

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Advent 2, 2023

Song: There's a light upon the mountain (TiS 276)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
Whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle—The Candle of Peace

Second candle is lit, symbol is hung on the tree

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.**

The Advent song is sung (said at 7:30 service)

Light One Candle (TiS 286)

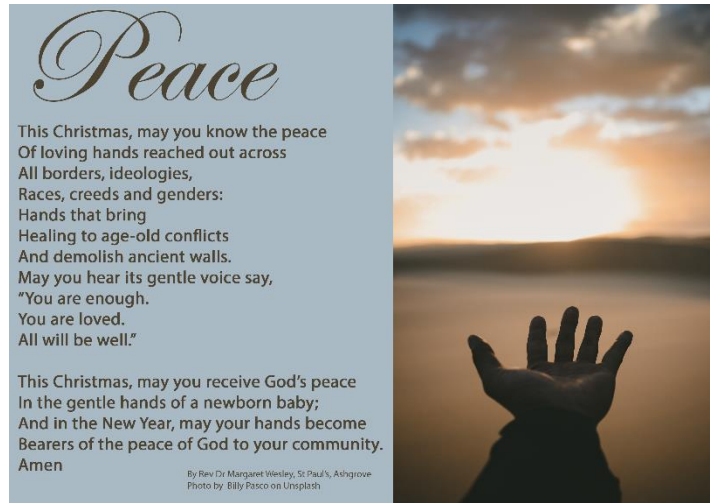
Light one candle for hope. One bright candle for hope
Christ Brings hope to every heart.
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace. One bright candle for peace
Christ brings peace to every heart.
He comes! He comes!

Acknowledgement of Country

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together. Luke 3: 4; Isaiah 40: 5a

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Wild God of the wastes,
whose gospel begins with a cry and a summons:
take us to a pathless place where we can start again
to taste creation's gifts anew and await the Spirit's touch;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

Isaiah 40: 1–11

- ¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD 's hand
double for all her sins.
³ A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD ,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'
⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85: 1–2, 8–13

- ¹ O Lord, you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ² You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.
- ⁸ I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
**for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.**
- ⁹ Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- ¹¹ Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- ¹² The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.
- ¹³ For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.

2 Peter 3: 8–15a

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Song: Make me a channel of Your Peace (TiS 607)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark chapter 1 beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1: 1–8

- ¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
- ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight” ’,
- ⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts

and wild honey.

⁷ He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon - www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/

Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

**God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,**

**have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family and in obedience to your law,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**God who made our home,
And made your home with us,
Yet often had no place to lay your head,
Have mercy today on all who have no home.
Provide shelter and protection,
A future and a hope,
To all whose beds tonight will be unsafe, unstable or exposed.
Grant wisdom and compassion,
To everyone with power or resources
To provide housing solutions,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart. *Silence can be observed*

Let us then open our hearts and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.**

**Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who return in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Song: Lord, Jesus Christ (TiS 526)

The collection bowl will be passed around during this song to support the ministry of St Paul's. Most members give electronically through their bank, instead. St Paul's bank details are Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish BSB: 704901 Acc No: 00004420

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept all we have, all we give, and all we are,
As we dedicate all to your glory
and the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[response]

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

..we rejoice and praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...Do this in remembrance of me. '

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power

are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Bread and wine; the gifts of God
for the people of God.
**May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ
and Christ in us.**

(NZ Prayer Book)

Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available (please ask). If you prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing (keep your hands behind your back). You are welcome to kneel at the communion rail. If you prefer to stand, please stand in the middle section. For the safety of all in the community we ask you to:

- *Use hand sanitiser before receiving the bread and wine*
- *NOT intinct (dip the bread in the wine)*
- *Take wine only if you are free from symptoms and free of anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Announcements

Song: Christ be our light (SPHB 7)

Please stand and turn to face the back for the blessing

Blessing

LA: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: Rev Margaret is writing a prayer and reflection on peace for every day of advent. To receive these by email, subscribe by clicking:

<https://revdrmargaretwesley.substack.com/p/advent-of-peace>

Early in 2024, we hope to re-introduce a **Bible Study group** that meets outside of business hours. Please let Rev Margaret know your availability so we can decide on a day and time.



Christmas Bowl is an appeal run through Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. It gives hope and loving connection between Christians in Australia and people around the world in hardship and suffering! You can **donate online** (mycb.link/134847) or use the envelopes at the back of the church.

ABM 2022 Advent and Christmas Appeal - donate online www.abmission.org/ or by using the envelopes available at the back of the church!



Upcoming events

TODAY, 5pm

Blue Christmas service. It has been a tough year. Many of your friends will appreciate an invitation to this time of quiet reflection and prayer for peace.

Sat 16 Dec, 10:30am

Installation of our new **Archbishop**, +Jeremy Greaves, St John's Cathedral.

Sun 17 Dec

Rev Pam Hynd's 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood – this is our **combined service** at 8.30am

Sat 16 Dec, 5pm

Westside Orchestra **Christmas Concert** – grab your tickets [here](#)

Sun 24 Dec, 8:30am

As Christmas Eve in on a Sunday, there will be a small service, without singing, at 8:30 along with the usual services in the evening.

Jubilee Terrace Playgroup - weekly on a Friday from 9.30-11.30am during school terms. \$4 per week to cover cost. Registered Playgroup with Play Matters.

Bible Study and Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning during school terms. **Prayer** from 9:05am and **Bible Study** from 9.45. Everyone welcome!

For your prayers

Cherilee (incapacitating knee injury), Caroline M (thanks for successful shoulder surgery), Elizabeth T (recovery from surgery for a broken ankle), Bernie, Ofa, Rebekah, Clinton, Melissa, Sue J, Anne (Sue's daughter), Angela, Liam. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Revd Jack and Sam. Please also pray for Rev Jack and Rev Kathy and the Everton Park Congregation, Revd Sue and the Goonaneman Parish and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. We hold in our prayers Wayne, Noel, Joy and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home. **Please let us know at the office if you would like someone added or removed from our prayer list.**

PILGRIMAGE - Sat 4th - Mon 6th May 2024 The Cursillo team is planning a pilgrimage, starting at the Anglican Parish of Grovely in Arana Hills, going via Esk and Warwick, and ending in the Boonah/Harrisville area on the Sunday night. This is open to everyone, not just those who have been to a Cursillo weekend. For further information, contact the parish office and your question will be forwarded to the organiser.

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