

The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church. To receive most benefit, hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their hearing aid to T-setting.



Pilgrim Uniting Church
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide



9.30 COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Advent 2

4 December 2016

Mindfulness

The candles are lit. A time for silence and reflection.

'The best prayer is to rest in the goodness of God,
knowing that goodness can reach right down to our lowest depths of
need'.
Julian of Norwich, 14th century mystic

'I yearn to be held in the great hands of your heart.
Oh let them take me now. Into them I place these fragments, my
life....'
(Rilke)



Call to worship

Look into the distance and see the rising dawn
and shining rays like acts of love
and warming brightness from the heart of God.
Sing songs of hope into the waiting air.

**Come and enlarge our hearts, dancing Spirit,
so that we may watch and wait in hope,
anticipating the joy to come.
Come, gracious Spirit, come.**

Song SPG4 23 For sake of life

Welcome

Acknowledgement of land

Lighting of the Advent candles

1. We light a candle for Peace,
for Reconciling Love that was, and is, and is to come (*candle is lit*)
2. We light a candle for Mindfulness,
**for the Understanding Spirit that will ignite insights and wise
discernment** (*candle is lit*)
(*second leaf of the Advent banner is removed*)
3. We will light a candle for Hope,
for the mystery of Grace that will fulfil God's promises.
4. We will light a candle for compassion
for the Divine spark that resides within us and our neighbours.

The prayers of who we are

We pray for mindfulness, for the attentiveness
that leads to discernment of God's will and God's ways.
We pray for mindfulness of our own hearts and minds.
Help us to be aware of how we react in thought,
speech and action. *A time of silence is kept.*

Song SPG4 35 In God alone (*sung twice*)
"For God alone my soul waits in silence" (Ps 62:1)

Song (*for reflection, music only*):
Be still and know that I am God (Ps 46.10)



It is sometimes in the centre of the waiting
that we lose hold of hope.
We long for quick answers and find ourselves
impatient for meaning, results, reward.
God be with us in our anxious times
and lead us into grace. *A silence is kept.*

Song SPG4 32 Help us Lord (*sung twice*)

Sometimes we discover small beginnings of good at work in us,
seeds of new life which call us on to greater things
and we let that die because we are afraid;
or we see that happening in others
and we fail to encourage them
in case they may bring changes which we do not want
or because we fear for them as they take new steps in life.
God be with us in our anxious times
and lead us into grace. *A silence is kept.*

In this season of waiting and hoping,
let us look for small signs of joy which have been given to us:
**to be aware of how we can always be open to the grace
that can shape us in new ways. Amen.**

‘You understand so little of what is around you
because you do not use what is within you’. *Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)*

“If humankind could have known God without the world, God would
never have created the world.” Creation is not a mere scenic backdrop
so humans can take over the stage. Creation is in fact a full participant
in human transformation, since the outer world is absolutely needed to
mirror the true inner world. The whole world is a sacrament!”
Dominican Meister Eckhart (1260-1327)

Introduction to Lectio Divina

Hear these words of hope from the prophet Isaiah, to the people of
God living in exile.
Their hopes were dim, but the promise is held out for them.

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.

The Lord's spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

He will delight in fearing the Lord.

He won't judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay.

He will judge the needy with righteousness,
and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.

He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth;
by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

Righteousness will be the belt around his hips,
and faithfulness the belt around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the young lion will feed together,
and a little child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze.

Their young will lie down together,
and a lion will eat straw like an ox.

A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;
toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.

They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.

The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord,
just as the water covers the sea.

On that day, the root of Jesse will stand as a signal to the peoples.

The nations will seek him out, and his dwelling will be glorious.

“Contemplation is a very dangerous activity. It not only brings us face to face with God. It brings us, as well, face to face with the world, face to face with the self. And then, of course, something must be done. Nothing stays the same once we have found the God within.... We carry the world in our hearts: the oppression of all peoples, the suffering of our friends, the burdens of our enemies, the raping of the Earth, the hunger of the starving, the joy of every laughing child.”

(Joan Chittister)

“Suffering serves to awaken compassion”. I began quietly whispering it inside. As I repeated the prayer over and over, I could feel my inner voice grow less desperate, more sincere. I was praying not for relief, but for the healing and freedom that naturally unfolds as we open to the bruised and broken places inside us. The moment I prayerfully let go into that depth of suffering, the change began.

