



Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church



ADVENT SPIRITUALITY IN EVERY DAY LIFE!

When the prophet speaks,
mostly no one listens

**SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021
9:30 AM**

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Dial by your location 02 8015 6011 Australia

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together and enter the Advent season of hope, peace, love and joy.

ADVENT THEME *Advent spirituality in everyday life!*

Where have we experienced God in our lives –
in the valleys, in the hills and mountains- of everyday life?
Where in our lives is Christ seeking to be born in our lives?
When has Christ be born in our suffering?

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

In this season of expectation,
We prepare to welcome new life
arising out of the surprising and unexpected.

Into our hearts, into our communities
into the often hidden parts of our lives,
*We prepare to welcome unexpected new life
in Christ Jesus,
born at the edges of life to give birth to peace.*

The second candle is lit for the birth of peace.

The second Advent candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we pause to acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation of the Parramatta City Region as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

THE WONDER OF CREATION

On this Second Sunday of Advent
let us enter the wonder of creation
as we listen to the voice of Gurrumul
celebrating creation in his own language.

GURRUMUL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hluzjo6eAyM>

GATHERING

Grace us this Advent,
God in Community,
with expectant new life and love
ever discovering us
always emerging,
with mercy flowing towards us.
Craft us
new hearts
from the fragments
of your Calvary-broken own.

*Grasp us
with your life-giving embrace,
feed us
with the Spirit's peace.*

Buoy us
in the sustainable wonder
of your evolving dreams for us,
Holy in One.

Amen.

Adapted: Thom M Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies

HYMN *One in love, we meet together (Tune: 'Hyfrydol' 87 87D. 217(i) TiS)*

1. One in love, we meet together,
one in time, and never apart.
We in flesh as brother, sister,
makes us one in mind and heart.
All incarnate, we would offer,
all we most sincerely prize,

Learning though traditions differ
how they join to make us wise.

2. One in outlook, always searching,
not to bind in common creed,
As a people, be more ready
to respond to other's need.
Here we are so finely fashioned,
understanding, here to serve,
Never narrow in compassion,
empathy without reserve.

3. As in Christ, may we discover
that to give is to receive,
That in God the good is present,
ever, always we perceive.
Not by chance the world's creation,
not by chance was life begun,
God is love and our vocation
is to love 'til love has won.

(Adapted by Betty Van Till/3C/CCC)

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SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 3: 1-6 (Inclusive Text)**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.

John went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah,



'A voice of one crying out
in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for our God,
make straight the paths.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened,
and rough roads made smooth.
And all shall see the salvation of God.'

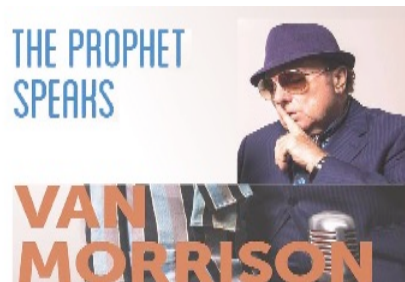
RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.
And colour our living. Amen!*

MUSIC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjAuweTGa0s>

*When the prophet speaks,
mostly no one listens
when the prophet speaks
and no one hears
only those who have ears to listen
only those that are trained to hear*



REFLECTION

When the prophet speaks, mostly no one listens ...

Advent spirituality in everyday life!

HYMN

God present to all (Tune 567 TiS)

Creation sings amazing songs;
This is a place where God belongs
In movement, colour to behold
In past and future yet untold.

Source of all life's vitality
Enlivens love consistently;
We see God's presence in each face,
In kindly deeds and acts of grace.

Deep in our soul with vision clear
We see God's presence re-appear

Each time a human babe is born,
Each time we rise to greet the dawn.

Wonderful visions constantly
Express great beauty as we see
God's presence in humanity,
So vivid once in Galilee.

G Stuart

OFFERING O God, our prayer is that, as we share these gifts,
you will widen the landscape of our seeing,
so that we enhance the lives of people
who we may have failed to know before.
Guide us in our generosity!

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ALL PLACES & PEOPLE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rot5M9Kirhc&t=196s>

We pray for the lonely ones
knowing that some of us are lonely
and we pray for the heartbroken ones
knowing that some of us are heartbroken
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world
We pray for the wounded
knowing that some of us are wounded
and we pray for the regretful ones
knowing that some of us are regretful
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the healing
We pray for the starving ones
knowing that some of us are starving
and we pray for the imprisoned ones
knowing that some of us are imprisoned
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of justice in the world
We pray for the dying ones

knowing that some of us are dying
and we pray for the newly born ones
knowing that some of us are arriving
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world. **Amen.**

Christopher Grundy (c) 2013 Hand and Soil Music

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All are welcome
to share in this table
of Holy Communion,
all who come in humble faith.

***In eating and drinking
this life-giving sacrament
we are all fed by God's love.***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God.
***It is right to give
our thanks and praise.***

God of grace and tenderness,
Jesus offers bread of life to all of us;
though we offer the cross to him,
he graces us with life;
though we would divide each other
by class, race, gender, or condition,
he calls us to oneness in you.

Holy God of wonder,
feed us with the bread of life,
so we might share food with those

who know true hunger;
as your justice shines
in the shadows of our hearts,
may we light the way
for the lost and despised;

as you reshape our brokenness
into wholeness,
may we bind up
the wounds of our world.

And so we give you thanks,
joining with the whole creation
in the eternal hymn :

*Holy, holy, holy,
compassionate God,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of our God.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.*

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/ POURING OF WINE

Long ago,
Jesus came
in the humble birth of a child,
a child of amazing and divine love,
a child of our humanity.

*We pledge ourselves
to be embodiments
of the dream Jesus lived.*

Long ago,
Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:
 ‘This bread is broken,
 as my body will be’.

And he handed it to his friends,
 ‘Remember all
 that I have been to you’.

Long ago,
Jesus poured a cup of wine,
offered thanks for it,
gave it to his friends and said,
 ‘This wine is poured out
 as my life will be poured out.
 As you drink give thanks
 for all I have given’.

Loving God,
it is through your unceasing love
we have this bread and wine to offer.

May this gathering
of your community of faith, O God,
be fed, comforted and empowered.
 *May we as your people express
 the courage and the generosity
 that characterised Jesus’ life.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take
is a sharing in the life blood of Christ.

The gifts of God
for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENT

The body of Christ given for us.
The life of Christ poured out for us.

FINAL PRAYER

God of mercy and amazing grace,
in the warmth of Summer
we are grateful
for your presence, enlivening us.
We pray your presence
will feed and sustain us
to follow in the way of Jesus, *Amen.*

HYMN *Child in a Manger (TiS 319)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoOYruvK-Dc>

Child in the manger, infant of Mary
Outcast and Stranger, Christ of us all
Child Who inherits all our transgressions
All our demerits upon Him fall

Once the most holy Child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived here below
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer
See him victorious over each foe

Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder
Angels behold Him on His throne
Worthy our Savior of all our praises
Happy forever are His own

BLESSING

Go into the world
with a new sense of determination
as we move closer
towards the promise
of Jesus' birth.
And may our voice for the Christ
be full of grace,

our celebration of the Creator
be enlivened with hope
and the Holy Spirit
lead us from the future
and out of unexpected new life.
Amen.