

First Sunday of Advent

Minister:

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. 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 we light the first candle, the candle of **hope**, and 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.**

Show us the creative power of hope.

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

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection,
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 will welcome Christ into our hearts.

We will seek to let ourselves be filled with his spirit.

We will go forth from this place in hope.

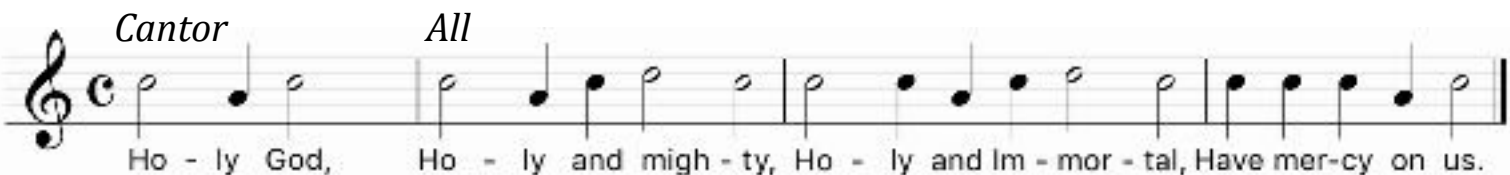
The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

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*



FOR THE GOSPEL - TRISAGION



THE COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2. 1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: in the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

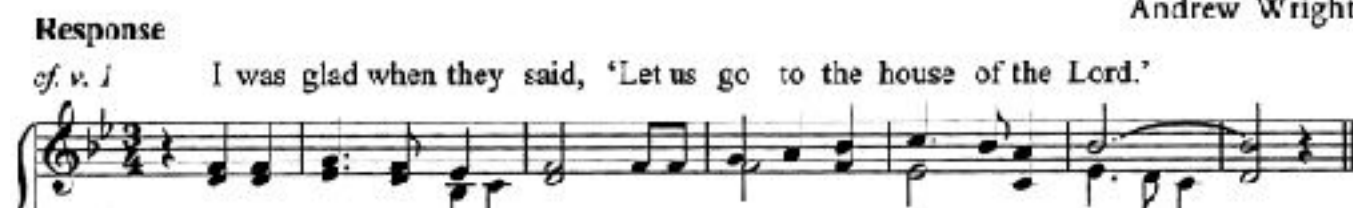
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122

Response: I was glad when they said, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

Andrew Wright



I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem;/R
Jerusalem, built as a city that is at unity in itself.
Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there are set the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David./R

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.
'Peace be within your walls and tranquillity within your palaces.'/R

For my kindred and companions' sake,
I will pray that peace be with you.
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good./R

SECOND READING

Romans 13.9-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Paul writes, 'The commandments are, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Show us your steadfast | love, O Lord,
and grant us | your salvation.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 24. 36-44

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Arouse us, O God, and prepare us for your coming into the world, that we may willingly cooperate in your work of healing and reconciliation.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **let us walk in the light of Christ.**

Gracious and loving One, grant your Church the gift of peace, that glad people may go to the house of God where you will teach us your ways, bless our Diocese, John our Bishop, our parish and all who minister in your name.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Almighty One, judge between the nations and mediate for all peoples suffering conflict and war; that all in authority will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and nation not lift up sword against nation, and not learn war any more; we continue our prayer for peace in the Middle East and we pray for all refugees and displaced persons.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the sacred touch and spark that vitalises all living things; be with us in our celebration of life and help us to be good custodians of your creation, and mindful stewards of your resources; pray for all who suffer indignity and injustice in the world; we pray for the people of United States coming to terms with new leadership.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Compassionate One, inspire us to respond to the needs of our community and grant us your grace so that none of your people shall feel unwanted or unloved; for all who suffer indignity and injustice.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Wounded Healer, come; bind up all broken bodies and wounded spirits, that the sick and the sorrowing may be comforted and restored; on this coming World AIDS Day we pray for the 35 million people worldwide living with HIV and AIDS and those who care for them; for those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Eunice Downie, Carey Bickoff, Lorraine Lipson; Anne Rose, Sarah Davidson, Nathan and Sarah.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Eternal One, bring into the fullness of your light those who have died, the recently departed, and those whose years mind occurring at this time.

27th Jessie Foster, Sylvia Bannon; 28th Thelma Wajsbrum, William Ludlow; 29th Rita Castles, Edward Ryan; 30th Raymond Speirs, Stan Pawlicki, Kathleen Kirk; Dec 1st Paul Sutton, 2nd Lillian Evans, 3rd Eda Woods, Albert Boyd.

