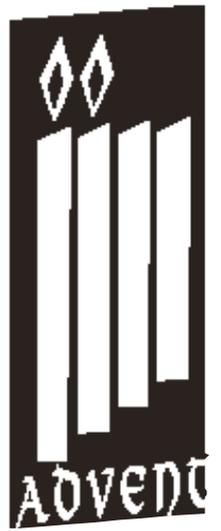




The Anglican Church of Australia  
Diocese of Wangaratta  
**The Parish of Kilmore**  
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook  
**7th December 2014**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**



**HYMNS: 276, 270, 647, 275,**

*Welcome to any guests to our worship  
please stay and enjoy hospitality with us after the service.*



*Introit hymn*

Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

We are the body of Christ

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

## *Advent candle Liturgy*

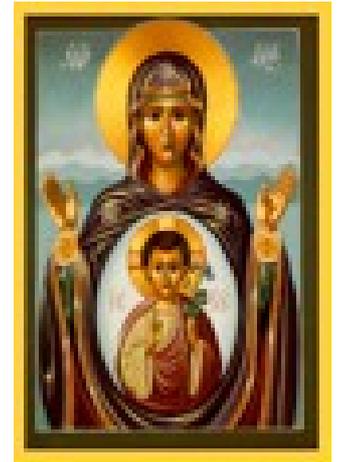
### **Second Sunday of Advent**

Last Sunday we lit the first candle - the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**[The second candle, the candle of peace is lit.]**

[All Sing]

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



**[The people are invited to join in the dialogue responses.]**

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,

**We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.**

Show us the creative power of hope.

**Teach us the peace that comes from justice.**

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

**That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Take your encouragement from Christ,  
that your joy may be complete.

**We will share in the Spirit;**

**We will find consolation in love.**

Practice a ministry of humility and compassion

For God is at work in you, empowering you

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.**

**We will live lives worthy of the Gospel.**

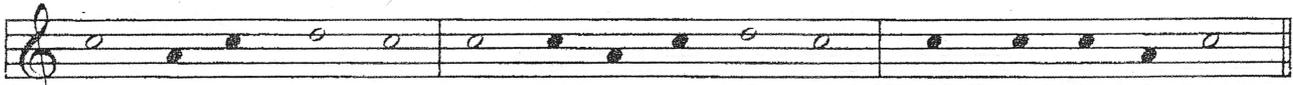
*The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book*

## SENTENCE

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. *Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a*

## Trisagion

All:



Ho - ly and migh-ty, Ho - ly and im-mor-tal, Have mer-cy on us.

## THE COLLECT

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 40.1-11**

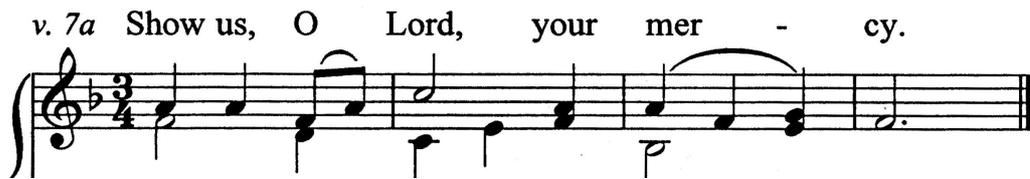
*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah*

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.” You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Response: Show us, O Lord your mercy.**



Lord, you were gracious to your land;  
 you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
 You forgave the offence of your people  
 and covered all their sins./R

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,  
 for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,  
 that they turn not again to folly.  
 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
 that his glory may dwell in our land./R

Mercy and truth are met together,  
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other;  
 Truth shall spring up from the earth  
 and righteousness look down from heaven./R

The Lord will indeed give all that is good,  
 and our land will yield its increase.  
 Righteousness shall go before him  
 and direct his steps in the way./R

## SECOND READING

## 2 Peter 3.8-15a

*A reading from the second letter of Peter*

Peter writes, Dear friends, do not forget this one thing: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prepare the way | of the Lord.

All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

**Mark 1.1-8**

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

For the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Loving God, be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit; clear your road in us; clear a path through the debris of possessions and obsessions; thrust aside our divided aims and devious games; topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts that deride. Make a highway on which Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our being.

O Holy One, you call us to prepare your way, help us to respond; **and hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, open the ears and eyes of the leaders of all the nations that they may hear your prophets, for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you; we pray for the peoples of suffering indignity and destruction of terror and war; for peoples ravaged by poverty; for those inflicted with disease, and we continue our prayer for all impacted by Ebola and HIV and AIDS praying especially for children and orphans; may they know the comfort of your strength. We pray for the endeavours of all who care for the sick and those researching treatments.

O Holy One, you call us to prepare your way, help us to respond; **and hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, through your messengers, the prophets, you have called your people to prepare the way of the Lord and to welcome the good news of Jesus Christ. Speak tenderly to your people that we may wait for and hasten the coming day, bless those who minister in your name; John our Bishop and our parish; inspire us to lead lives of holiness and godliness as we prepare for new heavens and a new earth, so that when Christ comes he finds us to be a people of peace and justice.

O Holy One, you call us to prepare your way, help us to respond; **and hear our prayer.**

God of all wisdom and power, we pray for those tasked with leadership; for politicians and civil leaders; for Premier Hon Daniel Andrews, our local member Stephanie Ryan, and all those elected to our State government; imbue them with wisdom and compassion that all may share with justice the resources of the land.

