

BRUNSWICK UNITING CHURCH
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2023

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Sunday 24 December 2023

7pm

Brunswick Uniting Church

212 Sydney Rd

Brunswick



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ROHAN HUDSON

Welcome

CHOIR: **Jospeh's Lullaby**

Acknowledgement of Country
We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung 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.**

SONG: **Maranatha**, MV 19

Maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.
Maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.

SCENE 1 – Welcome to Bethlehem

Gospel Reading: **Luke 2:1-5**

SONG: **The first nowell**, TiS 301

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.

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
over Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

5. Then entered in those wise men three
and reverently, upon their knee,
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

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.

Scene 2 – The Wise People

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 2:1-2**

SONG: We had seen the star

1. We had seen the star, we had read the signs,
And we went back through the ancient scrolls;
And they seemed to say that a star would rise
on a king as prophets had foretold;
And the star in beckoned westward in the heavens
Come and follow, come and find the baby boy,
Who will heal the rift dividing all the nations,
Who will one day turn your tears to joy.

*There was gold for wealth,
to rule this broken place, this warring world,
There was frankincense to fill the priestly role,
There was honesty and myrrh enough for all that lay ahead;
But our hearts were full of hope untold;
Yes, our hearts were full of hope untold.*

2. Would they welcome us? Would they turn away.
When we came in search of dreams unknown?
In this foreign land would we lose our lives,
Before the chance of going home?
Had we seen the start of something more important?
Is this folly, is this wisdom? I don't know.
Are there others who now follow and come after,
Who are out there on that dusty road?

3. When we found the place, God forgive us all
For the lowly place in which he lay -
Just a tiny house! And the little child
Was lying a sheaf of hay.
Was the boy another king from ancient Israel?
Seems the star said something more had happened here
And they told us of the livestock and manger
Where the babe was wrapped to calm his fears.

4. We had seen the star, we had read the signs,
And we went back through the ancient scrolls;
And they seemed to say that a star would rise
on a king as prophets had foretold;
And the star in beckoned westward in the heavens
Come and follow, come and find the baby boy,
Who will heal the rift dividing all the nations,
Who will one day turn your tears to joy.

Scene 3 – In the Stable

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 1:20b-23**

SONG: **Gentle Joseph**, NCH 105

1. "Gentle Joseph, Joseph dear,
stay with me, for the baby's near;
God will surely your goodness hear,
as you will love this new-born child," says Mary.

2. "Gladly Mary, Mary mine,
I will cradle the child divine;
Here will heaven and earth combine,
for you will bear God's child, O dearest Mary."

3. "Peace to all and God's good-will,"
heaven and earth with this song will fill;
Soon will God, in the evening still,
be born in Bethlehem, the child of Mary.

Scene 4 – The Angels

Gospel Reading: **Luke 2:9-14**

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 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*)

Scene 5 – The Shepherds

Gospel Reading: **Luke 2:8,15-18**

SONG: While shepherd watched, TiS 299

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not,' said he
(for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind),
'glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.
3. 'To you in David's town this day is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4. 'The heavenly baby you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes and in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
6. "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to all begin and never cease.'

Scene 6 – Meeting Jesus

Gospel Reading: **Luke 2:6-7**

SONG: Silent Night, TiS 311

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.

Closing

Prayers of the People

CHOIR: Heaven Everywhere

Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal

SONG: Joy to the world, TiS 268

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! 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 prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Christmas Blessing

It takes a village
written & directed by Rohan Hudson

Cast (in order of appearance)

Minister	Cath James	Joseph's Inner Voice	Rohan Hudson
Bible readings	Charlotte Lee	Angels	
Cast (in order of appearance)		Raphael	Clem Loynd
Joseph	Oliver Turner	Gabriel	Briain Dixon
Mary	Harriet Loynd	Michael	Amelia Ware
Donkey	Matilda Brown	Uriel	Matilda Brown
Mary's Inner Voice	Anya Kvensakul	Shepherds	
		2	Daniel Broadstock
Wise Ones		1	Joel Hallinan
1	Michael Langford	3	Rafa Hallinan
3	Debra Langford		
2	Dave Miller	Baby Jesus –	Maeve Hardman

