



SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 2017

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA CENTRAL PARISH
WESLEY UNITING CHURCH

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ADVENT 3

10.30am at WESLEY WORSHIP

Liturgist: Rev Alistair Christie

Preacher: Rev Prof Bruce Stevens

Director of Music: Catherine Lukin

Organist: Brendon Lukin

Wesley Scholars: Jonathan Lee, Alex Penca, Jade McFaul

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude Scarlatti - "Sonata in E major" K.380

Introit Prepare the way for Christ shall come

JS Bach (1685 – 1750)

Call to Worship

Sing songs of hope for all to hear and start the dance of joy, for the life of faith is before us. Look into the distance and see the rising dawn with shining rays like acts of love bringing brightness and joy from the heart of God. **Let us sing praises to God and watch for Christ. In the longing of Advent lies the promise of good which is to come.**

Hymn 153 God is love, let heaven adore him

Welcome

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Today's candle in the Advent wreath is the candle of joy, joining hope and love. We are reminded of God's joy in creation as God looked, and saw it was good. We light this candle.

Prayers of Invocation

God of hope and love, we rejoice that your Spirit comes to us again and again with the joy of Jesus Christ.

Come and enlarge our faith so that we may wait and watch in hope.

Light up our world and our lives through the loving presence of your Spirit. **Show us your life which is present in the silences. Show us your mind and speak to our expectant hearts.**

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving One, it is sometimes in the centre of the waiting that we lose hold of hope; when we have moved past the initial enthusiasm and joy of our beginnings, but we are not near enough to see your gifts to us. We are not always the people you created us to be.

In silence we offer our confession to God.

We long for quicker answers, impatient to know your will, to see your face more clearly. Be with us in our anxieties, Jesus Christ.

Take our hands and lead us towards your grace.

Forgive us, restore us to your way we pray. Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

God waits patiently for us.

God listens carefully to our confession.

God says simply to us:

In Christ your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

We sing Lord make me your dwelling,
 let my heart and spirit
 be for you an earthly temple;
 come, Immediate Being,
 my whole life illumine,
 so I'll always praise and love you,
 so where'er I may be
 There I may perceive you,
 Ever bow before you.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769)
tr Honor Mary Thwaites (1914-93)
TiS 121 v4

The Peace - The Peace of the Lord be always with you, **And also with you.** *(Please exchange a sign of peace with those around you, and introduce yourself to someone nearby.)*

Children's Time

Hymn 307 The virgin Mary had a baby boy

(Children and teenagers stay in worship today. Activity sheets for children are available in the side foyer.)

The Service of the Word

Bible Readings

The Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 page 548
The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 page 961

After the Epistle, the reader will say: "*Gracious God, may your Word live in us*" "*and bear much fruit to your glory*"

Readers: Jan and Stan Sismey

Anthem Song of Mary

Richard Shephard (1949 -)

Preaching of the Word

Our Response to God's Word

Announcements

Offering and Prayer

Hymn 654 When love is found and hope comes home

Holy Communion

We use the responses commencing on page 65 of the blue Uniting in Worship books in your pew. During the Communion service we will sing from 756 the Sanctus; Benedictus; and Agnus Dei. The Elders will bring the bread and grape juice and serve us in the pews. Rice bread and water are included for those who prefer these elements.

During Communion the choir will sing

'Eat this bread, drink this cup' – Taize (TiS 714)

Hymn 315 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming
of the Lord

Blessing

We go to continue the Advent journey with expectation, for Christ will come among us. May the star of joy hover over the world, each morning bring new compassion in every soul and God be found behind us, before us and within us. Amen.

Postlude Granados - "Berceuse" from Escenas Poeticas vol. 1