O Holy One, you call us to prepare your way, help us to respond; **and hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, look upon the needs of all humanity; the homeless, the unemployed, the lost and the lonely; for the sick and the suffering; those in despair and grief, and those nearing their days' end; bless them and all those who care for the sick; we give thanks for healing and blessings received.

O Holy One, you call us to prepare your way, help us to respond; **and hear our prayer.**

Comfort, O God, those we name on our lips and in our hearts, and those who have requested prayer;

**Request for prayer from:** *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Alex Impols, Cathy Moseley, & Melissa & family, Seth Gunther, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Tom Scrivens, Dianne Mitsakis, Gavin Linard, Rose & Paige Linard, and Anna & Keith Linard, Mark Bennetts, Barry Watts, Lidia, Katie, Abraham & Anne Formosa, Peter Jones.....* speak tenderly to them and those who love and care for them.

O Holy One, you call us to prepare your way, help us to respond; **and hear our prayer.**

Ever-present God, lift up your voice with power to herald good tidings and welcome to all who have recently departed and for those years minds occurring at this time...

**Year's mind:** *7th Edith Whittingslow; 8th Ray Jackson, Eric Baumont; 9th Michele Potts, Tara Alexander; 10th Clarence Parkinson; 12th William Isbidter, Grace Patterson, Harry Lazarus.*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

O Holy One, you call us to prepare your way, help us to respond; **and hear our prayer.**

O God our comforter and guide, look upon your creation and come to your people in the silence of our fear and hear us as we pray for ourselves .....; let

every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; let the uneven ground become level and the rough places a plain, that all people may see the revelation of the glory of God, that is to come in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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### **Reflections on the Readings**

This second week of Advent places the emphasis on those who announce God's coming, and the important role they play in preparing people for the divine encounter. In Isaiah, a herald is announced who will bring comfort to God's people by proclaiming that God's coming is as a caring and nurturing Shepherd. In Peter's letter, he acts a messenger of God's grace, encouraging the believers to live in hope and righteousness, trusting in God's mercy and the certainty of God's coming, even though it may seem that God is delaying. In the Psalm, God's people are encouraged to listen to what God is saying and not go back to ways of wickedness. Finally, in Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist comes on the scene and is described as a fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the coming of the One whom God sends to baptise God's people in the Holy Spirit. Messengers like these have always been an important part of God's "strategy" for working in human affairs. There are always those who are called to prepare others for God's coming and to announce what God is doing. The challenge in this Advent season, is in that there are so many distractions at this time of year. The festive atmosphere, the giving of gifts, the holidays and family gatherings all vie for our attention and flood us with expectations and values that we are invited to adopt. Perhaps this Advent we can consider a different way to view our calling to prepare the way of the Lord in both word and action. It is God who is present and to be found in the midst of our celebrations, and it is God who seeks to connect with us. We can invite people to prepare their hearts to encounter this God; we can offer people ways to become more aware of God's presence in the midst of our celebrations, and we can invite them into the life that comes from embracing the values and principles of God's reign. This means we need to recognise the ways in which we are called to be messengers to our world in our time and to take action.

*Adapted from John van de Laar (2014) [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)*

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## **Notices**

**Christ Church Singing Group** rehearsal 7.00pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Empty Christmas Tree** during Advent in Christ Church welcomes donations of Christmas gifts for Anglicare. Wrapped gifts, need to be labelled girl/boy & age and what age range.

**Festival of Lessons and Carols at Christ Church 6.30 pm 21st December** with Church 4 Kids, and the Christ Church Singers. BBQ from 5.00pm. All welcome, bring friends and family.

**Rosters for Christ Church** - the rosters for 2015 need to be completed. They are on the table at the back of the Church. Please fill in your availability.

**Parish Council Christmas Dinner** 7pm Wednesday 17 December, Gavan Hall; partners welcome - RSVP to Fr Kim asap.

## Christmas Services

Sunday 14 December	7pm	Community Carols	St Stephens, Tallarook
Thursday 18 December	2.30pm 4.00pm	Christmas Service	Caladenia Dianella
Sunday 21 December	5.00 BBQ 6.30pm	Carol Service	Christ Church
Wednesday 24 December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Matthews, Broadford
Thursday 25 December	9.00am	Christmas Mass	Christ Church, Kilmore
	11.00am	Christmas Mass	St Stephens, Tallarook
	4.00pm	Christmas Mass	Transfiguration, Pyalong

## Parish life this week

Second week of December

Monday 8th [*Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Richard Baxter; pastor & writer (d.1691)*]

Wednesday 10th 10.00am Holy Eucharist - Christ Church, Seymour

Thursday 11th    10.00am Eucharist, St Matthews  
                       10.00am Eucharist, Willowmeade  
                       4.00pm Eucharist, Dianella

Friday 12th        10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House

Saturday 13th     [*Lucy, martyr and virgin (d. 304)*]  
                       10.00am - 12.30pm Op Shop, Church House

<b>SERVICES</b>		
<b>Next Sunday: 14th December 2014 - Third Sunday of Advent</b>		
Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11; Ps 126; I Thessalonians 5.12-29; John 1.6-8, 19-28		
Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
	7pm	Community Carols
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day

## Parish Clergy:

**Rector** Revd Dr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155  
 m 0407569343; [kim@revkim.org](mailto:kim@revkim.org)

**Priest (PTO)** Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett St Broadford 3658  
 Ph 5784 2224

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764

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