

Order of Service 01/01/2023 Christmas 1

Opening verse:

Praise the Lord of Hosts forever.

Gathering, Greeting

Good morning, welcome to worship, let's take a moment to bring our attention to the worship we will offer to God as we welcome the Word and the Light singing 'Everything that has breath'.

Song: **Everything that has breath, TiS 715 (twice through)**

*Ev'rything that has breath,
Praise the Lord of Hosts for ever,
praise the Lord.*

SONG: A round of Praise, by permission Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren,
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*; PUBLIC DOMAIN

Call to Worship

Saide

Come let us worship God
born as a child to Mary, laid in a manger, refugee.
Come let us worship God
with hearts and minds open to receive
the Christmas gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.

Song of praise: **Joy to the World, TiS 268**

Let's sing now of the joy and love that Christ's coming brings ...

- 1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare God room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*
 - 2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns; let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*
 - 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, [prove
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*
-

SONG: Joy to the world, by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748,
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*; PUBLIC DOMAIN

Acknowledgement of Country

Saide

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

Saide

Wominjeka. Welcome and Happy New Year. Welcome into this worship space and to all who are joining us online now or later. Today we conclude the season of Christmas with an uncomfortable story from Matthew's gospel, a story which reminds us that we can't have the joy without paying attention to vulnerability and suffering, that Jesus placed himself alongside injustice from the beginning.

We welcome Carlynne Nunn as our preacher and to preside over Holy Communion while Ian is on leave. It's always lovely to welcome Carlynne back among us remembering, among other things, her candidature for the ministry and her time as our Olive Way Coordinator. My name is Saide and with Carlynne, Semisi and Elaine leading the musicians it is a joy to be leading worship today.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession (Psalm 148)

Saide, Semisi

Our prayers of adoration and confession will include Psalm 148. Let us pray

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!

Praise God, all you angels;
praise God, heav'nly host!

Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

*We look to the heavens and are overcome with awe.
We confess our complicity with the pollution
that fills our skies, making life precarious for many.*

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for God commanded and they were created.
God established them for ever and ever;
God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

*We look to this earth our home and are humbled.
We confess our lack of care for all living things
for the loss of life and diversity and beauty.*

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

*We look to many in power and are dismayed.
We lament the brokenness that causes harm
for the abuse, disconnection and loneliness.*

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for God's name alone is exalted;
God's glory is above earth and heaven.
God's has raised up a horn for the people,
praise for all the faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to God.
Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord. Amen

Word of Grace

Christ comes to us bearing the Christmas gifts
of hope, peace, joy and love,
blessing us with grace and forgiveness.
We can be confident then, that in his name
our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God

Lighting the Candles

Saide

Invite children to come and help light the candles.

Light first candle

Christ comes and brings hope into the world,
Christ's light shines, showing us a new way of being.
We light this candle for the Christmas gift of hope.

Light second candle

Christ comes and brings peace into the world,
Christ's light shines, lighting the path of peace.
We light this candle for the Christmas gift of peace.

Light third candle

Christ comes and brings joy into the world,
Christ's light shines, spreading joy and delight.
We light this candle for the Christmas gift of joy.

Light fourth candle

Christ comes and brings love into the world,
Christ's light shines, healing the world with love.
We light this candle for the Christmas gift of love.

Light Christ candle.

Christ comes, born a child, laid in a manger,
Christ's light shines, for all who are vulnerable and in need.
We light this candle for the Christ child, the greatest gift of all.

