

The Anglican Church of Australia  
Diocese of Wangaratta  
**The Parish of Kilmore**  
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook  
**13th December 2015**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



**Hymns: 201, 264, 647, 272**

*A warm welcome to everyone, please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.*



*Introit Hymn from the red Hymn Book*

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

**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*

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

### **[The third candle, the candle of Joy is lit.]**

[All Sing]

*O come, O key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*



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

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,  
**trusting that this is how you made us:  
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.**

Show us the creative power of hope.

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

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

**Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice  
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.

**We will find what makes us joyful,  
And make that our gift to the world.**

Trust in God's good will for all of creation  
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

**We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.**

**We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.**

**We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

*The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book*

## **SENTENCE**

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. *Zephaniah 3.16–17*

### *Invitation to Confession*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

### **The Trisagion** *[following the Confession and Absolution]*

Cantor:  
Ho - ly God,

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

### **THE COLLECT**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

### **Zephaniah 3.14-20**

[A call for God's people to rejoice because God has restored, forgiven, and now lives in the midst of them, bringing them joy and healing, and including all the marginalised and oppressed ones.]

*A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah*

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, 'Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.' 'I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,' says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God**

## FOR THE PSALM


## Song of Isaiah

[A song of praise for the God who is the salvation of God's people, their strength and shield, who does glorious things for God's people, and is great among them.]

**Response: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Alan Rees

**Response**  
v. 3 With joy you will draw wa - ter from the wells of sal - va - tion.



'Behold, God is my salvation;  
I will trust and will not be afraid;  
'For the Lord God is my strength and my might,  
he has become my salvation.'/R

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.  
And you will say, on that day:  
'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;  
'Make known his deeds among the nations,  
proclaim that his name is exalted./R

'Sing praises to the Lord,  
for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.  
'Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 4.4-7

[Rejoice, pray and give thanks, and God's peace will fill you, for God is near.]

*A reading from the letter to the Philippians*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

I am sending my messenger before you,  
who will prepare your way before you.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

**Luke 3.7-18**

[John the Baptist confronts the people about their corruption and injustice, and challenges them to change their lives. When they ask what they must do, he calls them to generosity, justice and compassion. When the people think he might be the Messiah, John tells them that he is not, but that one is coming after him who will baptise them with the Holy Spirit.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father.” For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’ ‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked. John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’ Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’ ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them. ‘Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’ He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

God of Joy, as we continue this Advent journey amidst the commercials, the cooking, and the company, keep us focussed on you and the coming of your son, Jesus; may the words of John the Baptist help us to hear our need for true repentance as we wait in expectation.

In joyful expectation of his coming we pray to Jesus, saying, Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

God of Joy, we pray for your world and for the peoples of the nations; for those who live in fear and anxiety, those marginalised and traumatised by discrimination and stigma; for all refugees and those seeking asylum and for those who offer

sanctuary; we give thanks for the progress at the Paris UN climate change negotiations.

In joyful expectation of his coming we pray to Jesus, saying, Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

God of Joy, we pray this day for those longing for spiritual renewal; for your Church and all who seek your grace and joy; for our Diocese and all who minister; for John our Bishop, our clergy and our parish; invigorate us and encourage us to do the work to which we were baptised; we pray for Declan Hopkins newly baptised and his family and Godparents as he begins his journey of faith.

In joyful expectation of his coming we pray to Jesus, saying, Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

God of Joy, we pray for our nation and the diversity of people who call Australia home; even as we share our joy with one another, keep us mindful of those for whom joy is hard to find, for the homeless and the unemployed; for those who struggle to pay the bills; for those in dysfunctional relationships; for those suffering abuse, and for those who would abuse.

In joyful expectation of his coming we pray to Jesus, saying, Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

God of Joy, we pray for those who know no joy, for the lost and the lonely, the aged and the infirmed; for all living with pain and illness; for those mourning lost loved ones especially the McDougall family; for all in need, those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

*Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Tom Scrivens, Franca Caia, Tom & Sandra Davidson, Bianca Davidson, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Seth Gunter, Barbara Kaye, Sarah, Lisa, Alex Impols, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mark Bennetts, Penny, Belinda Shannon, Eric Javor, the Bott Family, Bruce Scott, Susan, Adrian Walsh.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

In joyful expectation of his coming we pray to Jesus, saying, Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

God of joy, we pray for all who now dwell in your eternal presence, for the recently departed, for Marjorie McDougall, and for those whose years mind occurs at this time;