Crew

Director	Rohan Hudson	Gimbal Operator	James Clough
Assistant Directors	Cath James	Photographer	Kenna Morrison
Pageant Team	Saide Cameron	Publicity	Saide Cameron
	Rohan Hudson		Blessing Mokgohloa
	Cath James		
	Blessing Mokgohloa	Catering	Colleen Coath (co-ordinator)
Set Design	Amelia Ware		Emma Cameron
Sound Operator	Michael Cameron		Saide Cameron
Laptop Operator	James Thom	Front of House	Julie McKinnon
Livestream Operator	Ray Cameron		Peter McKinnon

Music

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. **SONG:** The first nowell, Anonymous, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN. **SONG:** We had seen the star, © Leigh Newton 2016. Used with permission **SONG:** Gentle Joseph, paraphrased Carol Birkland (1993), from New Century Hymnal, Pilgrim Press. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502 **SONG:** Hark the herald angels sing, by Charles Wesley, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN **SONG:** While shepherd watched, by Nahum Tate, 1652-1715, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN **SONG:** Silent night, by Joseph Mohr, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN. **SONG:** Joy to the world, by by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Postlude songs

Angels from the realms of Glory, by James Montgomery, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Musicians & choristers: Elaine Potter (coordinator), Helen Burnham, Glenice Cook, Ian Ferguson, Alistair Hunter, Jess Kvansakul, Richard Potter, Natalie Sims, Dan Whelan, Shawn Whelan.

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

Musicians & choristers: Shawn Whelan (co-ordinator), Simone Alesich, Helen Burnham, Saide Cameron, Brad Coath, Glenice Cook, Stephanie Dykes, Ian Ferguson, Georgie Fraser, Alistair Hunter, Jessica Kvansakul, Catherine Leslie, Annie Quail, Helen Rowe, Natalie Sims, Amelia Ware, Daniel Whelan

Choral items

Joseph’s Lullaby – Mercy Me, The Christmas Sessions, Bob Marshall

Heaven Everywhere – Words and Music by Ben Glover and Francesca Battistelli.

Arranged by Andy Beck

Choristers & Musicians

Musicians:

Elaine Potter
(co-ordinator)
Brad Coath
Hudson Coath
Mikul Denison
Rosie O’Reilly

Choir Director:

Elaine Potter

Accompanist

Leigh Johnston

Choir:

Daniel Broadstock
Helen Burnham
Glenice Cook
Greta Drimmel
Jean Evans
Ryan Kambouris
Deb Langford
Mick Langford
Joy Linton
Tim Linton
Rosie O’Reilly

Kate Scull

Joanne Van

Ravenswaaij

Carolyn Wallace

Anya Kvansakul

Jess Kvansakul

Kay Quisenberry

Jan Sebastian

Amelia Ware

Maggie Somerville



Your donations
are most welcome.
Please place them
in the Christmas Bowl
in the Gathering Space.

Envelopes for tax deductibility are also available or donate online.

[Act for Peace Christmas Bowl appeal - Give Now](#)

Scroll down and search 'Brunswick Uniting Church'

We support the Act for Peace ecumenical Christmas Bowl Appeal which funds a wide variety of projects including supporting refugees from Afghanistan, protecting girls and women from gender-based violence in Ethiopia, helping Syrian refugees to rebuild their lives, supporting Sri Lankan refugees longing to return home and refugees on the Thai-Burma border.

By joining together through the Christmas Bowl we help to build a world where all people have a safe place to belong.

Christmas worship continues ...

Christmas Day, 9:30am

We celebrate the birth of Christ

We seek to be an inclusive and engaged community offering worship, music, programs for people of all ages, a food co-op, outreach and social activities.

You are always welcome to drop in.

We acknowledge that we worship, work, laugh and play on the traditional lands of the Kulin nations.

We worship on Sundays throughout the year, 9:30am

Rev. Cath James, 0438 504 394

Peter Blair (Olive Way Pastor), 0431 193 810

www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au