

# Holy Communion

## at St Paul's, Ashgrove

### Advent 2, 2020



**HYMN: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (TiS 273)**

P: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures forever.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

#### ***Lighting of the Second Advent Candle—The Candle of Peace***

P: 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 Candle is lit, and a new decoration is placed on the tree.

*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.*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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.**

LA: We acknowledge the custodians of the land where we gather today - the Jagera and Turrbal people. We celebrate their culture, thank them for their care of the land and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging

LA: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1.78–79

LA: [Let us pray.]  
**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.**

P: God of our salvation,  
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts  
and smooth the paths made rough by sin:  
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,  
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.  
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.

#### **Malachi 3.1-14**

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>6</sup> For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. <sup>7</sup> Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' <sup>8</sup> Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, 'How are we robbing you?' In your tithes and offerings! <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. <sup>11</sup> I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>12</sup> Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>13</sup> You have spoken harsh words against me, says the Lord. Yet you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' <sup>14</sup> You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What do we profit by keeping his command or by going about as mourners before the Lord of hosts?'

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

## Song of Zechariah

### Song of Zechariah

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel:

**you have come to your people and set them free.**

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

**born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old:

**to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,**

To show mercy to our forebears:

**and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

Free to worship you without fear:

**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,**

To give God's people knowledge of salvation:

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God:

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## Philippians 1.1-11

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

**Hymn: The Voice of God** (TiS 282)

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 3 beginning at verse 1

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## Luke 3.1-6

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,  
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

For the gospel of the Lord, **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Sermon**

*Silence*

**LA:** Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**We believe in one God,  
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who calls, equips and sends out God’s people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

**This is our faith, the faith of the Church:  
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **LA: THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

**LA:** 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

LA: The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

LA: Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing 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.**

P: Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him 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.

P: 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, maintaining 1.5m separation and without touching.*

**HYMN: Make Me a Chanel of Your Peace (TiS 607)**



*Note that we cannot pass collection bowls around at this time. There is a box at the back of the building to receive your offerings. Alternatively, please consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420*

P: 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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross  
and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin

and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.  
We thank you that when he shall come again  
in power and great triumph to judge the world,  
we may with joy behold his appearing,  
and in confidence stand before him  
who redeems us from sin and death  
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and 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.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never ending praise:

**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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died  
for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please come forward to receive communion (bread only). Maintain 1.5m separation as you move  
forward. Sanitise hands. Receive the bread while standing and return to your seat.  
While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing along to the  
communion hymn while remaining seated. **Communion Hymn (Not announced): A New  
Commandment (TiS 699)***

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*

*Please stand for the blessing:*

May you know the peace  
Of loving hands reached out across  
All borders, ideologies,  
Races, creeds and genders:

Hands that bring  
Healing to age-old conflicts  
And the demolition of ancient walls.  
May you hear its gentle voice say,  
“You are enough.  
You are loved.  
All will be well.”

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

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 ministry of humility and compassion  
For God is at work in you, empowering you

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.  
We will live lives worthy of the Gospel.  
We will go forth in hope and in peace.**

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

**HYMN: May the Mind of Christ My Saviour (TiS 609)**