loved us."

Ian pours water on Natalie and Arian, and Yosef's head 3 times saying:

Natalie/Arian/Yosef
I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Ian marks the sign of the cross on Natalie and Arian, and Yosef's forehead with oil saying:

From his day forward the sign of the cross is upon you.

Natalie and Arian, and Yosef are now received into the faith and family of Jesus Christ –
the church in all the world.

Peace be with you Yosef, Natalie and Arian.

Blessing

The Aaronic Blessing (GA441, AOV-1-177)

*May God bless and keep you,
may God's face shine on you.
May God be kind to you,
and give you peace.*

Promises

Ian: Nili and Hamid, Luke and Leli, your children belong to God in Christ. From today they will have a home in the Christian community and there will always be a place for them here. I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness to your children by making these solemn promises:

Will you encourage Natalie and Arian, and Yosef's growth within the Christian community, guiding them through participation in the worship, nurture and fellowship of the Church to a mature Christian faith?

With God's help I will.

Will you, by word and example, teach Natalie and Arian, and Yosef the way of Christ until the Spirit draws them to make their own response in faith and love?

With God's help I will.

Ian addresses the congregation:

Friends in Christ,
will you promise to maintain the life of worship and teaching, witness and service, that Benjamin, Natalie and Arian, and Yosef, and all the children among you may grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge and love of God.

***With God's help,
we will live out our baptism
as a loving community in Christ:
nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer,
and encouraging one another in service
until Christ comes.***

Prayer

Ian: Let us pray:
God of love, we have seen you at work here today in this Sacrament,
and have been touched by your renewing Spirit.
We praise you for all you have done for us.
Thank you for declaring your love for Natalie and Arian, and Yosef today.
Guide and guard them all their days.
May your love hold them,

your truth direct them,
your joy delight them.

Bless Nili and Hamid, Luke and Leli and Theo
that Natalie and Arian, and Yosef may grow up
in a secure and happy homes.
Give to them wisdom and courage,
laughter and peace, and the love that endures all things.

Presentation of Baptism Candle and Certificate

light baptism candles

Dave: Natalie and Arian, Yosef,
you belong to Christ the light of the world.
May you always walk as children of the light.

Recollection of baptism

Children sprinkle water

Ian: Sisters and brothers:
Always remember you are baptised,
and be thankful.

Gospel Reading – John 1:1-18

Jamie Thom

With *Before the world began / I am for you* Iona: HSNW12

[I am for you](#), © 1987 Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland
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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*1. Before the world began, one Word was there;
Grounded in God he was, rooted in care;
By him all things were made, in him was love displayed;
Through him God spoke and said, 'I AM FOR YOU'.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

*2. Life found in him its source, death found its end;
Light found in him its course, darkness its friend.
For neither death nor doubt nor darkness can put out
The glow of God, the shout, 'I AM FOR YOU'.*

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

3. *The Word was in the world which from him came;
Unrecognised he was, unknown by name;
One with all humankind, with the unloved aligned,
Convincing sight and mind, 'I AM FOR YOU'.*

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. (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.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 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.

4. *All who received the Word by God were blessed;
Sisters and brothers they of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of Grace proclaim in time and space
And with a human face, 'I AM FOR YOU'.*

Reflection -The Word made flesh

Dave

John 1: the Logos became Flesh

Loving God,

Take these ancient words, ink on a page, and through your Holy Spirit, may they become for us your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

I wonder if you can imagine, just for a little bit, that the writers of Matthew's, Mark's, Luke's and John's Gospel are all movie directors – in slightly different eras, targeting slightly different audiences.

For the past month, we've been bingeing Luke's direction of "Jesus, the movie" – especially the early scenes.

Mark was the debut director, and his movie was mainly screened on independent and underground cinemas around Rome. Then probably Matthew's directorial efforts of Jesus, the movie appeared on the big screens.

Luke's has been heralded by movie critics as a triumph, drawing in a newer audience.

So, in keeping with the themes being explored, let's imagine the movie is titled something like: A Star is Born, one of those rare films where all of the versions receive critical acclaim. A star is born...

And then there's rumours that a new version of Jesus, the movie, is being written, and directed, by some person who's gone off



the radar for a long time. Possibly named John? Could be down in the Greek trading port of Ephesus, could be in jail, some tenuous eye-witness links to Jesus...

