

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.

*Invite the people to come forward to find a basket full of local greens.
Invite them to arrange the wilds of possibility into this new creation
without moving anything on the table. When all who have chosen to
participate have finished, continue with these words.*

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.

A child to come forward to light the first 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: Hope waits for us at Advent
(First and second verses on HOPE AND PEACE)

Hope waits for us at Advent.
Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment
to a land that's kind and just.

Amanda Udis-Kessler
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In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
that heals the ones in pain,
hope is born in us gain.

Peace waits for us at Advent.
Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance
of the truth that we are blessed.

In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
of gentleness and play,
peace is born in us each day.

Acknowledgement of Country

Before we begin this worship service,
I would like to acknowledge and pay respect
to the traditional custodians of the land
on which we meet – the Ngunnawal and Ngambri People.
I would also like to pay my respects to the Elders,
both past and present and emerging
and to the Elders of other Aboriginal communities.
This is the place where God has been
together with the first people for a long time.
It is upon their ancestral lands

that the Wesley Uniting Church is built
and where we worship.

Safe Church statement

The Uniting Church in Australia
believes that all people are made in the image of God,
and as such we accept every individual
regardless of race, age, creed, sexuality and gender.

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.

Words of affirmation

Blessed is God alone who does wondrous things.

**Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven,
redeemed, and loved. Amen.**

The Peace

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

Time with children

Children's song: Amen

Amen! Amen!

Amen, amen, amen!

(See the little baby) Amen!

(Lying in a manger) Amen!

(On Christmas morning) Amen, amen, amen!

(Alleluia!) Amen!

(Alleluia!) Amen!

(Alleluia!) Amen, amen, amen!

Amen! Amen!

Amen, amen, amen

**Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Matthew 3:1-12**

Message Geoff Dornan

Song: All we long for

All we long for is a home,
a place to rest our heads,
where all children are free to play and grow,
beyond terrors that we've fled.

All we long for is a home,
a safety from the storms,
where the dignity of human life,
is valued and restored.

All we long for is a home,
a space in which to breathe,
where the stories of our lives are heard,
and our hearts can freely grieve.

All we long for is a home,
a haven for our souls,
where the gifts of peace and and love are found,
and our future hopes unfold.

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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.

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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

Closing song: The Pilgrims Song

We believe in God in whom the universe
in all its beauty was born.
We believe in Christ, the Saviour of the world
and the Spirit who travels with us.

*For we are the people who travels in Christ's way.
Yes we are the people seeking God's new day.
We are the people the Spirit binds as one.
Together in faith we journey on.*

We believe in Christ God come as one of us,
who died to set the world free.
We believe Christ lives, his Spirit is wit us
that in our lives God's new world will come.
For we are...

There will come a day creation will be free
and love will rule all the world.
Until then we'll seek to care for all the earth
and to live for the glory of God.
For we are...

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.

Rev Gareth Thomas-Burchell & Rev Dr Geoff Dornan

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

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