

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

First Sunday in Advent 27/11/22

Service Times: 7.30am (no hymns) 9.00am (hymns)

“A Light Shining in the Darkness”



HYMN: Tis 276 There's a light upon the mountain

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

Lighting of the First Advent Candle—The Candle of Hope

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.

First candle is lit, symbol is hung on the tree

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.**

The following words are said/sung.

**Light one candle of hope,
One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope for every heart.
He comes! He comes!**

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans 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.**

Faithful God,

whose promises stand unshaken through all generations:
renew us in hope,
that we may be awake and alert
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**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 end our housing crisis,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

A reading from the book of the prophet **Isaiah** 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "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." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

The psalm is said responsively. The L.A reads the words in plain text. The congregation responds with the words in bold text

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me:
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
- 2 **And now our feet are standing:
within your gates, O Jerusalem;**
- 3 Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.
- 4 **There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:
as he commanded Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**
- 5 There are set thrones of judgement:
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 **O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.**
- 7 Peace be within your walls:
and prosperity in your palaces.
- 8 **For the sake of my kindred and companions:
I will pray that peace be with you.**
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God:
I will seek for your good.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

13:9-14

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Hymn: The God of all Eternity

The God of all eternity,
Unbound by space yet always near,
Is present where his people meet
To celebrate the coming year.

What shall we offer God today -
Our dreams of what we cannot see,
Or, with eyes fastened to the past,
Our dread of what is yet to be?

God does not share our doubts or fears,
Nor shrinks from the unknown or strange:
The one who fashioned heaven and earth
Makes all things new and ushers change.

Let faith or fortune rise or fall,
Let dreams and dread both have their day;
Those whom God loves walk unafraid
With Christ their Guide and Christ their way.

God grant that we, in this new year,
May show the world the Kingdom's face,
And let our work and worship thrive
As signs of hope and means of grace.

*Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule ©1989
WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland
From the collection [Known Unknowns](#), 2018.
Tune O Waly, Waly*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew** chapter **24** beginning at verse **36**
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to the disciples, "But 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.

NRSV

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

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

Silence

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Jesus, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

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.**

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.

**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.

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

HYMN: SPHB 16 God Of Day and God Of Darkness

THANKSGIVING 5 (APBA139)

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.

...so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...from all that destroys love and trust.

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).

With the high incidence of Covid and influenza in the community we ask you to:

- *Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m as you move forward*
- *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.*

While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing the communion hymn while remaining seated. This hymn is not announced - just join in as you wish.

Communion Hymn (Not announced): SPBH 4 Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord

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

All loving God, as we begin our Advent pilgrimage
 grant us the courage to hope -
 hope for your presence,
 hope for your peace,
 hope for your promise.
 and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always. 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 let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
 We will go forth from this place in hope.**

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

HYMN: SPHB 7 Christ Be Our Light

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 Thanks to Jessica Hynd for the use of her painting in the title section

ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!

Upcoming events

A REMINDER: November is Goodna Pantry Month Please leave donations at the back of the church or drop them off to the office on Wednesday or Friday mornings.

Upcoming events

Fri 2 Dec **Taize** (6pm in the church) followed by **Fish & Chips** - please contact Pam or John Hynd if you are interested in joining us 0431 424 737 or pamhynd@hotmail.com

Sun 11 Dec **Blue Christmas**, 5.30pm - a quiet, reflective service, allowing you to acknowledge sadness and grief as you enter into a season where there can be pressure to be happy.

Sat 24 Dec **Family Christmas Eve Service** – 6pm, carols, storytime and a gift for every child
Midnight Service - 10.30pm, carols 30mins before a Christmas eucharist

Sun 25 Dec **Christmas Day** Service, 8.30am combined service.

To make a donation towards the **Archbishop's farewell gift** please use the following details for St Paul's and we will pass this on to the Diocese.

Anglican Parish of Ithaca-Ashgrove

BSB: 704901

Acc No: 00004420

Reference: **Arch Gift**



Intergenerational
Playgroups

Playgroup has been in recess this year and we would love to start again as intergenerational play in 2023 if we find two more people to join the team. This is a practical, fun outreach to local families, offering connection and support to parents and carers with young children and giving kids stimulating play opportunities with other children as well as older adults. Friday mornings for 2hrs, during school terms. To learn more contact Rev Margaret or the office.

The Archbishop's 2022 November Appeal – people can donate directly or put money in an envelope clearly marked 'Archbishop's November Appeal, more information at www.abmission.org/projects/papua-new-guinea/newton-theological-college/

Bible Study and Morning Prayer - runs weekly on Wednesday mornings with Morning Prayer at 9am and Bible Study at 9.45am

For your prayers

The Archbishop Election Committee as they prepare for their task of looking for and discerning who will be our next Archbishop.

Stafford Parish, Revd Sue, The Ward Family, Barb, Margaret S, Nick and Jack, Maureen, Elizabeth, Melvie Rose, Sam, Kate, Liam, John, Anni, Revd Jack, Daphne, Genevieve, Revd Margaret's niece, Annie, Nick, The Paul Family and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. And for Joy, Romola and Noela who are at home or in a nursing home.