*14th Jane Rasmussen, Robert Freestone; 15th Karen Quinelly; 16th Kenneth Hammond, Silvie Knight; 17th Emmy Marschalli, Andrew Bulman, William Potts; 18th Jeffrey Morgan, Robert Pratt, Gladys Martin, Elsie Chuter, Dianne Humm; 19th Roy Sobey.*

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

In joyful expectation of his coming we pray to Jesus, saying, Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

God of joy, as your servant John the Baptist called your people to baptism of repentance and proclaimed the good news of your coming; hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; encourage us as we wait to receive with joy your Son as our redeemer and to lead us to righteousness for the glory of your name. **Amen.**

## Reflections on the readings

John the Baptist's message, challenges us to live with justice and compassion and is the central focus of this week. The same basic message resonates through all of the passages. In Zephaniah, the song speaks of God's restoration and forgiveness, but makes a point of embracing those who are vulnerable and marginalised specifically in the vision of God's grace. Similarly, Isaiah's message speaks of God's salvation and the rejoicing that comes to those whom God has restored. In Philippians, the believers are called to a life of rejoicing, prayer and thanksgiving because of God's nearness, and the assurance is offered that this life brings unspeakable peace. Finally, in the Gospel, John makes it clear that God's coming is not just a joyous event in which we are accepted and forgiven with no cost on our part. Rather, God's people are also called to change their lives in accordance with God's saving purpose, essentially becoming agents of God's salvation to one another. This is the message of this week. Yes, God is always coming to us, bringing salvation and life. But, this coming calls for a response from us in which we commit to lives that share grace and salvation, that empower and restore one another through acts of justice and compassion. If we really believe that God's reign has come in Christ, we cannot help but recognise the need for this to change and direct our lives.

*Adapted from John van de Laar (2015) [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)*

## Christmas Services

<b>Sunday 13 December</b>	7pm	Community Carols	St Stephens, Tallarook
<b>Thursday 17 December</b>	10.00am 4.00pm 5.30pm	Christmas Service	Willowmeade Dianella Caladenia
<b>Sunday 20 December</b>	5.00 BBQ 6.30pm	Festival of Carols	Christ Church, Kilmore
<b>Thursday 24 December</b>	5.00pm	Christmas Mass	Transfiguration, Pyalong
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Matthews, Broadford
<b>Friday 25 December</b>	9.00am	Christmas Mass	Christ Church, Kilmore
	11.00am	Christmas Mass	St Stephens, Tallarook

## NOTICES

**Parish BBQ** 12.30pm TODAY - host Beris Hannam, 37/33 The Elms Blvd, Kilmore. Bring & share cold meats, salads, sweets.

**TONIGHT 7.00pm** Community Carols @ St Stephen's Tallarook

**Christmas Singers Rehearsal** Tuesday 6.30pm at Christ Church - some really lovely pieces to prepare for the Festival of Carols.

## Parish life this week

Monday 14th	<i>[John of the Cross, mystic &amp; teacher (d. 1591)]</i>
Tuesday 15th	11.00am Funeral Service St Matthews 12.30pm St Matthews Friendship Group Christmas Lunch 6.30pm Christ Church Singers rehearsal
Wednesday 16th	7.00pm Parish Council Christmas Dinner - Gavan Hall
Thursday 17th	10.00am Eucharist, St Matthews 10.00am Christmas Eucharist, Willowmeade 4.00pm Eucharist, Dianella 5.30pm Christmas Carol Service, Caladenia
Friday 18th	10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House 11.30am Op Shop Volunteers Christmas Breakup 7.00pm Faith Enhancement Advent Study
Saturday 19th	10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

### SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

**20th December 2015 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5.2-5a; Song of Mary; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-55

<b>Christ Church</b>	9.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Eucharist BBQ for Church4Kids Festival of Carols
<b>St Matthews</b>	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
<b>St Stephens</b>	11.00am	Morning Prayer
<b>Transfiguration</b>	4.00pm	No Service this day

### Parish Clergy

**Rector** Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764 Ph 5782 1155  
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**Honorary Deacon** Revd Maryann Leonard, 49 Chloe Drive, Broadford, 3658  
Ph 0439 066 553; [maryann.leonard@bigpond.com](mailto:maryann.leonard@bigpond.com)

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

P O Box 289 Kilmore 3764

Visit our website [www.anglicankilmore.org.au](http://www.anglicankilmore.org.au)



Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning.