

Advent Candle Liturgy

First Sunday of Advent

Leader

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ, and then the Christ Candle at Christmas. It is significant that the church has always used that language - the *coming* of Christ - because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is *always* coming, *always* entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so as we light the first candle, the candle of hope; we dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

[The first candle, the Candle of Hope is lit]

[All sing]

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season;
**we open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.**

May the candle of hope burning in our lives;
reveal the creative power of hope.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you;
that we may walk in the light of Christ.

For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this; Christ is coming!

Christ is always coming!

We welcome Christ into our hearts;

Come Lord Jesus, come!



The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. *Isaiah 2.3a*

THE COLLECT

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64.1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins for ever. Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19

Response: Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts and we shall be saved.

Response

cf. v. 4b Show the light of your coun - te - nance, O Lord God of
hosts, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh./R

Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.
Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved./R

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink./R

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down,
perish at the rebuke of your countenance./R

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your name./R

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

I, Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes; To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God is able to provide you with every blessing | in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything,
you may share abundantly in ev- | 'ry good work.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13.24-37

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake!’

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord Jesus Christ, we are told how so many looked forward to your coming, but how it became harder to go on believing as the years went by; how hope started to splutter and dreams began to die until, finally, you came – the fulfillment of God’s prophecy the culmination of God’s love.

Lord of all, the Word made flesh; **bring hope again to your world today.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gladness how you brought hope throughout your ministry; we pray for all who minister, for prophets, pastors priests and deacons, for Bishops and all who exercise authority in your church, we pray for John our Bishop and our parish, that we too may be expressions of faith and hope.

Lord of all, the Word made flesh; **bring hope again to your world today.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the peoples of the world; for those caught in the grip of despair, the future bleak, and trust futile; for those broken by war and terror, for those who lament the destruction of families and homes.

Lord of all, the Word made flesh; **bring hope again to your world today.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we recall with gladness how you brought hope and a sense of purpose to those for whom life seemed pointless – the poor, the sick, the outcast and the broken-hearted, for those who suffer and those who cry out in pain. We commend to you all seeking your solace and hope; for those know to us 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, and Jeanne Jones.*

We give thanks for healing blessings wherever received and we give praise and thanksgiving for the newborn son of Steve and Catherine Farrell.

Lord of all, the Word made flesh; **bring hope again to your world today.**

We give thanks for your servants of every time and place; teach us to follow their example of faithfulness, and we commend to your mercy and keeping the recently departed and those years mind occurring at this time;

Year's mind: *30th Raymond Spiers, Stan Pawlicki; Dec 1st Paul Sutton; 2nd Lillian Evans; 3rd Esma Woods, Albert Boyd; 4th Hilda Maher, Nell Pearce; 5th Angus Cooper (priest), 6th George Poulter, Joan McLean, Edward Kennard.*

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

Lord of all, the Word made flesh; **bring hope again to your world today.**

Jesus our Christ, we remember your promise to come again in glory, the culmination of God's purpose, the ultimate victory of God's love; hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; grant us a stronger faith, brighter vision, and greater assurance of your coming into the world. We pray in the name of the one who comes in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Reflections on Advent

And so the year starts again, and as usual, we begin with the end – the vision of God's reign consummated in Christ. To be fair, though, Mark's Gospel does not give us a vision of some future second coming of Christ so much as it gives us a vision of the events that the early church had to navigate as they witnessed the might of Rome

crush their nation. But, whether we speak of a vision of God’s reign in the midst of the turmoil of the past, or a vision of God’s reign coming in the midst of the turmoil of the future, the essential message remains the same – God is always coming to us, and the world’s turmoil does not stop us from knowing and experiencing God’s reign right here and now. Repentance, alertness and God’s coming are particularly relevant themes for the world as it stands today. There is a growing sense that our systems – economic, political, military, international, educational and medical – must change. Many movements in the last few years have called, essentially, for a global repentance – an acknowledgement of how the systems we have built have brought harm and suffering on most of the people in our world, and a commitment to change. There is also a constant cry for us to be more conscious and aware as human beings – of our place in this interconnected world, conscious of the consequences of our actions, conscious of others and how their needs intersect with our own, and need to take responsibility for our greed. There is also a growing call for a greater spiritual consciousness – a greater awareness of the call of God to serve and love one another, and to honour the way God has come to others who are different from us. Finally, there is the growing sense of the need for healthy, life-bringing spirituality – an appreciative awareness of God’s grace and compassion, and of God’s saving presence which is always coming to us – in our world. This Advent Sunday is an amazing opportunity for us to take stock of our faith, our lives, our compliance with broken systems, to work for justice and change, and commit to being agents of God’s coming to where we are. And underlying all of this challenge is the hope we have in Christ – that God is working in our world with purpose, and that we are participants in bringing the reign of Christ into reality in our world. May we have the grace and the humility to do this important re-evaluative work. *Adapted from John van de Laar (2014) sacredise.com*

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

Notices

Christ Church Singing Group rehearsal 7.00pm Wednesday Christ Church
Property Committee – meetings are suspended until next year.

Monthly Parish BBQs - the BBQs are suspended until February.

Festival of Lessons and Carols at Christ Church 6.30pm 21st December

Sunday 21st December is the annual Festival of Carols at Christ Church, with the children from Church 4 Kids, and the Singers. 5.00pm BBQ.

Faith Enhancement Study Group has concluded for the year.

Parish life this week

First week of December

Monday 1st [Andrew, Apostle and Martyr]
 Tuesday 2nd [*Frances Perry, founder of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne (d. 1892)*]
 7.00pm Wardens' Meeting Gavan Hall
 Wednesday 3rd [*Francis Xavier, priest and missionary (1506-1552)*]
 10.00am Holy Eucharist - Christ Church, Seymour
 7.00pm Christmas Singing Group rehearsal – Christ Church
 Thursday 4th [*Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, man of prayer (d. 1637)*]
 10.00am Eucharist, St Matthews
 10.00am Eucharist, Willowmeade
 2.30pm Eucharist, Caladenia
 4.00pm Eucharist, Dianella
 Friday 5th 11.00am Deanery Meeting & Lunch St Matthew's Broadford
 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House
 5.00pm Carols in the Park - Kilmore
 Saturday 29th [*Nicholas of Myra, bishop and philanthropist (d.c. 342)*]
 10.00am - 12.30pm Op Shop, Church House

SERVICES

Next Sunday: 7th December 2014 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40.1-11; Ps 85.1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration	4pm	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy:

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STOP PRESS: - The government's "Caseload Bill" is to be debated in the Senate next week, which will drastically affect asylum

seekers and children in detention. People are urged to send postcards to Senators urging them to vote against the Bill. See the Asylum Seeker Project website for more info. Post cards available back of the Church.