

Advent Two

Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest

4th December 2022
10.45am



The Gathering of God's People

Prelude

Introit: I Saw a Maiden

I saw a maiden sitten and sing:
She lulled a child, a sweete Lording.
Lullay, lullay, my dear son, my sweeting.
Lullay, lullay, my dear heart, my own dear darling.

Angels sang that night and saiden to that child:
Now blest be thou and she, both meek and mild.
Lullay, lullay...

Trad. Basque carol, arr. Edgar Pettman, words from 15th Century (anon.)

Call to worship

Imagine with us,
**a world where God takes shoots and buds
and uses them for large purposes.**

We imagine a world,
**where baby cows and baby bears
play together in peace and harmony.
Where lions and lambs live together in safety.**

Imagine God's world,
**where God's Holy Mountain
provides refuge, peace, and safety.**

We come to worship; we come to the mountain
**to worship the One who takes the tiniest shoot
and uses it to signal the peace of God.**

Lighting of the Christ and community candles

Second Sunday of Advent

Come and as we seek a new creation
let us find a way through the wilderness together.
Let us imagine how
we might turn around
and learn from the
tiny green shoot of new life before us.

In the wildness of this moment,
we wait for the dawn to break
and to give light to all who find
the landscape bleak and full of shadow.

We need light to guide our feet
into the way of peace
and so today we bring one candle
to join our HOPE
in our constant need for PEACE.

Light the second Advent Candle of PEACE

Prayer

With this one light, we pray:

O God, we place this light in this holy space
as a reminder that we are on this journey together.

Be light along all our paths.

**Lead us to a more just world and help us to
stay awake and present to your love
in each ordinary day. Amen.**

Song: O come, O come, Emmanuel
(First and second verses)

TiS 264

Acknowledgement of Country

Safe Church statement

Prayer of confession

John the baptizer called us to repent
as the realm of heaven comes near.
Yet, we often decide
that we would rather not change our lives
to see that realm.

Let us come to God and ask
for a spirit of repentance
as we confess our sins to God
and to one another.

Prayer Hear our hearts,
God of peace and justice.
We hear your call for repentance,
and we often ignore it.
We find it is easier not to change
than to reorient our lives to you.
We find it is more convenient
to continue our lives than re-examine them.
We would rather glorify being busy
than take time to explore
the wonders of your Word
and your world through play.

Turn our hearts.
Open us to the wonder of your peace
and cultivate a desire in us to seek it.
Let us know the freedom of your grace. Amen.

Choir: Kyrie

Lord, have mercy (3x)
Christ, have mercy (3x)
Lord, have mercy (3x)

Words of affirmation

Blessed is God alone who does wondrous things.”
Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, and loved. Amen.

Choir: Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory,

Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the Glory of God the Father,

Amen. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you
and also with you.

**Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10
 Matthew 3:1-12**

Anthem: The Infant King

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now reclining,
Sing lullaby!
Hush do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying:
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby now asleeping,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing:
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby! is the babe awaking?
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering Death, its bondage breaking:
Sing lullaby!

Trad. Basque carol, arr. David Willcocks, words by S. Baring-Gould

Message Geoff Dornan

Hymn: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
 (verses 1, 2, 3, 4)

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Offering

Announcements

Prayers of the People

God of hope,
we give thanks for how you sustain us

with air to breathe and water to drink.
We celebrate that you have created
a beautiful world full of plants, animals,
rivers, oceans, woodlands,
grasslands, and mountains.

Help us, God, to find balance in ourselves.
Forgive us for the times
when we hurt others with careless words and actions.

Give us courage to be voices
crying out in the wilderness
for those who are vulnerable
and may be preyed upon
by the injustice of bullying,
exclusion, poverty, and violence.

We ask that you be near to those
who are feeling hopeless,
both in our community and
other communities around the world.
Sustain us with your hope, O God.

We lift up to you, aloud or in the silence of our hearts,
all those in need of healing and peace

(pause for silence).

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

The story of the Last Supper (Institution)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Choir: Sanctus and Benedictus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Blessing of the Bread and Wine

With this bread and this cup
we do as our Saviour commands:
we celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

Choir: Acclamations

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Pour out the Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Make us one with him,
one with each other,
and one in ministry in the world,
until at last we feast with him in the kingdom.

Through your son, Jesus Christ, in your holy church,
all honour and glory is yours,
Father almighty, now and forever.

Choir:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are your for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The breaking of the bread

Look, the bread of Heaven is broken for the life of the world.
Here is Christ coming to us in bread and wine.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Choir: Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.**

The distribution

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, we have been fed here by your love.
Thank you for the ways in which you care for us and for all people.
We give thanks for all the people of this world
and pray that one day we may all be one in your Spirit.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: The advent of our God TiS 271

Blessing

Go forth as a little child.
Go forth seeking to see as God sees,
with unending love for every creature.

May it be so!
Alleluia.
Amen.

Postlude

Rev Gareth Thomas-Burchell & Rev Dr Geoff Dornan

With thanks to our worship, musicians, A/V and steward teams.

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