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

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Come to us in judgment and grace, O God, and us as we pray for ourselves...., arouse us to your purpose, to be instruments of your peace, ready to meet the Son of Man at an unexpected hour, in the power of your Spirit.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.**

Hymn: There Is a Mighty Question Tune 595 76.76 D

1. There is a mighty question we ask when nations rage:
Just when will be Christ's coming, the ending of the age?
Take care, said Jesus clearly, for many will appear;
They'll claim to be Messiah, yet people should not fear.
2. For in the days of Noah, the people went along
In eating and in drinking, in merriment and song —
Then suddenly the world changed with great, surprising power;
So too will be Christ's coming, and no one knows the hour.
3. So keep awake and watchful; salvation is at hand!
Our hope is in Christ Jesus, and by God's grace we stand.
The night is almost over, we wait for God's new day,
And through the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus' way.
4. Be ready in your living, for when you feed the poor,
Or give to thirsty children the water they long for,
And when you welcome strangers and help the ones in need,
Christ says: "Receive my kingdom, for you are serving me."

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Reflections on the readings

The first Sunday in Advent is generally considered to be a time when we consider the Return of Christ. While the Scriptures definitely do call us to consider Christ's return, and to place our hope in his coming, how we answer this call can make a huge difference to how we live our lives. If we make the return of Christ the "real thing" after the "curtain raiser" of life here and now, we inevitably devalue this world and the lives we live in it. If we become obsessed with predicting the time and manner of Christ's coming, we lose touch with the world we are called to serve now. And if we make too much of the future return of Christ, we may end up missing God's coming to us in the midst of our daily routines now. In too many ways the life of Christians and their churches simply reflects the values and beliefs of the societies around us. To look at us, you wouldn't know that we wait and work for a different world, and hold out the hope of peace and justice. So this must mean us living our faith in the coming of Christ, seeking ways to express hope in all we do and say, inviting others into a hope-filled way of living. It means embracing a life of simple, daily justice – reducing our personal carbon footprints through modesty and simplicity; bringing peace through the practices of forgiveness, negotiation and listening; seeking justice through serving those in need and challenging injustice wherever we find it in our communities, meanwhile being ready – looking for every coming of Christ into our lives and world, and noticing and proclaiming the presence of Christ whenever we can. If we can do this, we become the fulfilment of the prophecies in this week's readings.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2016) <http://sacredise.com>

Notices

Meditation Service today at 5pm with supper in the Rectory - this will be the final service for the year.

Advent Study commences this Tuesday at 7.30pm for three weeks at Caroline Burge's home, 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore. The same study will be offered this Wednesday at 2pm at Piva House, Broadford. Contact the clergy for details.

St Andrew's Day - Wednesday 30th November Eucharist to be celebrated at 6.00pm at Christ Church marking Fr Kim's 40 years of priesthood.

Singers for the Festivals of Carols are now rehearsing this week Monday and Wednesday 7.30pm- please contact Kathleen Taylor or the Clergy.

Parish Fete St Matthews Broadford, Saturday, 10th December

Still some time to pot up cuttings for the plant stall, make preserves, jams and start to fill bottles for the bottles stall. Enquires contact Edie Simpson, 57841246, or John Patterson, 57843284.



Five Cent Coin and postage stamps collection for missions

please invite family and friends to contribute their coins and stamps as well. Collecting receptacles at the back of the Church.

Direct Debit/EFT Offerings: Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'. BSB 063-698. Account Number 1018 4649.

UPCOMING EVENTS

29 November	Advent Study commences
10 December	Christmas Parish Fete St Matthews
11 December	Festival of Carols Christ Church
18 December	Community Carols St Stephens
24 December	Midnight Mass St Matthews, Broadford
25 December	Christmas Mass Christ Church, Kilmore Christmas Mass St Stephens, Tallarook Christmas Mass Transfiguration, Pyalong

Parish life this week

Tuesday 29th	12.00pm Staff meeting 7.30pm Advent Study commences at 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore
Wednesday 30th	2.00pm Advent Study repeated at Piva House, Broadford. 7.30 pm Eucharist Christ Church - Feast of St. Andrew Apostle
Thursday Dec 1st	10.00am Eucharist St Matthews 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade 11.30am Eucharist Caladenia 4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 2nd	10.00am – 4.00pm Op Shop Church House 5.30pm St Matthew's Village Board Meeting & Dinner
Saturday 3rd	10.00am – 12noon Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 4th December 2016 Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 2. 1-5; Ps 122; Romans 13. 9-14; Matthew 24. 36-44		
Christ Church	9am 5pm	Sung Eucharist Meditation Service
St Matthews	11am	Sung Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	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

Hon Associate Priest Revd Maryann Leonard, Piva House, 78 High Street,
Broadford, 3658; Ph 5784 3007; m 0439 066 553;
associatepriest@anglicankilmore.org.au

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

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764 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.