If we are to offer any kind of help to a world which is interested neither in social justice nor in contemplation, a world which, effectively, has written us off, then we had best become liberal and pious, contemplative and socially active, both at once. Unless the issues surrounding justice, poverty, war, the ecology, ethnic rights, and women’s rights are addressed we won’t have a world within which to practice our piety. Conversely, if private prayer, private morality, and contemplation die, then we still will somehow lose the world or, certainly, we will lose any world worth living in. The signs of the times need to be read: the growing affluence of first world Christians, the breakdown of marriage and family life, the ecological crisis, the growing gap between the rich and the poor, the rise of racism, the challenges of people displaced as refugees, oppressive injustice and civil war, and the shrinking size of our planet, have conspired to make it vital, a matter of life and death, that we make a marriage between social justice and contemplation. If we don’t, we’ve no future. Action and contemplation, private morality and social awareness, prophetic anger and understanding, liberalness and piety, must be married.

Song: O come O come Emmanuel

(words: Sue Wickham, 2010)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and fill our lives, all dark and fear dispel,
as once an exiled Israel you found,
redeemed, restored and set on holy ground.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear
and lift our spirits by your advent here.
In all who gather, show us your face,
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine,
help us restore a world we've let decline.
Enlighten us; your way we would know
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.
Bind us as one, a people of grace,
for at your table each one has a place.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

Prayers for others

Prayer is a song of joy, which though it may begin in lament, leads us to new hope.

We enter a time of prayer, searching for joy.

We pray for mindfulness of what is happening to others.

Help us to be present to their sorrow and suffering.

Help us to be aware of the injustices that touch the lives of others.

We pray for mindfulness to be aware of how God is calling us to be agents for peace and justice.

Help us to be aware of the words we are called to speak,

of the actions we are called to take part in,

of the compassion we are called to offer

in a world so wounded, so in need.

Take the ashes of our burnt-out life
and the fragments of our frail futures

and cover them with the flowers

of your creative possibilities, Loving God.

Take the tears of the world and transform our weeping

with the oil that burns with warmth and light for a new day.

Lift our hearts and fill us with inspiration for a different future:

For you are the source of our hope,

you are the wonder at the end of the waiting

and you are our joyful song, ready to be sung. Amen

Advent song

1 Through darkest night, the hour grows late

2 We yearn for break of Christmas morn

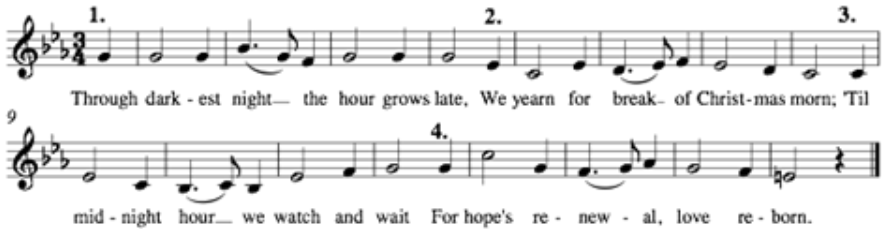
3 'Til midnight hour we watch and wait

4 for hope's renewal, love reborn.

Advent Round

With an appreciative nod to William Billings

Rick Asher



1. Through dark - est night— the hour grows late, We yearn for break- of Christ-mas morn; Til
2. mid - night hour— we watch and wait For hope's re - new - al, love re - born.
3.
4.

Offering (*the offering is collected in silence*)

The riches of God's gracious love have been entrusted to us. May we share the beauty of God with all who walk with us, in caring service (FMacnab).

Song: Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain:*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain:*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain:*

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Refrain:*

Words of mission and benediction

May the whole earth be renewed to joy, the universe sound with promise, and the Spirit surround us with grace. May the rhythms of our coming together: the melodies of our celebration, and the harmonies of our farewells, make musical our living, soothing our spirits, and uplifting our souls this day, and into the beckoning future. Go in peace. Live simply, at home in yourself.

Be just in your word, just in deed.

Remember the depth of your own compassion.

Crave peace for all peoples in this world, beginning with yourselves.

And as you go, go with the dream of that peace set firm in your heart. *(MBelletini/adapted)*

God's peace be with you. **And also with you.** *The sign of the peace is exchanged.*

As you leave, please collect a yellow candle for the Advent space (mindfulness). If you didn't receive a blue candle (peace) last week, please ask for one. These candles are to create an Advent space at home. Perhaps you might like to share an image of your Advent space which will be used as part of the powerpoint at the start of the final Advent service (please send images to boyce@pilgrim.org.au)

This service was prepared by Rose Milton-Head and Sandy Boyce.

Norm Inglis led the musicians - we are so grateful for the way they lead us so well each week.

Colin Telfer guided our singing, and Allan Forbes once again generously supported the service from the A-V desk.

Thank you to all those who have prepared for and participated in the service in any way.

You are very welcome to join us in the hall for morning tea and enjoy conversation over a cuppa.