



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta
The Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
4th December 2016
Second Sunday of Advent



Hymns: 460, 265 vs2 (candle), 270, 276, 687

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



‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’

Introit Hymn

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

Minister:

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 life of humility and compassion;
For God is at work in you, empowering you.
We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will live worthy of the Gospel.
We will go forth in hope and in peace.

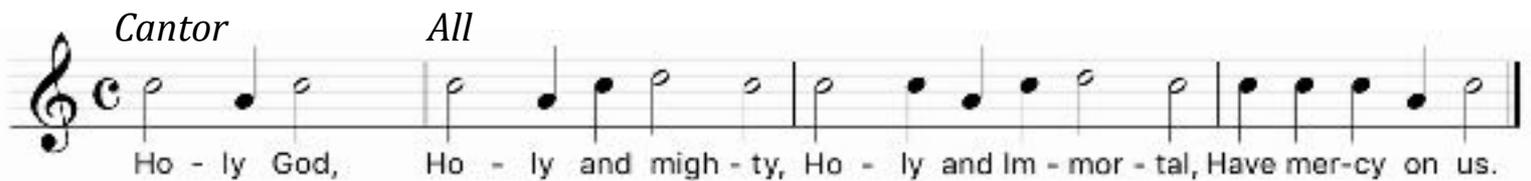
The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. *Mark 1.15*



FOR THE GOSPEL - THE TRISAGION



THE COLLECT

God of all peoples, whose servant John came baptising and calling for repentance: help us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11. 1-10

[Isaiah proclaims the coming of the “shoot from the stump of Jesse” who, through God’s Spirit resting on him, will bring peace, justice, righteousness and equity to the earth.]

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash round his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra’s den, the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72. 1-7, 18-19

[A prayer for the King to rule wisely and justly, protecting the weak and vulnerable and refreshing the world and the godly who live in it.]

Response: May all nations be blest in him.



Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people./R

May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another./R

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more./R

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wonderful things.
And blessed be his glorious name for ever.
May all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen./R

SECOND READING

Romans 15. 4-13

[Paul's prayer that God may empower the Church to live in harmony, since Christ came for both Jew and Gentile, and together they form one voice of praise to God.]

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Paul writes, 'Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Matthew 3. 1-12

[John the Baptist preaches in the wilderness, baptising those who repent, speaking out against the corrupt religious leaders, and challenging people to prepare themselves for the coming of the Messiah.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."' John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt round his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." 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. 'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Labouring God, with axe and winnowing fork you clear a holy space where hurt and destruction have no place, and a little child holds sway; we hear the cry of John the Baptist to make a way for the coming Lord; clear our lives of distrust and despair, sow such seeds of joy and peace, that shoots of hope may spring forth and we may live in harmony with one another; be with us in our waiting for the coming of your Son. Come, Lord Jesus; **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

God of new horizons, we see the vision of Isaiah's new world when the earth will be full of the knowledge of your Messiah Son; the wolf and lamb, the bear and the cow, the child and the asp at peace; empower your Church with such a vision, that we may be agents of peace; we pray for our Bishop John, for our parish.

Come, Lord Jesus; **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

God of justice, and peace; we see Jesus our Lord loving the poor, those who languish, and who are oppressed, and those suffering indignity and adversity; we pray for the peoples of Brazil mourning those killed in the Columbian plane crash; the peoples of Syrian city of Aleppo and in South Sudan facing death and destruction, and for all refugees and asylum seekers; you promise that peace will abound, and that righteousness will flourish; give us the eye of Christ to see it, and power of the Spirit to bring in your kingdom.

Come, Lord Jesus; **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

God of the poor and brokenhearted, hear our prayer for those whom you have placed into our lives and for whom we care; we pray for the sick and suffering, those who mourn and those nearing death; 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, Faye Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Eunice Downie, Carey Bickoff, Lorraine Lipson; Anne Rose, Sarah Davidson, Nathan and Sarah.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Come, Lord Jesus; **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Gracious God, we are promised that in faith we share an eternal inheritance; we pray for the recently departed; and those whose years mind occurs at this time.

4th Hilda Maher, Nell Pearce; 5th Angus Cooper (priest); 6th George Poulter, Joan McLean, Edward Kennard; 7th Edith Whittingslow; 8th Ray Jackson, Eric Beaumont; 9th Michele Potts, Tara Alexander, Marjorie McDougall; 10th Clarence Parkinson.

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

Come, Lord Jesus; **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

It is with expectant joy and thanksgiving we come to your table of presence, Lord Jesus, knowing that we have been blessed beyond measure; hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; grant us to know your love as we wait for your coming amongst us.

