



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta
The Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
11th December 2016
Third Sunday of Advent



Hymns: 269, 265 (candle), 161 (psalm), 282, 647, 665

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



The Magnificat

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Minister: 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 thee, 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.

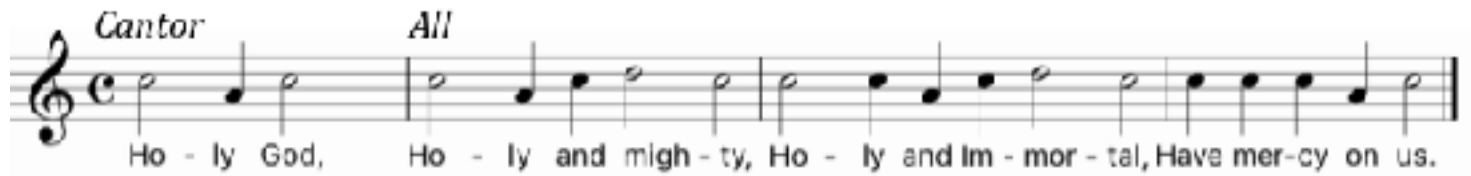
We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.' *Isaiah 35.3-4*

FOR THE GOSPEL - THE TRISAGION



THE COLLECT

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35. 1-10

[God's promise to restore God's people, creating a land of peace and prosperity for them, and providing a safe and sure way for them to return home, guaranteeing their arrival in God's Zion where they will find gladness, joy and an end to their suffering.]

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.' Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE PSALM Hymn 161

[Luke 1:46b-55: Mary's song of praise to the God who has chosen her, even though she is lowly, and sings of helping and sustaining the weak and needy, while opposing and bringing down the rich and powerful.]

SECOND READING

James 5. 7-10

[James encourages the believers to be patient as they wait for God's coming, even as the farmer waits for rain, and as the prophets of old faithfully endured their suffering with patience.]

A reading from the Epistle of James

James writes, 'Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Matthew 11. 2-11

[John the Baptist sends his disciples to question whether Jesus is the One or if he should wait for another, and Jesus assures him with the example of his ministry of liberation, healing and proclaiming the Good News. Then he teaches about John's role, explaining that, as great as he was, those who embrace God's reign are greater still.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Baptism

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord Jesus Christ, like John the Baptist we too want to know if you are the Messiah; we too seek to see, listen and take notice of you in this world; open our eyes to see the lame walking, cures occurring, and hope rising in the kingdom that shall come, evidence of your presence among us.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Soon, Jesus, comes the Day of Christmas, your incarnation; help us and all in your Church be like children, to feel the excitement of your coming; bless those proclaiming your advent; preacher, pastors and priests, and hear us as we pray for our Bishop John, and for our parish as we eagerly await with expectant hearts; may your blessing be with Jimmy John Kenneth Konings, newly baptised, and his parents and Godparents.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Holy Spirit, we need your counsel; we do not wait well; we wait impatiently with hope for peace and joy to come to your broken and bruised world; we commend to your embrace all who suffer indignity of war and aggression and those seeking refuge; for all striving for peace.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Liberating God, we remember that you came set the prisoners free and gave justice to the wronged; we pray for our nation and community; for police, CFA and emergency workers preparing to respond to events; for all who are unemployed and those homeless; for those living on the margins of society and for all held in detention; open all our hearts that we may respond with generosity.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

God of all compassion, we pray for those who are sick and suffering; for those suffering distress of body or mind, for the grieving and those living with anxiety, loneliness or fear, and for the dying and those who wait with them; hear us as we pray those on our hearts and as we whisper our very own names we pray for this 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, Sharon De Battista, Eunice Downie, Carey Bickoff, Lorraine Lipson; Anne Rose, Sarah Davidson, Nathan and Sarah.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Ever-loving God, you call the beloved into your presence with singing and rejoicing; we pray for the recently departed and those whose years mind occurs this week.

12th William Isbister, Grace Patterson, Harry Lazarus; 14th Jane Rasmussen. Robert Freestone; 15th Karen Guinelly; 16th Kenneth Hammond, Silvie Knight; 17th Emmy Marschall, Andrew Bulman, William Potts.

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

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Holy One, your glory is made manifest by the strength you give to those who trust in you; hear us as we pray for ourselves; for fear dissipates when you are near, weak knees no longer tremble, and joy replaces doubt; keep us in your embrace as we pray in the name and hope of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reflections on the readings

The invitation to find fullness of life in the commonwealth of God resonates through all of this week's readings. God's grace, love and guidance abound and protects those who seek God's reign, and provides a 'way' for their journey – bringing them joy and gladness as they enter God's home. The journey, though, is not easy, even though it is protected. It is a journey requiring patience (James), and in which the poor, the needy, the vulnerable and the weak are to be served and protected – for these are the marks of God's reign, both in those who God 'chooses' (like Mary) and in the Messiah who God's people seek to follow (as in Matthew's Gospel). And as we undertake the adventure of being God's people we find that joy that so often eludes us in the everydayness of life. What does the word "Joy" mean in a world of suffering, inequity, war and terrorism, and climate change? In what ways can God's reign possibly be seen as an invitation to joy for the weak and vulnerable of our world? Sometimes joy is seen only as a distant hope awaiting us after death, and historically this joy has been inspiring and sustaining for the exploited and poor. However, this promise of joy has also been used to excuse injustice in this world. Joy must be embraced, then, as both a goal for us to work for – the quest for 'a home' for all people, and for peace and equity to flood our world. God's reign is evident in the way God's people find joy in whatever circumstances they face, and it is seen as they spread joy around them through healing, uplifting, and proclaiming Good News. This not to be a "pollyanna" and pretend that all is wonderful when we know it is not. Rather, our call is to be cheerful, but firm, activists, identifying the places in our world where joy is being robbed, and challenging the unjust "killjoys" in our society, while joyfully serving those who mourn and grieve. It may mean refusing to buy into the suspicion and scepticism of the times, and committing to hope and compassion. It may mean speaking out against the politics and religion of fear and slander that so easily become the loudest voices in our world. In small ways we can become those who make this world 'homely' even for the most vulnerable, and we can speak prophetically against any power that would seek to control through fear, grief and corruption. This is the call of Jesus' example, of Mary's song, of Isaiah's promise and the Psalmist's celebration. It is also the source of patience and hope as we wait for God's reign to be fully realised, both in this world and the next.

Adapted from John de Veer (2016) www.sacredise.com

Parish life this week

Monday 12th	1.30pm	Aged Care Providers' meeting Dianella
Tuesday 13th	4.00pm	Bishop in Council
	7.30pm	Advent Study at 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore
Wednesday 14th	2.00pm	Advent Study repeated at Piva House, Broadford
	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting & Dinner Gavan Hall
Thursday 15th	10.00am	Eucharist St Matthews
	10.00am	Eucharist Willowmeade
	4.00pm	Eucharist Dianella
Friday 16th	10.00am – 4.00pm	Op Shop Church House
Saturday 17th	10.00am – 12noon	Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 18th December 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16; Ps 80.1-7,17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am 7pm	Holy Eucharist Community Carols
Transfiguration	4pm	Holy Eucharist

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.