Song: O sing to the Lord, ATE 216

- 1. O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song (3 times)
O sing to our God, O sing to our God*
- 2. For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders...*
- 3. So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets...*

4. *O shout to our God who gives us the Spirit...*

5. *For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!....*

SONG: [O Sing to the Lord](#), Trad: Brazil, from [All Together Everybody](#), Openbook Publishers
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Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Lyn

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy God.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean'.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Carlyne

Song: Jesus entered Egypt

Saide

*Jesus entered Egypt fleeing Herod's hand,
Living as an alien in a foreign land.
Far from home and country with his family,
was there room and welcome for this refugee?*

*Jesus was a migrant living as a guest
with the friends and strangers who could offer rest.
Do we hold wealth lightly so that we can
share shelter with the homeless, and abundant care?*

*Jesus crosses borders with the wand'ring poor,
searching for a refuge, for an open door.
Do our words and actions answer Jesus' plea:
"Give the lowly welcome, and you welcome me"?*

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Prayers of the People

Saide

The Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal formally concludes today. Our story today offers words of thanks. You can offer your gifts by placing money in the bowl here or filling out an envelope for tax deductibility. You can also use the link in Christmas worship post online.

Christmas Bowl story

Carlynnne

In a world that often feels divided, you've come together with churches across Australia to stand alongside those uprooted by conflict and disaster.

Thank you for standing with Act for Peace's local partners to bring practical care – as well as hope, peace, joy, love, and light – to people in urgent need around the world.

From Zimbabwe to India, Jordan to Kenya and all those affected by emergencies like we're seeing in the Ukraine, you are helping families heal from trauma and rebuild their lives. You are giving people the chance to overcome their difficulties and create stronger futures for themselves and their communities.

By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. Thank you.

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By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. Thank you.

Prayer

Saide

After our celebration of Holy Communion or during the final song you are invited to light a taper for your own prayers. Let us pray ...

God our creator we offer our prayers for the world.

We hope for an end to wanton destruction.

We cry out for peace and an end to war.

We sing with joy for all who stand against injustice.

We offer our love and commitment to bring about change.

Christ our Saviour, celebrating your birth, we pray for the church.

We hope for a time when all church doors are open.

We cry out for peace and understanding among all faiths.

We sing with joy when your light shines brightly in the world.

We offer our love and desire to follow you anew every day.

Christ who crosses borders, we pray for our community.

We hope for an end to empty bellies, loss and displacement.

We cry out of peace and healing for all who are traumatized.

We sing with joy for all who offer care and comfort and space.

We offer our love and welcome, opening our hearts to all in need.

Amen

Holy Communion

Carlyne

Servers

Carlyne, Saide, Helen, Lyn, Maxine, Semisi

Invitation

- Standing in a circle around the
- 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.

Communion Song: [Invitation](#), Tune In

*1. God has laid a feasting table
All her guests are gathered 'round
From the highways and the byways
All the lost have now been found.*

*When we hear the invitation
Will we lay our burdens down?
When we hear the invitation
Will we lay our burdens down?*

*2. At this table all are welcome
No-one need be left behind
God is greater than our difference
Christ can see where we are blind.
When we hear the invitation
Will we love all humankind? (repeat)*

*3. God is crying out for justice
Christ is weeping in the street
When will be the time for laughter?
When will all have food to eat?
When we hear the invitation
Will we make God's will complete? (repeat)*

SONG: [Invitation](#), by Shawn Whelan, from [Tune In](#), Brunswick Uniting Church Songbook,
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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.

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

Saide

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.'
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 God 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

Carlynnne

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:
Saide Cameron

Prayers of the People:
Saide Cameron

Bible readers:
Lyn Anderson
Semisi Tapueluelu

Musicians:
Elaine Potter
(co-ordinator)
Helen Burnham
Michael Cameron
Glenice Cook

Children's time:
Saide Cameron

Qulian Goff
Bronte Potter

Reflection:
Carlynnne Nunn
(Minister of the Word)

Images:
Ian Ferguson

Postlude Song: SONG:
[Invitation](#), by Shawn
Whelan, from [Tune In](#),
Brunswick Uniting Church
Songbook, Reproduced
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Musicians: Shawn
Whelan, Natalie Sims

Editing / Production:
Michael Cameron
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Dave Miller

Closing verse:

We light this candle for the Christ child, the greatest gift of all.