The tabloid newspapers are panning the movie before it's even been released... No, no, no, we don't need any more versions of a Star is Born / Jesus: the movie.

John has had time on his hands, in lockdown. He's watched all of the other versions, and read their scripts, analysed them too: Matthew's, Mark's and Luke's. John has hit the pause button right about where we left things on Christmas Day... and is left with a nagging, unshakeable question... "Who is this child of Bethlehem, and why should we care about his birth?"

John has prayed. Prayed a lot. Dreamt inspired dreams. Thought a lot about the cultural influences swirling all around him: the stoic's idea of the logos – the divine reason behind all things... the Jewish hope for a coming messiah, the gnostics belief in a divine spark with secret knowledge for some, the Platonic's view of the otherness and perfection of god, outside and beyond...

What flows forth from John's ink, ink on a page, is some of the most extraordinary theology ever written – a radical, inspired new version of Jesus: the movie / A star is born.

In the beginning... was the logos, and the logos was with God, and the logos was God.

What has come in to being in him was life, and the life is the light of all people.

He came to his own home, and his own people rejected him.

And the logos has become flesh, and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

This is dreaming theology. This is a version of the movie that blows people's minds. As Indigenous theologian Garry Worete Deverell reminds us, dreaming is not a series of mythological stories describing events from long ago. Dreaming theology is a past rendered meaningful, a future full of promise, and a present aflame with life in all its fullness. Dreaming is nothing less than the passage of the divine Spirit in and through the world.

Long after we've tossed out the dead Christmas tree, packed away the extension table, and taken down the tinsel, John answers that lingering, nagging question emphatically... Who is this child of Bethlehem, and why should we care about his birth...?

John's answer: God poured God's own self in to human form. The eternal Word, creator beyond our imagining, took the form of a baby in the most humble origins. An astonishing proclamation that is beyond our human ability to fully appreciate. This child of Bethlehem is God's infinite reconciliation, bridge-builder, entering in to time and space.

For John, Jesus doesn't reinforce the dichotomies swirling all around, but resolves them. Both, and...

The opening scenes of John's movie John are both an introduction and conclusion, exploring both creation and salvation, time and eternity, law and grace, death and life, faith and unbelief, truth and reconciliation.

This is our dreamtime text. This is Natalie's and Arian's dreamtime text, this is Yosef's dreamtime text, with the middle name of Nelson in honour of Mandela, this is Archbishop Desmond Tutu's dreamtime text. Let's hear a bit of Archbishop Desmond Tutu now: *clip shown*

We are made for goodness, created in God's image, for goodness. Tutu travelled the world – and from the various clips I've watched this week, that was his recurring message. You are made in God's image, for goodness.

I was too young, back in 1987, when the Uniting Church hosted Desmond Tutu in Ballarat for NCYC – the National Christian Youth Convention. He famously wore a t-shirt on stage each night which said: Just call me Arch.

On the first night of NCYC '87, it bucketed down with rain. The oval he was supposed to walk across to get to the big tent was flooded. A good friend of mine, Tim Lake, was the only one with a 4WD, so he had the rare privilege of driving Desmond Tutu in his clapped out 4WD across to the main stage. Full of grace and truth is how Tim remembers the experience.



Tutu embraced this dreaming theology from John 1, particularly in chairing the truth and reconciliation commission – the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Not even apartheid SAF when he was standing at gravesides of young men and women who had been killed in the struggle. Not even when, at one point, he abhorred and denounced the ANC's leadership in South Africa as worse than apartheid. Full of grace and truth.

And so, when we gather around this communion table shortly, we join in this sacred meal, time beyond our dreaming, with Desmond Tutu joining us in that great communion of the saints.

Offering Song – Silent Night TiS311

- 1. Silent night, holy night: all is calm, all is bright
round the virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*
 - 2. Silent night, holy night: shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.'*
 - 3. Silent night, holy night: wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born, Christ our Saviour is born.*
-

SONG: Silent night, by Joseph Mohr, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Prayers of the People

Jim Kilpatrick

Benevolent God of summer winds

We pray for the World: We pray for all those leading health systems and communities in Australia and world-wide. May they lead with a sense of justice, and compassion. May we all feel a sense of hope about this new year.

Leader: In your mercy, hear our prayers

Response: **We feel our feet on the ground. We wait, quietly, for the north wind to blow and the southerly wind to respond, bringing change.**

We pray for the Church: may the Uniting Church help those who found Christmas exhausting, hard, lonely. May it welcome children into the circle in caring and creative ways. May we draw the strength from an inner source, to feel compassion towards others, in this new year.