Come, Lord Jesus; **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

All the earth, seas, and heavens are yours, and we pray these our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray; **Our Father ...[pg. 124]**

Reflections on the readings

In this second week of Advent our readings move from the dream of the future world where God's reign is actively and visibly manifest, to the promise of the Messiah, and the harmony and justice that is to break into the world. Both dreams are essentially one – that God's Reign will take root among us bringing in a world in which the weak and vulnerable are cared for, in which justice prevails and in which all people live in harmony in spite of (or maybe even because of) their differences. Perhaps the word that best sums up the Messianic dream of this week, and which John the Baptist proclaimed, is the word "shalom" – well-being, peace, salvation, harmony, goodness, justice are all implied in this word. Isaiah proclaims it in the image of predators living in harmony with their prey. The Psalmist uses 'shalom' to describe the peaceful, refreshed world for which he prays. Paul pictures Jew and Gentile as one celebratory voice offered to God in worship, and John the Baptist, while speaking of judgement,

which may seem to be the opposite of shalom, invites people to be ready for the coming of the Messiah who will immerse people in God's Holy Spirit so that they may know that shalom. God's presence and power are therefore available to all, irrespective of title, position or background – this is, perhaps the ultimate shalom! This dream of shalom may seem like a fantasy in a world at war, a world in which so many issues divide us so strongly – so vividly displayed in the US presidential election and being played out in other parts of the world. It's tempting to define the world in these clear terms of those deemed acceptable and those who must be marginalised, but when we do so, all we do is deepen the enmity between us, and keep us all from knowing and living God's shalom. Ultimately justice is not something that can be achieved by alienation and by taking sides. While there are real evils in the world that must be resisted, Paul reminds us that it's not the people we fight so much as the “principalities and powers”. As we embrace a shalom way of being – which includes loving even those we consider to be our enemies – we reflect the light of God's grace and love, and we begin to bring God's shalom into our world as a lived reality. Although when we attempt to create shalom for ourselves, our efforts are often the exact opposite of what God shows us as being the real route to shalom. We seek security by preemptive attacks on our enemies, and then we find ourselves more at risk. We look for to find peace by excluding those who challenge and disagree with us, only to find our safe community growing smaller and smaller, until we only have ourselves to agree with (and even that fails sometimes!). We seek joy and abundance by amassing money and stuff, only to discover scarcity growing around us, and our planet dying, and the reality of losing it all robs us of any joy we might have known. We think we can find love by turning inward and making our own needs, potential and purpose more important than our relationships, or the service of others only to find that our self-absorption leaves us alone and empty. We search for God by ignoring the realities of our world and escaping to an other-worldly faith, while waiting for a heavenly bliss after death, only to discover that our souls remain dissatisfied and God feels distant and unattainable. If we are to know shalom, we need to change how we do things. We must allow ourselves to be driven to the risky acts of listening, dialogue, hospitality, service, justice and compassion. Then, as we give ourselves to create shalom not just for ourselves but for others, we discover that shalom finds us, and God's reign is truly within us.

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

Notices

Singers Rehearsals 7.30pm Monday & Thursday this week at Christ Church.

Advent Study continues 7.30pm this Tuesday at Caroline Burge's home, 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore, and on Wednesday at 2pm at Piva House, Broadford. Contact the clergy for details.

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE - CHANGE TO BANK ACCOUNT****

Direct Debit/EFT Offerings: Parish Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please change your bank details when making offerings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10 December	Parish Church Fete St Matthews Contact John Patterson
11 December	6.30pm Festival of Carols, Christ Church
18 December	7pm Community Carols, St Stephens
24 December	11.30pm Midnight Mass St Matthews, Broadford
25 December	9am Christmas Mass, Christ Church, Kilmore 11am Christmas Mass, St Stephens, Tallarook 11am Christmas Mass, Transfiguration, Pyalong

Parish life this week

Monday 5th	12.00pm Staff meeting 7.30pm Singers Rehearsal Christ Church
Tuesday 6th	7.30pm Advent Study at 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore
Wednesday 7th	2.00pm Advent Study repeated at Piva House, Broadford.
Thursday 8th	10.00am Eucharist St Matthews 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade 11.30am Eucharist Caladenia 12.30pm St Matthew's Friendship Group Christmas Lunch 4.00pm Eucharist Dianella 7.30pm Singers Rehearsal Christ Church
Friday 9th	10.00am – 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 10th	9.00am - 1.00pm Parish Fete St Matthews Broadford 10.00am – 12noon Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 11th December 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10; Song of Mary; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

Christ Church	9am 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist Festival of Carols
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