

Opening verse:

Hope is a light to show the way

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Kirsty

Let us worship God!
Let us come in hope,
Looking forward and preparing for the coming of the Christ child,
And let that hope light our way.

Song of praise

Kirsty

TIS 265 O come, O come Emmanuel – verses 1, 2, 3 & 5

- 1 *O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*
 - 2 *O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.*
 - 3 *O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.*
 - 5 *O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.*
-

SONG: [O come, O come Emmanuel](#), anonymous, tr. John Mason Neale, from [Together in Song](#),
Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Acknowledgement of Country

Kirsty

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

Kirsty

Good morning and welcome to worship this morning! My name is Kirsty. I am your liturgist for this morning, and will be leading worship with our minister Ian, Natalie and the musicians, Meredith, Meg, & Tim, and Michael, Dave & Martin who are working behind the scenes to make the sound, slides and livestream happen.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Ye, Christmas is coming once more, and so it is time for us to start preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. Today we will focus on hope, hope in the face of brokenness, hope in the face of grief and violence.

Let us begin our prayers of adoration and confession in song:

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Kirsty

MV19 Maranatha Maranatha Come Lord Jesus Come

Maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.

Maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.

SONG: Maranatha is an Aramaic word meaning "Come, Lord." Words: traditional liturgical text. Music: Louise Skibsted. From More Voices, United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc.

God of Jacob,
You invite us to come and learn your ways.
You offer us a vision of a time when swords will be turned into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks,
a time when nations shall not lift up swords against nations.

Christ, light of the world,
You shine a light into dark places
showing us the way in the midst of violence and conflict,
bringing hope, and a vision for peace and justice.

Spirit of life,
You come to us as new born child,
Fragile and precious, so small but full of so much potential and possibility
Hope born into the world.

Forgive us when we do not grasp your vision
when we do not answer your call,
when we do not live in your light,
when we do not celebrate life,
when we lose hope.

MV19 Maranatha Maranatha Come Lord Jesus Come

Maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.

Maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.

Word of Grace

Kirsty

Christ comes and brings hope into the world,
Christ's light shines, showing us a new way of being.
And so we can say with confidence
Our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

With the Children

Ian

Offer of purple tea lights and small white candles to people to take home to light during the week and on Sundays when they are not able to attend worship.

Candle Litany

Anew we tell the ancient tale, coming to the story circle of lights.

This first flickering is to banish darkness.

This is the candle of Hope.

Let us honour the Light!

Song

Ian

Online Resource [Hope is a light](#) (Daniel Damon) – Call and Response – Verse 1 only this week.

*Hope is a light,
hope is a light.
Hope is a light to show the way,
hope is a light to show the way.
Light the candle of hope,
light the candle of hope.*

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 2004
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Isaiah 2:1-5

Meg

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of GOD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the ETERNAL ONE,

to the house of the God of Jacob,

that they may teach us their ways

and that we may walk in their paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction

and the word of the ETERNAL ONE from Jerusalem.

God shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation;

neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the ETERNAL ONE!

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Psalm 122

Meredith

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the ETERNAL ONE.”

Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the ETERNAL ONE,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the ETERNAL ONE.
For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.
For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Song

Ian

AoV1-190 [Let There Be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me](#)

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, we are family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

SONG: Let there be peace on earth, (adapted) by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson © 1955, renewed 1983 Jan-Lee Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission. from As One Voice, Vol. 1, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #604502

The Gospel – Matthew 24:36-44

Meg and Meredith

Meg: "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Tim: Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song

Ian

Gonna Lay Down My Sword and Shield / Down by the Riverside (African-American)

1. *I'm gonna lay down
my sword and shield,
down by the river side,
down by the river side,
down by the river side,
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the river side.
And study war no more.*

I ain't gonna study war no more ... (x6)

2. *I'm gonna walk with
the Prince of Peace ...*
 3. *I'm gonna beat
my sword into a plow ...*
 4. *I'm gonna shake hands
around the world ...*
-

African American Spiritual. Public Domain.

Offering Dedication: Include Christmas Bowl

Prayers of the People

Tim

Notices

Kirsty

Sending Song

TiS 666 We are marching in the light of God / Siyahamba (South African)

Siyahamb' ekukha-nyen' kwen-khos...

We are marching in the light of God...

We are living in the love of God

We are moving in the power of God ...

SONG: We are marching in the light of God, South African, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Thank you's

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist:

Kirsty Bennett

Bible readers:

Tim Budge

Meg Orton

Children's time:

Ian Ferguson

Reflection:

Ian Ferguson

Prayers of the People:

Meredith Budge

Musicians:

Natalie Sims

(coordinator)

Glenice Cook

Mikul Denison

Joel Hallinan

Nicole Lowe

Bronte Potter

Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Editing / Production:

Martin Brown

Michael Cameron

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Shawn Whelan

Images: Ian Ferguson

Postlude Song:

O Come O Come

Emmanuel, anonymous,

tr. John Mason Neale,

from Together in Song,

(265) Harper Collins

Religious,

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Musicians: Alistair Hunter,

James Balsillie,

Courtney Rohde

Closing verse:

Hope is a light to show the way