



WESTMEAD CONGREGATION

Welcome to Worship

Sunday December 13, 2020

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

ADVENT 3



Carol Richley, 'The Magnificat'

Call to worship:

To the body of Christ, gathered in Parramatta and Westmead
Grace and peace to you.

“The One who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” (John 1:9)

O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear
and lift our spirits by your advent here.
In all who gather, show us your face,
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

Opening hymn: Get ready for Christmas

https://www.smule.com/recording/arrangement-by-alan-oreilly-get-ready-for-christmas/2431482977_3843290768

O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine,
help us restore a world we've let decline.
Enlighten us; your way we would know
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

Lighting of the first three advent candles

Candle Song ‘Christmas is coming’
(*words/music John L Bell*)

‘Christmas is coming’
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

Light the first candle

The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.

'Christmas is coming'
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

Light the second candle

The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

'Christmas is coming'
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

Light the third candle

The third is for the Baptist.
Who cried "Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus
This and every day.

'Christmas is coming'
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

O Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.
Bind us as one, a people of grace,
for at your table each one has a place.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2

61 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

An Advent Litany

We wait for the coming of hope:

We wait for the coming of love:

We wait for the coming of justice:

We wait for the coming of peace.

We wait.

How long, O Lord, shall we wait?

Silence

What does the Lord require of you,

But to act justly, love mercy

And walk humbly with God.

Silence

Have mercy upon us, Christ Jesus:

Forgive us our lack of hope,

Our lack of love, our lack of joy,

Our lack of peace.

Words of Assurance:

You have been called to new life in Christ:

Through the waters of baptism

You have become a new creation.

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Learning together: Greccio: Where the nativity scene originated

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pus2FEf1zjY&t=97s>

Song:

Star Child, Earth Child (Young Vox)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVcZBUP63qw>

Star Child, earth Child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lighting rod,
This year, this year,
let the day arrive when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive!

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year,
let the day arrive when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive!

Grown child, old child, memory full of years,

sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
This year, this year,
let the day arrive when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive!

Spared child, spoiled child, memory full of years,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year,
let the day arrive when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive!

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year,
let the day arrive when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (Matt. 2:1-12)
Music: Carlton R. Young

The Peace:

Peace Child, Star Child, Earth child,
Let the day of peace and joy come.
May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
Be with you
And also with you.

Reading: Isaiah 61: 8-11

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;^[a]
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”^[a] ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,^[b] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reflection:

Sarah Bishop

<https://youtu.be/bSvyxmzn7f0>

Prayer for Others:

The Lord’s Prayer:

Word of Mission:

You are Christ's friends.
Let peace and joy mark you
In this Advent season of hope.

Hymn:

Tell out my soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3E7QWLvDWe8>

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!

Benediction:

As this most strange of years draws to a close
May the comfort of God sustain you,
May the peace of Christ embrace you,
May the joy of the Holy Spirit inspire you,
Now and always, **Amen.**