



The Anglican Church of Australia  
Diocese of Wangaratta  
**The Parish of Kilmore**  
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook  
**20th December 2015**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**Hymns: 269, 302, 295 [Tune 83], 272**

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



*The Annunciation*

*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*

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

We have lit three candles: one for hope, one for peace, and one for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognise in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

***[The fourth candle, the candle of Love is lit.]***

[All Sing]

*O come, Thou 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 thee, O Israel.*



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

Loving God, we open ourselves to you in this Christmas season.

**As this candle is lit, light our lives with your imagination.**

Show us the creative power of hope;

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

Fill us with joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared;

**magnify your love within us.**

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

**that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

May we know the hope, the peace, the joy, the love, and the certain knowledge  
**that God is always coming into the world.**

We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,

**but in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;

**may the peace of the season pervade all that you do.**

**We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.**

*The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book*

### **SENTENCE**

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. Luke 1.45

### *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**

Gracious God,

you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son: as we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Micah 5.2-5a**

[Though Bethlehem is insignificant in Judah, a ruler will come from this town, whose origins are ancient, and who will shepherd God's people in God's strength, giving them peace and security.]

*A reading from the book of the prophet Micah*

'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.' Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God**



sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Here I am, the servant | of the Lord;

let it be with me according | to your word.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 1.39-45**

[Unborn John leaps in Elizabeth's womb when the pregnant Mary comes to visit. In response Elizabeth celebrates Mary and the way God has blessed her, even as the child she carries is blessed.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Everloving God, how to understand the mystery of your love? How can we ever estimate the value of your compassion and mercy? You come to us as you did to Mary and Joseph; in our weaknesses and brokennesses, in our strengths and wholenesses. We find in your touch support and creative energy. In our fears and suffering, in our joys and pleasures, we find the moistness of your tears, and the percussion of your laughter. In our failures and despair, in our successes and dreams, we find the comfort of your forgiveness, and the inspiration of your Spirit. These are gifts beyond measure, so we respond with joyful praise at the promise of the precious gift of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of promise and hope; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, may your light reach into the darkest places of the world, so there may be hope rather than despair, joy rather than sorrow, and love rather than hatred; we continue our prayer for the people seeking sanctuary from war and terror and all who will suffer the effects winter in Eurasia and the Middle East; we pray for all countries seeking to implement climate change strategies.

God of promise and hope; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for your Church, for those seeking to spread the good news of the promise of peace in the coming Messiah; we pray for our Diocese; for Bishop John and the clergy and people of this parish; may we always be ready as we wait with expectation to greet the Saviour at his birth.

God of promise and hope; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for young people and parents as they commence their vacation - may they be safe; we pray for those who find Christmas brings anxiety and fear, for those who are alone and fearful; for those working the land as they struggle with unpredictability and difficult circumstances; for the unemployed and those who find they have overextended their resources for Christmas.

God of promise and hope; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for those who find preparations for Christmas daunting and fearsome; for the poor and the marginalised; those who find themselves unemployed and for the homeless; for those in dysfunctional families; those impacted by abuse and those who would abuse.

God of promise and hope; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, hear our prayer for the sick and the suffering and those in trouble or distress; enable us to be among those who care for them, and who find you in them; pray 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, Elizabeth, Mark Bennetts, Penny, Belinda Shannon, the Bott Family, Bruce Scott, Susan, Adrian Walsh.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

God of promise and hope; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you welcome the faithful into your eternal kingdom, we pray for the recently departed, and for those whose years mind occurs at this time;

*20th William Mandel, Neville Payne, Ian Poulter; 23rd Keven Elson, McGregor Kean, Edie Pattinson, Rick Calliste; 24th Edna Moore, Kathy Hincks, Hohn Kirby; 25th Christine Marshall, Alan Tomlinson.*

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

God of promise and hope; **hear our prayer.**

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour; hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; make our hearts leap with joy, and fill us with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome of the Christ in our midst. **Amen.**

## Reflections on the readings

There's a temptation contained in this week's readings to view salvation as God's work of rescue for which we do nothing but receive. Of course, on one level, we are nothing more than recipients of God's grace. But, the Gospel does not portray God as a super hero who swoops into save us while we just look on in amazement. In the Micah reading, a shepherd is promised for God's people. This is God's work. But, that shepherd comes from an insignificant town, which means that the work of this shepherd will require response from the people to whom he comes. In the Hebrews reading, Jesus is revealed as the one who obeys and sacrifices in order to save us, but this is placed in the context of a discourse around covenant and our response to the work of Christ which makes us holy. Finally, in the Gospel, Mary's visit to Elizabeth is testimony to the divine initiative in both the birth of John and of Jesus, but both mothers are participants in the process of incarnation, and Mary's song reveals that, although God is the Saviour, the justice that God brings happens as it takes hold of the lives of people. The challenge this week, then, is to recognise God's work without becoming mere apathetic spectators of God's salvation. We are called to be participants with God in God's saving work, starting with our own lives as we respond in faith and repentance to the sacrifice of Christ. Then, once we have allowed God's Reign to be conceived in us (like Mary), we become participants in the process of salvation, seeking through our attitudes and actions to bring salvation and justice to others in whatever way we can. So, God's Reign comes to us, and then through us to others. Christ sacrifices himself for us, and then we sacrifice ourselves for others. God is born within us, and then we become midwives helping to birth God in others and in our world.

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



## NOTICES

**Festival of Carols tonight** - Please come with family and friends, children are welcome to dress up and participate in the tableau. Supper will be served, please bring a plate.

**Christmas Hamper Raffle** - to help defray costs of the Festival of Carols. Tickets \$1 Raffle will be drawn at the supper.

**Op Shop Operating hours** - Closed Friday 25<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December; Friday 1<sup>st</sup> & Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Reopen Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Please limit or delay deliveries between 19<sup>th</sup> December and 7<sup>th</sup> January as lack of storage space and can cause a health hazard for the volunteer workers.

### Parish life this week

Monday 21st [Thomas Apostle & Martyr]  
Thursday 24th 10.00am Eucharist, Willowmeade  
11.00am Christmas Service, Willowmeade  
4.00pm Christmas Eucharist, Dianella  
Friday 25th Op Shop Closed  
Saturday 26th Op Shop Closed

<b>SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY</b>		
<b>27th December 2015 – First Sunday After Christmas</b>		
I Samuel 2.18-20,26; Ps 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2. 41-52		
<b>Christ Church</b>	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
<b>St Matthews</b>	11.00am	Morning Prayer
<b>St Stephens</b>	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
<b>Transfiguration</b>	4.00pm	No Service this day

### Parish Clergy

**Rector** Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764 Ph 5782 1155  
m 0407 569 343; [rector@anglicankilmore.org.au](mailto:rector@anglicankilmore.org.au)

**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.