

As we prepare to celebrate his birth once again, as we share in the gospel he lived, we speak of that mystery we call faith:
Christ died, enduring the feeble threats of sin;
Christ rose, withstanding death's attempts to defeat him;
Christ will come, the One preparing the Way for all.
And so we lift our voices, filled with joy, joining them with the glad songs of every place and generation, all creation praising your name:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

As you pour out your Spirit upon those gathered in this place, prepare the gifts of the bread and the cup, so we might share in your grace. As the bread fills our emptiness, may we long for all your people with the deep compassion of Christ, going forth to straighten the crooked ways of the world. As the cup graces us with mercy, may we remember all who live in the shadows of oppression, working side by side to complete the great work of justice you began so long ago. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD *Communion is shared*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life and the cup of compassion. May this strengthen us in love and help us to serve you as we serve each other. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Candles are extinguished

Go now and prepare the way for the Lord. Share in the gospel of God's grace; Proclaim salvation and the forgiveness of sins; Make straight paths for justice and mercy.

And may God complete the good work begun in you; May Christ Jesus rejoice in your faith and compassion; and may the Holy Spirit fill your love with wisdom.

God's peace be with you. **And also with you.**

The sign of the peace is exchanged

Service led by Rev Sandy Boyce (Deacon).

Pilgrim Uniting Church



12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
MID WEEK WORSHIP

COCU2C/Advent 2C



Welcome to this time of worship, of gentle reflection, and caring community.'



ACT OF AWARENESS

In this familiar place, listen: to the sounds of breathing, creaking chairs, shuffling feet, clearing throats, the sounds of the city. Know that each breath, each movement, holds a life within it. *(Silence)*

Let there be a moment, held, as in one breath, when all the earth turns away from death, peace nursing creation, peace spreading her wing, O that we could know what Christmas is meant to bring! *(Shirley Erena Murray)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

There is a pathway to God
that has been trodden by countless pilgrims,
and it is the path that opens up
when we dare to know and follow
the deepest longings of our hearts
to be at one with the living God.
Since the dawn of time,
when the planets were flung across the sky;
since the earth cooled, mountains and rivers formed,
and the first life forms began to emerge,
all creation has looked hopefully to God.
In this season of Advent, we remember again
where we came from and who we belong to:
we join with the cry of all on the earth
to be united with the God of life,
the God who comes in Christ
to fulfil creation's truest longings. *(Ann Siddall)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Into this day will break moments of awareness,
tiny shards of light that illumine
the whole reality of existence.
May these readings be such a moment
and may we be blessed by their gift *(GVosper)*

BIBLE READINGS AND REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Listen, there are voices crying out in the wilderness,
crying out for a change of heart, for a new world order:
crying out for justice and peace, food and shelter,
crying out that we cannot continue as we are.
What wild prophets are crying out to us?
What words are being shaped by wilderness?
Who waits on the edges of the desolate places,
and cries out for our attention?
From the margins of human experience,
prophetic voices are crying out to us:
asking us to emerge from our places of security,

and to risk a new way of seeing and living
Let the rough places of our hearts become tender;
let the twisted ways of running our world be straight
Listen, the voices from the wilderness
are calling us to prepare the Way of the Christ. *(Ann Siddall)*

Prayers are offered (this is my prayer/**this is our prayer**)

We pray that this season of Advent might be a time of preparation for
welcoming Christ once more into our world - into our lives, as the one
who brings light into the shadowed areas of life and as the one who
brings peace and transformation where there is hatred and hostility.
We pray in the name of Christ 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
forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God.
In the beginning you began creating the world and you will bring it to
completion. Through your prophets you promised to save us from all
that would drive us into slavery. You sent your servant, John, to pre-
pare the way for your anointed one by proclaiming a baptism of repen-
tance, a refining fire to purify your people. In Jesus, we have seen the
dawn of justice, and the glory of your mercy and righteousness. When
he was crucified, you raised him to new life with the power to save.