Leader: In your mercy, hear our prayers

Response: **We feel our feet on the ground. We wait, quietly, for the north wind to blow and the southerly wind to respond, bringing change.**

We pray for those in need: may those in poor health find support. May those who just cannot face it all again, find inner strength, feel renewed. May we all feel a sense of peace about this new year.

Leader: In your mercy, hear our prayers

Response: **We feel our feet on the ground. We wait, quietly, for the north wind to blow and the southerly wind to respond, bringing change.**

In the name of Christ, breath of life. Praise. Amen

Holy Communion

Servers

Ian, Dave, Kenna, Semisi, Kenna, Saide

Invitation

- Standing in a circle around the space – socially distanced family groups
- Hands crossed on chest if not receiving
- Remain in your seats if you wish or are not able to stand
- All servers will hand sanitise
- Gluten free bread
- If you have an offering place it in the bowls by the font as you move into or out of the circle.

All are welcome to this table
where we meet Christ
and share the feast of
a new beginning for creation.

Come just as you are,
there is a place for everyone here.
Participate as much as you are comfortable,
for this meal does not depend
on our understanding or familiarity,
but on the compassionate grace of the Creator.

Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ: ***His Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts: ***We lift our hearts to God.***

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love:
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is our joy to give you thanks,
O radiant God of light.
In the beginning you spoke the word
and the light of life blazed out in creation.

Through all the ages of your holy history
you spoke and the light of your word
illuminated the way for all your beloved people.

In the fullness of time you spoke
and your Word became flesh -

light was born for us,
born in humility as the child of Mary.

And so we praise you in the angels' song:

Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)

Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)
holy Lord of power and might.
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)

Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who on the night of his betrayal took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:

This is my body given for you.

Whenever you eat it, remember me.

In the same way also, he took the cup.

Again he gave thanks,
shared it with his disciples and said:

This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood.

whenever you drink it, remember me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine;
that they may be for us
the body and blood of your most dear Son.
May we who share this meal
be born as Christ's living body,
shining his light in the world
until your new dawn.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
all glory be to you,
Source of all Being,
Eternal Wisdom and Holy Spirit,
one God and Mother of all creation.

Amen.

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 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.***

Breaking of the bread

Christ is the bread of life,
child of Mary, child of God.

Christ is the cup of salvation,
humbled for a time, now revealed to all.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Let us receive what we are.
Let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.

These are the Christmas gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

The Peace

The peace of the newborn Christ be with you all:
and also with you.

Notices

Ian

Sending Song – Hark the herald angels sing TiS 303

1. *Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'*

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born king.

2. *Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb!
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased in human flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel. (Refrain)*

3. *Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. (Refrain)*

SONG: [Hark the herald angels sing](#), by Charles Wesley,
from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Go in peace,
sing for joy,
live with hope!

Cradle the life that gives life.

And be blessed
from the Source of Christmas love
through the child in the manger
by the Spirit of the angels' song.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing verse on screen:

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. John 1:14

Thank you

Liturgist:

Ian Ferguson (Minister of
the Word)

Bible readers:

Ralph Eduardo
Jamie Thom

Children's time:

Dave Hall (Pastor:
Children, Youth and Young
Adults)
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:

Dave Hall (Pastor:
Children, Youth and Young
Adults)

Prayers of the People:

Jim Kilpatrick

Musicians:

Natalie Sims (Co-ordinator)
Joel Hallinan
Maggie Somerville
Shawn Whelan

Songs:

SONG: [Dream a dream](#),
Shirley Erena Murray, from
[More Voices](#), (158) United
Church of Canada, Woodlake
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Musicians:

Jessica Kvensukal, Glenice
Cook, Kate Scull, Saide
Cameron, Natalie Sims,
Elaine Potter, Julia
Potter, Ian Ferguson, Geoff
Thompson, Shawn
Whelan

Images:

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
speech sourced from
Desmond Tutu Peace
Foundation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfQIO_JjEkU

"Just call me Arch" photo
courtesy of Ron Townsend.

A Star is Born four
versions:

<https://www.vox.com/2018/10/4/17902424/star-is-born-versions-what-price-hollywood-streisand-cukor-garland-cooper-gaga>

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