

**Opening verse**

Peace is a Prayer

**Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship**

Amelia

Peace

**Song of praise**

Amelia

NCYC99 A voice is heard

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*Chorus: Come let us praise our God,  
Come let us sing for joy,  
With a heart of thanks we give honour  
You are a mighty God,  
You are the source of life  
Creator God we give praise*

- 1. From the deepest seas (a voice is heard)  
From the highest hills (a voice is heard)  
From the rich dark earth (a voice is heard)  
All creation sings! God is heard! **Chorus:***
  - 2. Through the darkest night (a voice is heard)  
Through the breaking dawn (a voice is heard)  
Through the heart of life (a voice is heard)  
All creation sings! God is heard! **Chorus:***
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SONG: A voice is heard, by Trisha Watts & Monica O'Brien © Willow Connection 1998, from It all depends, NCYC '99 Songbook, Uniting Church in Australia, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Amelia

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**

Amelia

Good morning and welcome  
Today is the second Sunday of Advent

**Prayers of Adoration and Confession**

Amelia

...

...  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Advent Candles

Ian

With the Children

*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*

Here we tell the ancient tale, coming to the story circle of lights.  
This second flame is to bring balance and the promise of harmony.

**This is the candle of Peace.**

**Let us honour the Light!**

## Song

Ian

**Online Resource** [Hope is a light](#) (Daniel Damon) – Call and Response – Verses 1 & 2 only

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*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.***

*Peace is a prayer,  
**peace is a prayer.**  
Peace is a prayer that starts with me,  
**peace is a prayer that starts with me.**  
Light the candle of peace,  
**light the candle of peace.***

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WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 2004  
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## Isaiah 11:1-10

Christine

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.  
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## Song

Ian

VU010 Prepare the way of the Lord (Michael Burkhardt)

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*Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path,  
prepare the way of the Lord!*

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SONG: Prepare the Way of the Lord, Michael Burkhardt (1990),  
Words and music copyright © 1992 MorningStar Music Publishers

## The Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12

Christine

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.", This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

**Thanks be to God**

## Reflection

Ian

## Offering with Song

Ian

Tune In - *Making things new*

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*Vs 1 The desert will spring to life  
A path will be made in the wild  
Even now as you look I am making things new*

*Vs 2 The lion shall lie with the lamb  
The day shall extinguish the night  
Even now as you sleep I am making things new*

*Ch Take hold of the hope that I give  
Trust in me  
Reach out for the love you can live  
Eternally*

*Vs 3 The river of life shall flow down  
The mountains shall break forth in joy  
Even now as you speak I am making things new*

*Vs 4 The barren give birth, the lame walk  
The deaf and the blind hear and see  
Even now as you pray I am making things new*

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SONG: [Making things new](#), by Sheree Anderson, from [Tune In](#), Brunswick UC, Reproduced with permission

## Offering Dedication: Including Christmas Bowl story

Kirsty and Ian

Kirsty: "My name is Ashia. We lived a happy and normal life in Syria, moreover, we worked in our land and planted many vegetables. We had an animal farm to raise chickens to extract their eggs and meat, to sell them in order that we feed our children and live a decent life. At the beginning of the war and the aerial bombardment, fear and terror surrounded our souls. We tried to flee to any peaceful place in Syria, but all the places were surrounded by the army.

Until we decided to resort to Jordan. We stayed on the Jordanian borders for three days starving without food or water until we reach al-Za'atari camp.

Thereafter, I knew the Council of Churches (DSPR Jordan) where they're helping people in need. The rations they provided helped me a lot in the bad days. I learned with them how to make the pastries through production kitchen classes, training, and projects.

Even though if we are forgotten people, we are strong enough to face the biggest challenges and struggles in life. Thanks for Australia for being with us in our struggles."

Ian: May swords be beaten into ploughshares  
and may this money become food and education  
and health and community.  
May minefields be returned to gardens  
and may the first fruits become signs of shared life in the world.  
And may this sharing bring peace. Amen

## Prayers of the People

Kirsty

# Holy Communion

Ian

Servers: Amelia, Ian, Kenna, Max, Peter, Kirsty

## Introduction and Invitation

- One circle even if we are not receiving. People at home on the livestream part of the circle too.
- At this sensitive time in the pandemic, please don't feel bound to receive communion, but please do still come and be part of the circle. If you would prefer to leave your mask on and receive a blessing, simply cross your hands on your chest.
- Remain in your seats if you wish or are not able to stand
- All servers will hand sanitise and keep masks on
- Gluten free bread

## Communion Song

Reprise: Prepare the Way of the Lord

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*Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path,  
prepare the way of the Lord!*

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## 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.***

Father of goodness, Mother of kindness,  
for creation in its wonder and mystery

***we thank you***

for Jesus your beloved Son, Prince of Peace,

***we thank you***

for your Holy Spirit in her grace,

***we thank you***

And with the whole realm of nature around us,  
with earth, sea and sky,

***we sing to you!***

With all the saints before us and beside us,  
with brothers and sisters,  
east and west, north and south,

***we sing to you!***

And with our loved ones,  
separate from us now,  
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,

***we sing the hymn of unending praise:***

*Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)*

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*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.)

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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, after supper,  
he took the cup saying:

***This is the cup of  
a new covenant in my blood.  
whenever you drink it, remember me.***

Come now, Holy Spirit of our God,  
love us into the unity of peace  
through this bread and wine. For:

***Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!***

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.***

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 forever. Amen***

## Breaking of the Bread

Christ is the bread of resurrection:  
***new life for all.***

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

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.***

The gifts of God for the people of God.

## Distribution

### The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

*Exchange a sign of peace without touching.*

## Notices

Amelia

## Sending Song

**Tune In** Dare to dream (Elaine Loukes)

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*Dare to dream of new beginnings  
Paths untried by faith supplied  
Dare to walk and dare to follow,  
Bathed in light of Bethl'em's star  
Led by light of Bethl'em's star.*

1. *Wake and breathe in scent of promise.  
Shake the binds of dull despair.  
Hear the call to generations –  
God is alive – let all prepare.*

2. *Travel light – no need for baggage.  
Come explore the mystery:  
God of prophets strong enduring  
Christ child finite frailty.                      CHORUS*

3. *Dance the timeless steps of rejoicing  
Harmonise with angel's choir  
Celebrate God's constant presence  
By living infant Christ inspired.*

4. *Boldly step into the unseen  
Knowing God will meet us there.  
Love unbounded throughout history  
Be the road that we have shared.                      CHORUS*

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## Blessing and Sending

Go – not with passivity – be filled with an active, energizing peace.  
Bear fruit worthy of repentance.  
Burn with unquenchable fire.  
So, Go – be PEACE-makers in the world,  
Clothed in the peace of God, Creator Redeemer and Sustainer.  
Amen

## Thank you's

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

### Liturgist:

Amelia Ware

### Bible readers:

Christine Hornby

### Children's time:

Ian Ferguson

### Reflection:

Ian Ferguson

### Prayers of the People:

Kirsty Bennett

### Musicians:

Elaine Potter  
(co-ordinator)  
Helen Burnham  
Michael Cameron  
Quilan Goff  
Rosie O'Reilly  
Bronte Potter

Postlude Song: Prepare ye  
the way of the Lord,  
Godspell

Musicians: James Balsillie,  
Alistair Hunter,  
Joel Hallinan, Charlotte Pitt,  
Courtney Rohde

Images: Ian Ferguson

### Editing / Production:

Saide Cameron  
Alistair Hunter  
Jason Minator  
Shawn Whelan

## Closing verse:

Peace is a Prayer